

Semiahmoo: A Premier Residential Resort Community in the Pacific Northwest

# SEMIAHMOO NEWS

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March  
Issue

## STAFF DIRECTORY

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

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

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

Board of Directors - board@srahoa.com

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April Hashimoto



I am pleased to share with the membership that the 2024 Board is off to a strong start with everyone working together and reaching consensus through respectful dialogue. At the Committee level, we have the stability of continuity in the Board members chairing the Finance and Environmental Committees, and the new perspectives of new Board members chairing the Maintenance, Communications, Governance and Safety & Security Committees as well as a new Board liaison for the ASC. All of our Committees rely on volunteers from the community, and I thank all of the new volunteers who have recently joined the ASC, Elections, Environmental and Governance Committees, as well as the Landscape Sub-Committee. Volunteering to participate on one of the Committees is a great way to become involved with improving our community while meeting more of your neighbors.

As we announced earlier, our insurance premium for 2024 went up by an unanticipated amount of \$71,282. The SRA is required to have insurance with high quality providers, which limits our options to the top tier of the market. We were not able to get any quotes on our insurance renewal at the time that we were building the 2024 budget without starting the renewal process. When we were able to start the process to renew our insurance in January, we found out that our insurance renewal was being negatively impacted by the December 2022 lawsuit filed by two SRA members against the SRA, City of Blaine and Razerhone LLC (the developer of Sea Smoke). Under our CC&Rs, the Board must seek approval from the membership for an unbudgeted amount in excess of \$50,000, so we have put the additional budget amount of \$71,282 required for insurance to a vote by the membership with the results to be announced at a Special Meeting on March 30, 2024. We are not asking for a corresponding increase in dues, as we believe that there are other adjustments that can be made to the 2024 budget to offset the higher insurance premium costs. Please remember that these costs relate to insurance premium costs only, as all of the costs of fighting the lawsuit, including legal fees and any settlement, are covered by insurance and will not result in any special assessment for the membership. The Board recommends approving the additional budget to ensure that the SRA assets continue to be fully insured.

When we made this announcement, we received some questions about the lawsuit against the SRA with some members asking for more details on the lawsuit and the position and actions taken by SRA. Please be assured that SRA is well represented legally by a reputable law firm based out of Seattle that specializes in legal claims against HOAs and who has been selected by our insurance company. That law firm has strongly advised that in order to preserve Attorney-Client Privilege, and in order to preserve insurance coverage, we should not discuss any aspects of the lawsuit other than with our legal counsel or with legal counsel present. The SRA Board and staff will be following this advice from our lawyers in order to ensure that the SRA's interests remain fully protected. Although we understand that this may be frustrating, we can only direct members to the public records filed at the Whatcom County courthouse as a source of information on the lawsuit.

On March 23, 2024, the SRA will be hosting a Town Hall at 10:00 am at the Semiahmoo Golf and Country Club. This will be the first of four Town Halls to be held every year that the membership voted in favor of at the 2023 Annual General Meeting. Information on how to participate has been distributed by email. On behalf of the whole SRA Board, we look forward to seeing you there!



## GENERAL MANAGER'S NOTE

The first half of the 2024 Dues assessments is now past due. Statements were sent out to members on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Secondary reminders and notices were set out at the end of February. Payments are coming in steadily with about 13 owners in arrears. If you have not yet paid your Dues, please remit your payment.

The first quarter financials are looking good despite the unexpected insurance fee increase. SRA expenses are tracking well to our budget as we move towards getting ready for Spring. The General Manager has been working with the Finance Committee to ensure that the Budgeting process for 2025 is completed within the established timeline. The General Manager has provided all documentation to the Auditors for the 2023 Audit, with a target completion date of May, possibly sooner.

Spring is in the air. The SRA Maintenance team is preparing spring planting. This includes the purchasing plants, testing the irrigation systems, and mulching the flower beds. The maintenance team will continue to sweep the streets as needed, and the SRA staff will let members know when sweeping will occur through the SRA This Week posting.

With the weather getting nicer, the grass and foliage growing, landscaping companies returning to their regular schedule, we ask that you remind them to remove all yard clipping and debris. This does not mean to blow them into the streets or dump them on another property within the Semiahmoo community. We appreciate your cooperation with this matter.

