

Semiahmoo: A Premier Residential Resort Community in the Pacific Northwest

SEMIAHMOO NEWS

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STAFF DIRECTORY

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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

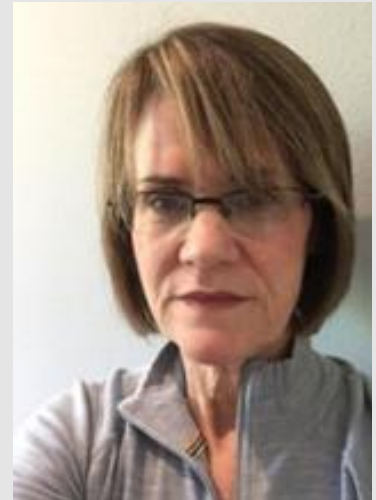
Board of Directors - board@srahoa.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

The new year brings some changes to Board and Committee roles:

- **President: Debbie Paquin**
- **Vice President and Governance Committee Chair: April Hashimoto**
- **Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair: Rod Nibbe**
- **Secretary: Tom McDaniel (continuing)**
- **ASC Liaison: Cary Clevenger (continuing)**
- **Communications Committee Chair: Ciaran Brennan (new Board member)**
- **Environmental Committee Chair: Mohammed Tazim (continuing)**
- **Maintenance Committee Chair: David Moon (new Board member)**
- **Safety & Security Committee Chair: Delia Alberstein (continuing)**



President Debbie Paquin

Many thanks to the new and continuing Board members for volunteering your time to help our community meet the challenges in the coming year.

A special thanks to April Hashimoto for serving as our President over the past two years. Of people I have known in varied work environments – like accounting, IT, HOA – April is among the most capable and hard working. She championed initiatives that kept our costs down and helped to start rebuilding our reserve fund while leading the SRA Board. She has set the bar high. It is great that April can continue to serve on the Finance Committee and to take on the Vice President position.

As I begin my year as President, I plan to continue on the path taken by the 2023 Board of looking for cost saving opportunities such as having work performed in-house when appropriate. Street sweeping and snow plowing are examples of in-house cost savings. Director of Maintenance (DOM), Leroy Dougall, will save us over \$50,000 in 2025 by continuing to operate and maintain the street sweeper. Owning our own street sweeper and snowplows also means we do not wait in line with other customers after wind and snow events. As debris fell in the streets over the fall, maintenance staff were able to clear the streets in a timely manner. As I am writing this, we have had a mild winter so far. If we do get major snowstorms like we did last winter, we will be prepared. The DOM has purchased a second vehicle for snowplowing — under budget — and hired a new full-time maintenance person.

General Manager (GM) Aaron Hasson had his one-year anniversary in the fall. GM is a tough job that requires both understanding technical issues and strong soft skills. At the end of 2024, he drove and oversaw the completion of important maintenance projects including the construction of the Goldfinch Way retaining wall. I am looking forward to working with Aaron and all our dedicated SRA Staff. I will do my best to help our board and staff make decisions and do work that is in the best interest of our wonderful community.

Lastly, a quick update on the Drayton Harbor Road section that was damaged in the November 2021 flood event. Whatcom County is showing that it is still on track for repairs to start summer 2025.

GENERAL MANAGER'S NOTE

A new year begins, and we start to look ahead to projects and items that will need attention in 2025.

2025 First Half Dues Assessments

The first half billing for 2025 HOA Dues went out to all homeowners on January 8, 2025, and are due by February 5, 2025. Payment is considered late if received ten days after the due date. Late and interest fees will be applied to accounts in arrears on Monday, February 17, 2025. The first half billing includes the Special Assessment that was voted on and approved by homeowners at the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October. The Special Assessment is for the repair of the Stairs at Boundary Ridge, and is a one-time charge that will appear only on your first half statement.



Aaron Hasson

Volunteer Committee Involvement

We are always looking for homeowners who want to join one of the active SRA Board Committees. The Architectural Standards, Communications, and Safety and Security Committees have all met and conducted business since January 1, and the other Committees will be doing so in the coming weeks. They are working on a range of projects and priorities we need to attend to in 2025. The Committees are of great assistance to the Board and staff in fulfilling SRA's critical functions. If you are interested in meeting like-minded community members and helping your community, consider joining one of the SRA Board Committees. Please contact the SRA office and staff will be glad to discuss the details of how to become a community volunteer.

