

Semiahmoo: A Premier Residential Resort Community in the Pacific Northwest

SEMIAHMOO NEWS

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STAFF DIRECTORY

General Manager - Chelsey Rochester - 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 ext. 4 elisa@srahoa.com

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

Board of Directors - board@srahoa.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with regret that the Board bids farewell to past president, Debbie Paquin, who resigned in May due to health reasons. Debbie served as vice-president in 2024 and president in 2025-26, while simultaneously serving as interim GM from November 2025 through March 2026. She led the GM search committee and helped select and onboard our new General Manager, Chelsey Rochester. It has been the Board's pleasure to serve under her leadership, and we wish her a speedy return to good health. We are grateful for her exceptional commitment to the SRA community.

We also bid farewell to Cary Clevenger, who served as Board ASC Liaison in 2024-25, and Secretary in 2025-26. Cary and his wife, Kristen, have purchased a home in southern California and are in the process of relocating. We thank Cary for his numerous contributions to the community and wish he and Kristen many years of good health and happiness in their new location.

Welcome Chelsey Rochester, our new General Manager! Chelsey joins us after two years of HOA management experience with Windermere Property Management Services, where she managed 14 associations with a total of 756 units. She is a graduate of Western Washington University with a BA in Communication Studies and Sociology. Chelsey has quickly learned the administrative and accounting aspects of the GM role and is attending all committee meetings to get up to speed with the work they are performing for the community. If you have not already done so, please stop by the SRA office and say hello to Chelsey.

On the communications front, this June issue of Semiahmoo News will be the first of 2026. We regret being unable to publish a Spring 2026 edition, due to the transition of the General Manager position, but are back on track for quarterly newsletters going forward. SRA This Week communications have continued to be sent to the community each Friday, thanks to the diligent efforts of Lori Thorne and Elisa Claassen. A Town Hall was held at the Resort on June 13, where approximately 70 SRA members attended in person or via Zoom. Robert Walters, of Whatcom Conservation District, spoke about wildfire preparedness. Fire Chief Jason Van der Veen addressed the status of Fire District 21 and the upcoming Fire Levy Renewal request that will appear on the August 4 primary ballot.

Fortunately, our Winter was relatively mild following the December heavy rains. Our maintenance team continues to do an excellent job of Fall and Winter preparation for weather events. The underground stormwater conveyance system is vacuumed (by a contractor) each October, curb



President Delia Alberstein

catchment grates are kept clear of debris, the Boundary Ridge bypass drain is opened and checked for debris prior to approaching rain events, roads are swept weekly at a minimum, and immediately after windstorms. Drains at stormwater retention ponds are also checked and cleared regularly. And, of course, roads and parking lots are plowed immediately after snow events, when applicable. Our thanks to the Maintenance Team for keeping our community safe during periods in inclement weather.

Kudos are in order for our Maintenance Director, Leroy Dougall, who researched and found a replacement street sweeper, made available at auction by the City of Leavenworth. Leroy traveled to Leavenworth to inspect the equipment and Chelsey assisted in the bidding and purchasing process. As a result, SRA was able to obtain a more lightly used street sweeper for \$22,000, while new units are over \$100,000. Congratulations to both for their quick and prudent actions to keep our community equipped with such an important maintenance vehicle.

In addition, the beach access stairs at Boundary Ridge were re-opened and potentially dangerous overhanging trees were removed. We have received many compliments on the quality of workmanship done on the Stairs. This is an important amenity for all in the community to enjoy. If you have not yet done so, take a walk down the stairs to our private beach. You can then walk north to the public beach at the Spit, and slightly farther to enjoy a beverage or meal and the Resort. The views are breathtaking!

The split rail fence along the Boundary Ridge side of Semiahmoo Drive was removed in early Spring, and the Drayton Harbor easement trail was cleared of winter debris. Landscape beds and crushed limestone walking paths were refreshed. Irrigation systems were inspected and de-winterized, and gates inspected and maintained regularly. Many thanks to our Maintenance Team for their

year-round efforts to keep SRA both safe and beautiful!

Other SRA Winter/Spring activities included ongoing wildfire mitigation efforts in our community buffer areas. Thanks to our membership's approval of a 2026 budget for tree maintenance and wildfire mitigation, and our approval for a combined \$29,000 of Washington Department of Natural Resources reimbursement grants, SRA has been successful in removing ground and ladder fuels, as well as dead and diseased trees in the buffers of Turnberry Wood, Drayton Cove, Boundary Ridge, Drayton Hillside 1, and the St. Andrews Green Gate 2 egress. Our special appreciation for Robert Walters, of the Whatcom Conservation District, for his guidance in these efforts.



Many, many thanks also to Beth Trafton, of the ASC, for her endless hours of preparing and supervising months of this work.