If you own an undeveloped lot, you have standards for your property. We recommend that you go to the SRA website ([semiahmooresortassociation.com/architectural-standards-committee-asc/](http://semiahmooresortassociation.com/architectural-standards-committee-asc/)) to review these guidelines. If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please contact the ASC Administrator Carroll Ballard at [ascadmin@srahoa.com](mailto:ascadmin@srahoa.com) or 360-371-7796 option 2.



Aaron Hasson

## MAINTENANCE CORNER

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

- Swept all SRA roads.
- Cleaned gated entries, flower beds, parks, and traffic circles from winter debris to get them ready for spring.
- Cleaned and cleared gate tracks and inspected gate rollers and bearings for wear and tear.
- Removed stumps left over from the removal of dangerous trees in Boundary Ridge.
- Cleaned and pressure washed the Boundary Ridge Stairway for the assessment by an engineering company.
- Consulted with an engineer firm who dug five test pits for soil testing on the Goldfinch Way hillside as part of the process of developing a repair plan.
- Seeded around the playground area in Syre Park.

Upcoming tasks listed below.

- Remove and paint the Aerie and Prestwick Village gates, as well as exit gate on Drayton Hillside.
- Finish painting all fences and fence posts, weather permitting.
- Test irrigation backflow devices as required by the City of Blaine.
- Reinstall irrigation pipe on the west side of the Boundary Ridge entrance.
- Order plants and prep flower beds for spring planting, including mulching.

# GETTING THINGS DONE

## **Board:**

- Approved a resolution to transfer funds to the reserves.
- Held two Board working meetings to prioritize 2024 initiatives.
- Approved an HVAC unit for the SRA conference room.
- Announced the Special General Meeting for a vote on the increased insurance budget.
- Scheduled the first quarterly community Town Hall meeting to be held March 23, 2024.

## **Committees**

- All committees held meetings in the first quarter.
- Committees worked on drafting edits to their Charter and deliverables for 2024.
- Elections Committee assisted staff with putting together the Special General Meeting information and the Election Runner distribution.
- Communications Committee assisted with creating the format and procedures of the community Town Hall meeting.



# UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

March 23, 2024 Town Hall Meeting

March 30, 2024 Special General Meeting

April 17, 2024 Regular Meeting

May 22, 2024 Regular Meeting

# SEMIAHMOO LIVING

By Doug Woods

A variety of motivations brought each of us to Semiahmoo. A stay at the resort, a boat trip that made a marina stop, a golf outing with friends, a desire to be close to family, or maybe we grew up here and always wanted to return, so many reasons, but all with a common thread. For the majority of us, living here was a quality-of-life decision, not a job-related requirement.

Throughout our lives, there have been business trips and vacations where we walked beaches and enjoyed a hotel stay, marveled at a sunset or moonrise, and were awestruck by the physical environment, thinking how great it would be to live in a place like that. Now, here we are. Surrounded by one of nature's best offerings. And, on top of it all, when we walk our streets and



paths, everyone seems to be smiling inside and typically has time to stop and talk. How lucky we are to have made the decision to live here!

People here are interesting and share amazing life stories. My next-door neighbor is a Canadian attorney that negotiated the aboriginal treaty rights with the Canadian government on behalf of a large First Nations Indigenous People tribe. Another neighbor is a retired Episcopal Priest, and another was a geophysical engineer that has worked in 76 countries. One neighbor is a PhD in sports education and has been a Dean at several universities around the world including Singapore and Dubai and who also played professional soccer in England. One lady is 96 years old and still living on her own and as sharp as a tack. I could go on, but whether a summer party on the patio, or gatherings at Great Blue Heron or Packers, it's always interesting and fun!



We all have come from varied backgrounds and locations. We've experienced a wide variety of living options and conditions. But as different as we all are, on a relative basis, we are still quite homogenous in that we have similar values, and comparable desires for our community. We have similar but varying degrees of affluence and education and have available to us an abundance of active lifestyle options: golf, sailing, theater, community involvement, skiing, hiking or just a long walk on the spit. These elements combine to create a very strong sense of community.