Our amazing Maintenance team works hard daily to be sure we are on top of all things in the community. If you see anything that needs attention, please call the SRA office and we will send them out to look at it.

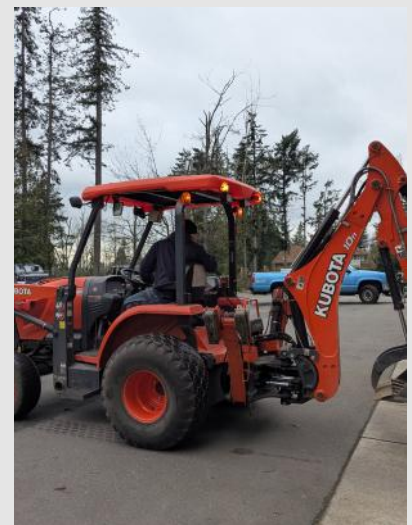
MAINTENANCE CORNER

During the fall, the Maintenance team accomplished the tasks listed below.

- Swept all SRA roads, usually during the last week of the month, and added extra sweeping due to the number of leaves that are falling.
- Planted winter foliage and cleaned up all gates.
- Continued painting and touch-ups around the neighborhoods as needed.
- Cleaned all catch basins around the community.
- Winterized ponds, irrigation and park areas.

Upcoming tasks are listed below.

- Sweep all SRA Roads.
- Prepare for the upcoming winter months.
- Finish painting all fences and fence posts, weather permitting.
- Remove, repair and paint gates as time and weather permit.



Jacob Whiteman of the Maintenance staff gears up for another work day.

DID YOU KNOW?

Submitted by Patricia Oliveros of the Communications Committee

There are simple procedures to best winterize our homes.

- Seal up those drafts... check your weatherstripping on doors and windows and do not overlook caulking cracks in your walls.
- Insulation will keep the warmth in... pay special attention to attics and crawl spaces, they are culprits to heat loss.
- Don't let the rain in... check your roof for any damages or wear and tear. Look for missing shingles, leaks, or other areas of concern.
- Keep the heat flowing... schedule a furnace tune-up to ensure that it is running efficiently. Do not forget to clean chimneys and remove any obstructions.
- Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors... test all detectors and change batteries if needed. You can't be too cautious when it comes to your family's safety, especially with the increased risk of carbon monoxide poisoning from gas heating systems or fireplaces.



PLAYGROUND RELOCATED



Semiahmoo is family oriented. The playground was resituated from William Rex Park to its new location by the Country Club Villas over the Christmas holidays. It has a bench for parents to sit on, is fenced from the road, and has easy nearby parking. All community children are welcomed to play here. (Elisa Claassen)



INTO THE WILD....ONE BIG TREE

BY JENNIFER PLOMBON
FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

This will be the last article about the miracle of Giant Sequoias in Whatcom County and Semiahmoo. I admit to being more excited about trees than the average Semiahmoo resident, since I have a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Washington; but if you get a chance to see the tree I'm going to tell you about, you will be excited too.

On the campus of Western Washington University in Bellingham is a Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) that is absolutely stunning.

While there has been some confusion over the years as to which Giant Sequoia it is that was planted on campus and when, the most correct history shows it was planted in circa 1906 in a different spot on campus and moved to its current location in 1926. It is thus almost 120 years old. It's 120-plus feet high, and has a circumference of approximately 26 feet. I'm pretty sure the ASC would have to be involved to cut this tree down! It's located in the southwest corner of Edens Hall, a dormitory on campus. Its address for navigational purposes is 516 High Street, Bellingham. Sequoias



usually grow in groves and thus grow into a gorgeous conical shape since the presence of nearby trees keeps them from spreading out. This tree, having suffered no such restraints, has gone crazy with its branches and they head off in all directions; each one as large a regular non-Sequoia tree. As you walk around it, looking up into the branches and appreciating its beautiful trunk and bark, it feels as if it's a grove of trees all by itself. It's impossible for mere photos to express its magnificence, although I tried. You really need to go to the campus and look at it. I've gone several times and spent some hours there — it's that amazing to experience. There is a pay lot at the college's entrance on High Street (please note that High Street is closed to regular traffic). and there is sometimes street parking

nearby. You can also walk to the campus through the Sehome Hill Arboretum, also filled with magnificent trees, but it's a little tricky staying on the correct path to get down onto the campus. The good news is that there's free parking for the Arboretum off of Bill McDonald Parkway on Arboretum Drive.