Can our sense of community be protected? Fortunately, we can be confident our community will continue to be a proud and wonderful place to live because, collectively, we have the ability to protect and control the quality of life and environment within our gates and throughout our Association. We do that through keeping our SRA and NHOAs strong and viable. A good HOA doesn't happen on its own, it requires us all to remain vigilant and engaged at our own personal level. That doesn't mean we have to take a turn on the Board or participate on a Committee, unless you want to, but it does suggest we all remember that at the heart of our Semiahmoo community there is a governance requirement over which we can all have influence. To that end, we are all encouraged to participate in the upcoming SRA Town Halls and let our opinions be heard!



# INTO THE WILD

## Deer in the Semiahmoo Community

By the Environmental Committee

While deer can be a nuisance, they are also an essential part of our natural environment. Striking a balance between conservation efforts and minimizing conflicts with humans is crucial. Remember, appreciating wildlife while addressing the challenges they present is essential for maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

### Driving Safely Around Deer

Vehicles kill hundreds of deer each year in Washington State. Deer will cross roads at any time of day or night, creating a hazard for the vehicles, passengers, and deer. There are two periods during which collisions with deer (and their fawns) occur most frequently, the Fawning Season (May to June), and the Rutting Season (October to December) when deer are not thinking about you. Here are some specific driving tips.

- Deer are most active at dawn and dusk. Be especially watchful during these times. Drive more slowly. Lowering the brightness of your dashboard lights slightly will make it easier to see deer.
- One deer crossing the road may be a sign that more deer are about to cross. Watch for other deer - - they will move fast to catch up with leaders, mothers, or mates and may not pay attention to traffic.
- Be aware that headlights confuse deer and may cause them to move erratically or stop. Young animals in particular do not recognize that vehicles are a threat.
- When you see brake lights, it could be because the driver ahead of you has spotted a deer. Stay alert as you drive by the spot, as more deer could try to cross.
- Wonder why the person ahead is driving slowly? The driver may know where to slow down and be extra alert for deer. Don't be too quick to pass and watch out.
- Take note of deer-crossing signs and drive accordingly. They were put there for a reason.
- Be especially watchful when traveling near steep roadside banks. Deer will pop up onto the roadway with little or no warning.
- Deer hooves slip on pavement and a deer may fall in front of your vehicle just when you think it is jumping away.



# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Semiahmoo resident Bonna Schibret is a Washington native—raised in Burlington, she went to college at Western Washington University in Bellingham. After graduation, she began a 35-year career teaching and coaching at Sehome High School—a stone's throw from the Western campus. From Burlington to Bellingham to Blaine, Bonna has not strayed far from her roots and her love of the Pacific Northwest.

In 2008, Bonna and her partner Michelle opted to buy a second home—an ideal getaway --- in Semiahmoo's Gleneagle Villas. They were planning for retirement and wanted to get away from the city life. They were both very familiar with the Semiahmoo location with its natural beauty and spectacular views of mountains, water, and wildlife. Bonna appreciates the supportive community of like-minded individuals as well who call our area home. In 2018 they decided to make Semiahmoo their permanent full-time residence and moved to Semiahmoo Shore. Their home on Turnstone Lane gave them their perfect retirement space and their sought-after water view.

With amazing proximity to the waterfront and easy access, Bonna began daily walks on the beach. At some point—not a time that she could define—she noticed that there was a lot of garbage that washed ashore and so with her daily walks she added a garbage bag and began picking up the trash. This daily exercise of communing with nature, enjoying the beauty of the area, getting a little exercise, and doing a good deed became a habit. She learned the tides and the winds made for daily changes on the beach. A storm could bring lots of trash and debris right to the water's edge. Quietly, consistently, with absolutely no desire to be noticed, Bonna has been caring for the Semiahmoo Sandspit for the last 4 years. She helps maintain its pristine beauty for all of us to enjoy.



During her beach walks, one of the most uncommon items she has discovered on the shore are shotgun shells and wads from the shells. She began collecting them and is not exactly sure why, but now has thousands of them. She hopes someday someone will want them and could creatively put them to good use. Our shoreline is a delicate ecosystem and spent shotgun shells are not something you would expect to find among the driftwood, seaweed, and eelgrass. Fortunately, most of us will never even know about this, because daily and diligently Bonna cares for our natural habitat.

What kind of people live at Semiahmoo? People like Bonna Schibret—dedicated to making a positive impact to make our world a better place for all.

## DID YOU KNOW...?

Of course you know that for most Americans the end of tax season is April 15, 2024, unless you are filing for an extension which gives you until October 15th, 2024.

Starting next year, taxpayers will be able to submit all correspondence and process tax returns digitally. This processing change is expected to cut back on the \$40 million per year that the agency spends storing more than 1 billion historical documents. The Federal Tax Administration receives more than 200 million paper tax returns, forms, and pieces of mail and non-tax forms annually, according to the IRS.

The new initiative should allow the agency to expedite refunds by several weeks, according to the IRS.

The SRA initiative to go paperless has also been gaining traction; each year we see an increase on the number of people who are opting to have their dues being processed online and have chosen to receive their correspondence electronically. The ASC has also proceeded to convert their hard copies of plans to digital documents. All these changes are helping our office staff to be more efficient and effective in their work. Please do not hesitate to contact the SRA office if you wish to change your preferences and go digitally. It will be a great accomplishment to have a paperless Association by 2025.



# SPICED GINGER SHRIMP WITH BURST TOMATOES

Prep Time: 5 min | Cook Time: 20 minutes | Yield: 2 to 3 servings

## **Ingredients**

1 1/2 teaspoons aromatic spice blend (garam marsala, five-spice, curry powder or mild chili powder). Garam masala is best.  
1 1/2 teaspoons finely grated ginger  
2 garlic cloves minced or grated  
3 scallions, thinly sliced, greens and whites separated  
1 tablespoon of diced shallots  
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper  
1 pound extra-large uncooked shrimp, shelled and deveined, no tails  
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil  
1 cup small cherry tomatoes  
2 tablespoons unsalted butter  
1 fresh lime  
1/4 cup fresh mint leaves



## **Preparation**

Cut about a fourth of the tomatoes in half.

In a medium bowl, combine garam marsala, salt, pepper, ginger, garlic, shallots and scallion whites. Add shrimp and toss well.

Heat a large skillet over high heat, then add the oil. Add the tomatoes and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Cook until the whole tomatoes burst and the halves start to wrinkle (about 2 minutes).

Add shrimp mixture and sauté for another 2-4 minutes, turning the shrimp, until they are pink all over.

Gently stir in butter and cook for another minute until the shrimp are cooked through. Taste and add more salt and pepper if needed.

Add two servings of rice or freshly cooked pasta to the skillet and stir until the rice/pasta is thoroughly marinated in the sauce.

Transfer to individual plates/bowls.

Squeeze fresh lime juice over each serving and garnish with mint and scallion greens.

Serve immediately.

## **Tip**

If your spice blend is heavy on the chiles, you might want to cut back by 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon: you can always add more to taste just before serving.



# UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

## CRIB CLUB



The Great Blue Heron at the Semiahmoo Golf and Country Club Presents:  
CRIB CLUB on Thursday, March 21 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.  
\$5 buy in, winner take all!  
Open to 21+ please.  
\$1 off draft beer and house wine!

## CHEF'S TABLE

Join Chef Kelly for a Chef's Table on Thursday, March 28th at the Great Blue Heron Grill. This culinary event celebrates the local seafood, produce, and more that flourishes in our region. Our Chef's Table dinner includes a four course dinner set against the beautiful Semiahmoo Golf and Country Club backdrop, paired with award-winning wines. Seating is limited | Call 360-371-7545 for reservations.  
\$120 per guest | \$100 SGCC Members



## EASTER SUNDAY AT SEMIAHMOO

### **Easter Brunch Buffett | 10:00AM**

Join us for our Easter Brunch Buffet, featuring favorites including honey glazed ham, frittatas, local seafood, breakfast favorites house made desserts, and more! [View the full menu here.](#) Reservations are strongly encouraged.