*For more history see, <https://window.wvu.edu/mystery-giant-sequoia>.

*For Arboretum information, see <https://cob.org/services/recreation/parks-trails/parks-guide/sehome-arboretum>.

And for my completely inadequate photos of the tree, a representative human, and foliage and a cone, see below.



All photos by Jennifer Plombon of the Giant Sequoia tree on the Western Washington University campus by Edens Hall. It is almost 120 years old.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH: ASPARAGUS WRAPPED IN PROSCIUTTO



Tippi Vaughn

Submitted by Tippi Vaughn of St. Andrews Green from a favorite recipe book, "Cook's All Time Best Appetizers." The salty crispness of the prosciutto pairs perfectly with the tender, earthy asparagus, and the creamy herb and garlic Boursin, creating a harmony of flavors in each bite. It's simple enough for a weekday side dish yet elegant enough for your fanciest dinner parties, and trust me, it'll have everyone asking for the recipe.

Prep Time: 5 min. | Cook Time: 5 & 5 min.



Asparagus Wrapped in Prosciutto (online)

Ingredients

- 2 pounds thick asparagus, trimmed
- 2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 (5.2-ounce) package Boursin Garlic & Fine Herbs cheese, room temperature
- 16 thin slices of prosciutto (8 ounces), cut in half crosswise

(If necessary, you can substitute thin asparagus for thick: Just roll two thin spears into each bundle.)

Preparation

1. Adjust oven rack 3 inches from broiler element and heat broiler. Toss asparagus with oil and lay in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet. Broil until asparagus is crisp-tender, about five minutes, tossing halfway through broiling. Let the asparagus cool slightly.
2. Spread Boursin evenly over each piece of prosciutto. Roll prosciutto around the center of each asparagus spear and transfer to clean rimmed baking sheet.
3. Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 450 degrees F. Bake prosciutto –wrapped asparagus until warmed through, about 5 minutes. Serve warm. (Don't overcook the asparagus or the prosciutto will become leathery.)

SEMIAHMOO PETS

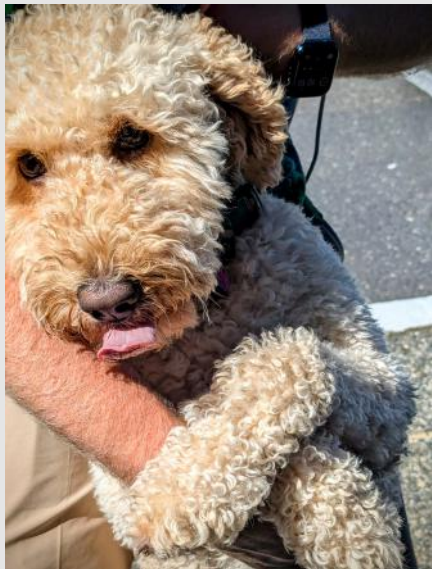


“If animals could speak, the dog would be a blundering outspoken fellow; but the cat would have the rare grace of never saying a word too much.”
— Mark Twain



Photo Contest: Living and Loving life at Semiahmoo

One picture is worth a 1,000 words. We are having a photo contest and encourage anyone to submit their photos to Elisa at Elisa@srahoa.com. We will have a drawing on Monday, March 31 and the award is a dinner for two at the Great Blue Heron at the Semiahmoo Golf Club. Winner announced and photos to be shared in the next newsletter.



Photos by Elisa Claassen of community canine pets. Please be sure to have dogs on leash when out and about and pick up after your pets.

Do you have especially nice photos of the beach, the sunset, the sunrise, the golf course, your pets, your friends? What do you enjoy about living in Semiahmoo?



SAFETY AND SECURITY

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number.



BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO AND COPE WITH THE AFTERMATH OF A DISASTER

- Learn what to expect following a major disaster in terms of immediate services
- Discuss the responsibility for mitigation and preparedness
- Organize teams to offer immediate help to victims until fire and medical services arrive

REGISTRATION AND COST

The 24-hour CERT program lasts eight weeks (three hours a night, one night per week). There is a course fee of \$80, which includes all required safety gear and training materials. There is a requirement to attend all sessions to graduate and recommend you establish a home emergency preparedness kit.



Division of Emergency Management

311 Grand Avenue, Suite
Bellingham, WA 98225

Phone: (360) 778-7163
Email: cert@whatcomcounty.us
Web Site: whatcomcounty.us/CERT



INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

For more information or to request an application for training, contact the CERT Coordinator at Whatcom County Emergency Management at the address above or visit the website.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING FOR CITIZENS



Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services may not be able to meet the heavy demand for these services. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate lifesaving and life sustaining needs. In CERT training you will learn to:

1. Prepare yourself and your family to be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days to two weeks;
2. Organize teams and provide direction for spontaneous volunteers to effectively respond to a disaster;
3. Manage utilities, put out small fires, and provide basic medical aid.
4. Learn skills to take care of yourself, your family, your neighbors, your co-workers and your community.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Session 1—Disaster Preparedness, Hazard Mitigation, Local Vulnerabilities & CERT Organization

Session 2 – Fire Safety, Fire Suppression, Utility Controls

Session 3 – Disaster Medical Operations, Part 1 (Triage, Life Saving Interventions)

Session 4 – Light Search & Rescue Operations

Session 5 – Disaster Medical Operations, Part 2 (Public Health & Hygiene, Head to Toe Assessment, Basic Treatments)

Session 6 – Disaster Psychology & Terrorism and CERT

Session 7 – Table Top Exercise & Classroom Final Exam

Session 8 – Final Exercise (Simulated Disaster Response)

Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management is offering another CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training program for North County starting Tuesday, March 11 near Birch Bay. CERT educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may occur where they live. For those interested, please see the CERT brochure above and contact the Sheriff's office as soon as possible to be placed on an email list to register.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

What else does WCLS have beyond books?

It might surprise you: the Library of Things Collection

Many of us grew up with libraries having *books, books and more books*. At some point the library became known for having DVDs, CDs, downloadable movies and audible books, but what else does the WCLS offer to its cardholders?

Mary Vermillion, the Community Relations Manager for WCLS, mentioned many patrons may not realize the library has free access to streaming movies (Kanopy),



Blaine Library, a branch of the Whatcom County Library, in the summer. (Elisa Claassen)

music (Freegal), audiobooks (Libby), genealogy research (Ancestry now for in-library use only and HeritageQuest), art and craft classes (Creativebug), language learning classes (Mango) and more by looking at wcls.org/ digital-content. Vermillion also pointed out the availability of coloring kits, framed art, power monitors to gauge power use of home appliances, and looking through the system's Library of Things.



Ukulele is new in the collection of the Whatcom County Library System.

The LinkedIn Learning uses courses developed by Lynda.com and includes negotiating salaries, Excel spreadsheets, boosting productivity and time Ukulele in the collection of the Whatcom County Library System. (WCLS) management, electrical engineering, data analysis, construction management,

marketing strategies, rendering, personal branding, 3D animation, and more.

“Library staff also provide tech assistance and can help people who are looking for employment,” Vermillion said. “LinkedIn Learning is available for free via your library card. It’s also a great resource for people looking to add to their skill base.”



Light Therapy Lamp in the collection of the Whatcom County Library System. (WCLS)

Lisa Gresham has been the Collection Services Manager at the WCLS since March of 2014. Her background includes a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University, and serving as the Branch Manager of the Ferndale Library branch from 2004 through 20026, the Adult Services Coordinator between 2006 and 2014, in which she selected much of the adult collection and planned system-wide adult programming. Aside from that, Gresham also has been the Facilities Coordinator assisting with renovation projects of buildings in the WCLS network.

As Collection Services Manager, I oversee all processes that touch the lifecycle of our materials – selection, cataloging, processing, and deselection – as well as our databases, digital materials, and interlibrary loan,” Gresham responded.