Adults \$65 | Children \$20

### **Brunch by the Sea | 9:00AM - 12:00PM**

Start your Easter Sunday with a special prix fixe brunch at Packers Kitchen + Bar! Choose from delicious breakfast favorites like our Lyonnaise Salad, Crab Cake Benedict, Breakfast Burger, and more! Reservations are strongly encouraged.

\$55 per person | Children's Menu Available

### **Brunch by the Course | 10:00AM - 2:00PM**

Great Blue Heron will feature Easter Brunch Specials that you don't want to miss. Whatever you're in the mood for, Great Blue Heron provides a comfortable atmosphere and quality ingredients for the perfect morning meal. Reservations are strongly encouraged—make your reservations by calling 360-371-5745.

### **Easter on the Lawn | 11:30AM**

Make memories you won't forget! Join us on the waterfront lawn for family friendly activities before and after the egg hunt. Adults can enjoy our Bloody Mary & mimosa bar, and children will love activities including lawn games, Easter Bunny photos, face painting, balloon art, and caricature drawing.

### **Easter Egg Hunt | 12:00PM**

Embark on the ultimate egg hunt on our waterfront lawn. Be on the lookout for the six hidden golden eggs - the finders win extra special prizes to be redeemed throughout Semiahmoo Resort, including dining, spa, and more!



## 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**

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

### **Pricing**

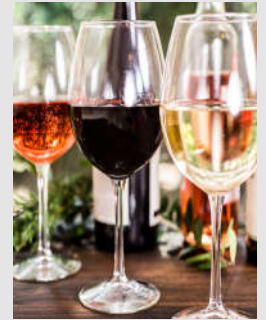
\$25 per person

## UNCORKED: ABEJA WINES

Join us for a special Washington Wine Month edition of our Uncorked Winemakers Dinner Series featuring Abeja Wines.

Savor award-winning wines masterfully paired with seasonally inspired menus at our Wine Diners. Each dinner features a different winery from around the state, or around the world. Our talented Semiahmoo culinary team thoughtfully crafts each menu, complete with five delectable courses, and wine to pair with every course. These interactive dinners immerse you in the experience, as you learn about each course and how it pairs with the wine directly from our culinary team.

\$130 per guest. Purchase your tickets on the Semiahmoo Resort website.



## TRIVIA WITH JACK!



Wednesday, March 27th join the Great Blue Heron @ SGCC for Trivia Night. Game starts at 6pm. Put your knowledge to the test and join us for your favorite cocktail and fun competition hosted by our very own: Jack Oppliger! \$5 buy in. Highest point score takes all. Six people or fewer to a team. Bring your friends and family and see if you will be crowned the trivia winner of the night. \$1 off draft beer and house wine! 18 and over please.

## DENNIS REGAN AT GBH

Topnotch comedian Dennis Regan comes to the Great Blue Heron Grill Friday, April 5th! Dennis is an accomplished comedian specializing in clean comedy. He is a writer & performer who has toured extensively - we're thrilled to bring him to Great Blue Heron Grill! Join us for a night of laughs alongside great drinks and food.

The show starts at 7 PM with the last seating for dinner at 6 PM. This event is 21+ and sure to sell out!

Make your reservations today by calling 360-371-7545 Tickets: \$30 | \$25 SGCC Members



## SEMIAHMOO MARINA STORE/CAFE

Visit us at Semiahmoo Marina

Store/Café

and receive 10% off  
your purchase.

Excludes Alcohol & Consignment items.

Coupon must be presented for discount.



## BLAINE COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

"I just wanted to say thank you for donating your blood to the love of my life. He is an advanced stage cancer patient and your blood is wildly improving his quality of life. Color is returning to his cheeks as I write this. It's truly a miracle. I appreciate you—this is an incredible gift."

-THANKFUL PARTNER



 Bloodworks  
Northwest

## **Blaine Community Blood Drive**

### **Semiahmoo Golf & Country Club**

*8720 Semiahmoo Pkwy. Blaine, WA 98230*

**Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

To schedule an appointment, please visit [Bloodworksnw.org/giveblood](https://Bloodworksnw.org/giveblood), scan the QR code, or call Bloodworks NW at 800-398-7888.

**Appointments and photo ID are required.**



BloodworksNW.org / 800-398-7888