“I work with a team of degreed librarians who, guided by WCLS Collection Policy, make decisions about what to purchase for specific areas of the collection. Each area of the collection has a budget assigned to it, and the selectors work to spread spending over the entire year so there are new materials for patrons to discover in any given collection. Selectors consider multiple perspectives when making selection decisions including reviews by reputable sources, anticipated popular demand, patron requests, topics of current interest and quality of the material. They seek to provide a balanced collection with content that speaks to the diversity of opinion and life experiences.” “On hot summer days many patrons may stop by a library branch to enjoy the air conditioning, use the Wi-fi, or peruse the collection at hand. By the way, the Wi- Fi Hotspots support equitable access to the internet, which is central to the WCLS mission”, Gresham said. The hot spots are sponsored by TechSoup and Mobile Beacon. WCLS plans additional hot spots. Most branches have separate areas for teens and children and holding areas for patrons to run in and grab requested material. Some branches have been adding to programs with movies, walking clubs, and other activities.



“WCLS convened a committee several years ago”, Gresham said, “to investigate what other libraries were circulating in their Library of Things collections”. Committee members contacted those libraries, interviewed staff and talked about challenges of circulating non-traditional things. This resulted in establishing criteria for this collection: if multiple parts, consider whether the item will still be able to circulate if missing pieces; avoid items where use is time-sensitive (such as a chocolate fountain for a party on a specific date); and preference for items that can circulate with minimal repair or cleaning. The list also includes not purchasing items where safety may be an issue – such as a chainsaw, avoiding undermining local businesses that may offer something similar and rely on that for its livelihood; no seasonal-use items that will be in great need for a limited amount of time and then need to be stored for a long time.

Another consideration for this collection is how to safely package unusual items and then have these items work into the branch’s workflow process. “Because the Library of Things items require specialized attention at almost every stage of their lifespan in the collection, each needs to have a ‘champion’ that will make decisions on how to package, circulate and manage these items, so adding to this collection is dependent on having this staff time available as well as space to store these non-traditional items”, Gresham said.



The Birch Bay Vogt Library Express Location view. Residents have wanted a branch in Birch Bay. (WCLS)

What are these actual things? WCLS has more than 400 things in this collection at present. The American Girl doll and board game collections were started in 2016. “American Girl dolls in particular are costly and may be out of the range of family budgets, so WCLS is delighted to make the American Girl doll experience as accessible to all young people in our community,” Gresham said. Per the American Girl website, many of their dolls cost over \$100.

“Jigsaw puzzles were added in 2021 as a response to their popularity during the Pandemic”, Gresham said. The Check Out Washington backpacks are something special and include a Discover Pass to provide access to park lands, binoculars and guides for observing and identifying birds, trees, flowers, and other wildlife.

These backpacks are quite popular and

those interested may want to put them on hold sooner than later. As of July 20, the waiting list was over 40 people.

For those who enjoy music, there are instruments and for those struggling with winter light, or lack thereof, light therapy lamps can also be checked out. “As one user commented in the library catalog”, Gresham said, “this is by far one of the best things we’ve ever checked out at the library.”

UPCOMING EVENTS: SEMIAHMOO

Orin Swift Winery Wine Dinner—The Uncorked Series

Five-course menu wine dinner features Orin Swift Winery of California. Experience an unforgettable evening of fine dining and exceptional wines. The Resort is excited to host the dinner perfectly pairing with carefully crafted menu items. The evening will begin with Amuse Bouche to awaken your palate. Orin Swift Winery was founded in 1998 by Dave Phinney. Though Phinney grew up in California, it was in Italy where his obsession began. In 1995, what was originally billed as a semester studying abroad turned into an immersion in all aspects of wine. By 1997, Phinney was all in and landed his first winery job at Robert Mondavi as a temporary harvest worker. He learned a lot, including that he wanted to make his own wine. The next year, that happened. The menu includes Oyster and Caviar with Fioe Gras Mousse (Mannequin Chardonnay), Duck Fat Poached Scallop Citrus Herb Salad (Blank Stare Sauvignon Blanc), Venison Carpaccio with Fried Shitake Triple Peppercorn Crust (Papillon California Red Wine), Crispy Quail Stuffed with Oyster Pork Stuffing and Cured Quail Egg (Machete Napa Valley Red Wine), and finished with Bruleed Fresh Ricotta Tart Mole with Crispy Egg and Candied Citrus (Palermo Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon).



Uncorked –Orin Swift Winery Wine Dinner (Resort)

Dates

Thursday, January 30 at 6 p.m.

Pricing

\$110/participant (plus gratuity)

Paint, Sip, Love-A Valentine’s Day

Celebrate love and creativity this Valentine’s Day at Semiahmoo! Join us for a romantic Paint & Sip experience where you create your own masterpiece together in a cozy, inspiring setting. Enhance your evening with optional add-ons such as charcuterie boards, decadent truffles, glasses of wine — or all three! Whether you are painting with a partner, a friend, or flying solo, this unforgettable evening is the perfect way to indulge your creative side and celebrate the season of love.

Dates

Friday, February 14 at 4 p.m.

Pricing

From \$10 per person, with add ons



Additional February and March 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 website for more details at “Experiences” to sign up as soon as possible to secure your spot.

Galentine's Day Martini Mixology Class

Learn to make four incredible Martini's with the help of our expert mixologists! Gather your best friends for an unforgettable Galentine's Day celebration at Semiahmoo Resort! Join us for a fun and interactive Martini Mixology Class, where you'll learn the art of crafting four sophisticated martinis, guided by our expert mixologist. This lively, social experience is the perfect way to bond over creativity, cocktails, and great company.

Each drink will be served in full size, so you can savor every sip. Here's what you'll be shaking up: • Red Velvet Martini • The Filthy Dirty Snowtini • The Lox Tini • Classic Espresso Martini. Registration required.



Mixology Class (Semiahmoo Resort)

Dates

Thursday, February 13 at 6 p.m.

Pricing

\$85/ticket



Valentine's Dinner (Great Blue Heron)

Valentine's Dinner for Two at Great Blue Heron

Don't miss out on a special 3-course menu for two this Valentines Day at Great Blue Heron Grill! This event is priced per couple, and available Friday Feb. 14th & Saturday, Feb. 15th. Please make all reservations through OpenTable!

Dates

Friday, February 14 at 5 p.m.

Pricing

\$125/Couple

Prime Rib Wednesdays at Great Blue Heron

The Golf Course features Prime Rib every Wednesday from 5 to 8 p.m. as long as supplies last. Come early for a decadent and savory meal.

Dates

Wednesday, January 29 from 5-8 p.m.

Wednesday, February 5 from 5-8 p.m.

Wednesday, February 12 from 5-8 p.m.

Wednesday, February 19 from 5-8 p.m.

Pricing

\$42/Participant



Prime Rib Wednesdays (Great Blue Heron)

UPCOMING EVENTS: CITY OF BLAINE

WINGS OVER WATER NORTHWEST BIRDING FESTIVAL

Now in its 2nd year, Wings Over Water Northwest Birding Festival is anticipating an in-person three-day birding expo March 14 through 16—packed full of fun-filled activities for the avid birder and children alike. The annual festival spotlights migratory birds that pass through the Blaine/Birch Bay area on the Pacific Flyway from Alaska, inspiring people of all ages, enhancing their outdoor experiences and birding knowledge. The birding expo will feature local vendors, kids' activities, live bird seminars, live presentations with Sardis Raptor Center, and more. The keynote speaker is author Lyanda Lynn Haupt. For registration and festival updates, visit wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com or visit its social media pages.



The three-day birding festival is March 14 through 16. (Wings Over Water)

2nd Saturday Art Walk

Next up: Saturday, February 8. Start at 922 Peace Portal Drive at the Blaine Art Gallery and continue to Blind Bird at 264 H Street every second Saturday of each month from 4 to 6:30 p.m. enjoy supporting local artists. Free. All ages. For more information, see <http://blaineartscouncil.org>.



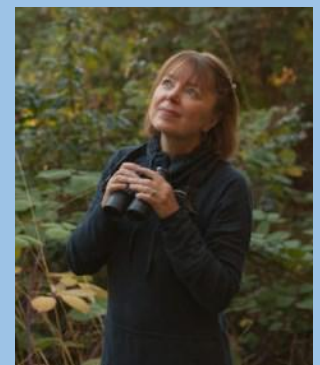
Photos from Elisa Claassen at the Blaine Art Gallery.



Meet Lyanda Lynn Haupt, Wings Over Water Keynote Speaker

"I am an author, naturalist, and speaker based in Seattle. My work explores the beautiful, complicated connections between humans and the wild, natural world."

Haupt has written several books including "Rooted: Life at the Crossroads of Science, Nature, and Spirit." She has created and directed educational programs for Seattle Audubon, worked in raptor rehabilitation in Vermont, and as a seabird researcher for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the remote tropical Pacific Ocean.



Keynote Speaker Author Lyanda Lynn Haupt

UPCOMING EVENTS: WHATCOM COUNTY

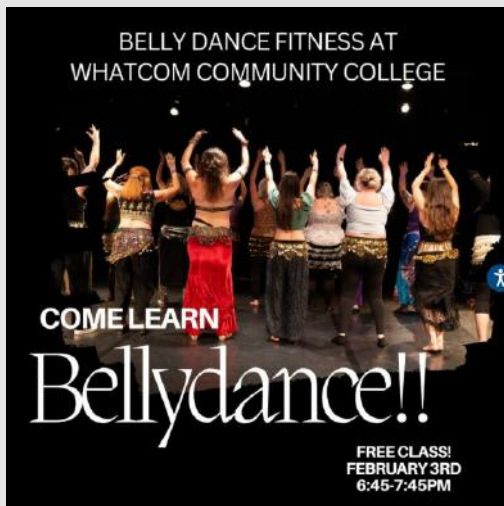
Whatcom Falls 5K – Saturday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m. – 1401 Electric Ave., Bellingham. Produced by the Greater Bellingham Running Club - The race will start and finish near the fish hatchery. After a short loop to the north to spread the crowd out, you will head west on the Waterline Trail. Then turn south (left) on the trail that takes you to Lakeway Dr. where you will turn right and enter Bayview Cemetery. Follow roads through the cemetery and reconnect and turn right on the Waterline Trail. Head east (staying left if you meet on coming runners) then turn left and cross the wood footbridge. After crossing the bridge turn left then sharp right up a short but steep hill and turn right again at the top. This trail will lead you across the old stone bridge and up to the parking area. From here you will cross the road and go up the trail by the registration shelter and turn left at the top onto the road and follow this loop back to the start/finish area. Contact: Crissy Pernevi, 360-890-9898.

Pine Needle Basketry – A Wildcrafter’s Workshop with Northwest Natura – February 2, 2025 – 1 to 5:30 p.m. – Admission \$60 at the Chuckanut Center in Fairhaven.



Pine Needle Basketry (Chuckanut Center)

Contact: Jazmen Yoder – 360-927-9895. In this wildcrafting workshop you will learn how to weave a basket using the coil technique and Ponderosa Pine needles. Weaving with pine needles and other coiled plant material is a practice ancient peoples from all continents implemented in day-to-day survival, conventional living, and art. The technique requires patience and attention to detail before it becomes a relaxing, repetitive stitching pattern. It is a skill that is more easily learned with a little guidance. Dabblers, beginners, intermediate, and advanced weavers will enjoy this creative, social gathering with Northwest Natura. Please register via the event website.



Belly Dance Fitness – An Introductory Workshop, Monday, February 3, 2025 – 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Whatcom Community College – Pavillion 201 at 237 W. Kellogg Road, Bellingham. Free. Have you always wanted to try belly dance? This is your chance to try it for FREE! Sweat, shimmy, laugh, and dance in this FREE workshop designed to introduce you to the art of belly dance. If you've been curious about this fascinating dance style, come join instructor Rachel Carter for an introduction to the basics. Beginners welcome and encouraged! Wear comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle. Pre-registration required.

GangBall – Monday, February 3, 2025 – 4 to 6 p.m. — Bloedel Donovan Community Building, 2214 Electric Ave., Bellingham WA 98229 – Every week on Monday until March 17, 2025. Free. Produced by Bellingham Parks & Recreation. GangBall is a fast-paced adaptive sport where players use specifically designed wheelchairs to score by carrying a ball across the opponent's goal line. Open to all abilities - all bodies welcome - and wheelchairs provided! A liability waiver is required at the door.



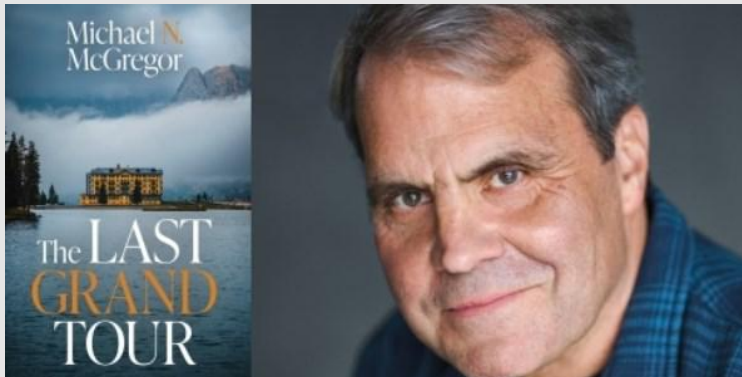
GangBall at Bloedel Donovan (WCC).

Avalanche Awareness – Wednesday, February 5, 2025 – 7 to 8:30 p.m. American Alpine Institute—4041 Home Road #A, Bellingham WA 98226. Free. Whether you ski, snowshoe, snowboard, or snowmobile, recognition of avalanche danger is an essential and potentially lifesaving skill. This introductory class provides a basic approach to managing risk in an environment where avalanches may exist. American Alpine Institute avalanche instructors will explain how to access avalanche and mountain weather forecasts and how to recognize basic signs of avalanche danger.

Chuckanut Radio Hour Featuring Kira Jane Buxton – Tartufo – February 6, 2025 – 7 p.m. Admission \$5 to \$31.61. Join Village Books for a delightful evening of music, stories, and fun as we welcome back the amazing Kira Jane Buxton! Tartufo is the hilarious tale of a crumbling Italian village where tourists only stop in to ask for directions. Little do the villagers know that the local truffle hunter has discovered a massive truffle, potentially worth six figures, with the power to either be the greatest gift or the foulest curse the village has ever seen.



Michael McGregor in Conversation with Gene Openshaw – The Last Grand Tour – Thursday, February 6, 2025 – 6 p.m. at Village Books in Fairhaven, 1200 11th St., Bellingham, WA. Join Village Books and best-selling author Gene Openshaw in the Readings Gallery to celebrate Seattle-based author Michael McGregor's debut novel, The Last Grand Tour! Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, Joe Newhouse has guided Americans through the mythic lands of western Europe. Now, with his marriage failing, he faces one last trip to Venice with a surly group and a beautiful woman who turn his final tour into a web of conflict, secrets, and kindled desire.



The Downtown Ghost Tour – Friday, February 7, 2025 – 7:30 p.m. Occurs also on February 21. Chuckanut Bay Distillery, 1311 Cornwall Ave., Bellingham, WA. The Downtown Ghost Tour is a 21+ event that starts and ends at Chuckanut Bay Distillery (with an optional after tour drink, extra cost) in one of their haunted spaces. Join psychic Charles Crooks as he shares ghost stories from the heart of downtown Bellingham. Contact: 360-398-3133.

Fairhaven Chocolate Walk – Saturday, February 8, 2025 – 12 to 5 p.m. at Historic Fairhaven Village, 1106 Harris Ave., Bellingham, WA Tickets are \$35 each. VIP experience add-on with wine and spirits available for an additional fee. Ticket holders receive a collection bag and a map to 18 participating businesses. Collect a unique chocolate at each stop. Check in at the Fairhaven Association HUB at 1106 Harris Ave. Tickets online at enjoyfairhaven.com.

This is a selection of local events within Whatcom County. Please see Bellingham.org, the website for Bellingham-Whatcom County Tourism for additional local events as well as Whatcom Museum of History and Art, Jansen Art Center, SPARK Museum, Whatcom County Library System, Village Books, the Fairhaven District, and other venues.