And a special acknowledgement of our many committee volunteers for their behind-the-scenes work in keeping SRA safe, beautiful, and financially sound.

The **Architectural Standards Committee (ASC)**

plays the lead role in assisting property owners, developers, and contractors in preserving the natural beauty of Semiahmoo by harmonizing the designs and needs of residential construction and landscaping with our unique environment. It meets every other week to review the planned and ongoing work in new construction, home remodels, and landscape plans, with regular site visits involved. Staff include Chelsey Rochester, Carroll Ballard and Csaba Mundi. Volunteers include David Moon (Board Liaison), Brian Berg, Ken Johns, Guy Kelly, Brian Morton, and Beth Trafton.

The **Finance Committee**, chaired by Jim Simpson, assists the Board in fulfilling its fiduciary duty by providing oversight of the SRA's financial affairs. It is ahead of schedule in preparing our 2027

budget. Jim, along with Rid Nibbe, Greg Booth, and Chelsey Rochester, meet at least quarterly to review investments and renew CDs at the most favorable rates.

The **Safety & Environment Committee**, an ad hoc committee, is chaired by Luc Clement. It has met multiple times this year regarding the wildfire mitigation work being done in the SRA buffers and the upcoming Fire District 21 levy renewal request. Members include Paul Berg, Pat Kingshott, Caty Harkleroad, Guy Kelly, Jennifer Plombon, and Stan Monks. The committee has developed a resident education campaign, regarding Prop. No. 2026-03, where it is sharing information provided by Fire District 21 through the SRA This Week communication channel. While the SRA does not endorse a voting position, it encourages residents to educate themselves about this important levy renewal request. If the measure is approved by voters, Fire Station 62 on Semiahmoo Parkway will be opened.

As you can see, in addition to competent staff, the SRA is guided by a host of talented volunteers. There are currently two open Board positions. If you have the time, interest, or a particular set of skills or expertise, please consider volunteering to serve on the Board or on a committee. Your involvement will be most appreciated and will help Semiahmoo maintain its standing as a premier residential resort community.

Delia Alberstein, President



The Semiahmoo Speakers Series,
previously known as the
Semiahmoo Men's Breakfast Club,
proudly celebrates
its 40th anniversary this year!

Join us for a remarkable year filled with thought-provoking
discussions and invaluable networking opportunities.

Our meetings take place at 7:30 AM
on the first and third Thursdays of each month
at the beautiful Semiahmoo Resort and Spa, creating the
perfect setting for inspiration and connection.

GENERAL MANAGER'S NOTE

The SRA has a new General Manager, Chelsey Rochester. Chelsey started her position at the SRA in March, 2026, and has been actively working with the board and various committees to get up to date on the history of Semiahmoo and collaborating on upcoming projects. She holds credentials as a Certified Manager of Community Associations (CMCA) and has several years of experience as a Community Association Manager, which has provided insight to helping the association comply with new legislative laws. Chelsey worked with the Finance Committee to draft the 2027 budget to be presented to the Board in July. The Maintenance Director, Leroy Dougall found a street sweeper from City of Leavenworth to replace the existing street sweeper that was failing. Leroy and Chelsey worked together to procure the street sweeper to enhance the quality of road maintenance in Semiahmoo. A special shoutout to Leroy for picking up the sweeper and driving it from Leavenworth to the SRA! Additionally, Chelsey has



GM Chelsey Rochester

provided all requested documentation to the

Association's new auditor for the 2025 audit. The new General Manager has received a positive welcome from the SRA team and is excited to work with such dedicated individuals that care about the community.

As a friendly reminder, the use of fireworks is illegal in the City of Blaine and inside the communities of Semiahmoo. Practicing fire prevention helps the community reduce wildfire risk and protect lives and property. Please report any incidents of firework use to the Blaine Police Department.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer and be sure to check out SRA's website at <http://www.semiahmooresortassociation.com/> to stay up to date on everything the Association is working on!



New office mascot, Lady, enjoying the scenery in Semiahmoo. (Elisa Claassen.)

MAINTENANCE CORNER

Our Maintenance team is overseen by Leroy Dougall. This is what the team is working on this summer:

- **SAGII gate – replaced operator motor**
- **Gleneagle Villas - Repaired entryway gate with manufacturer**
- **Picked up new street sweeper from City of Leavenworth**
- **Worked with Chelsey on street sweeper title**
- **Training temporary summer maintenance employee**
- **Added another temporary summer maintenance employee**
- **Drayton Harbor Easement – spring cleaning and drain investigation**
- **Raked out flower beds at entry gates, traffic circles, and parks**
- **Continue mowing common areas**



SRA Maintenance worker Mike Larson working on the newly-purchased street sweeper which will replace the current sweeper. It served the city of Leavenworth. (Elisa Claassen)

Ongoing projects by the Maintenance team: The two full-time employees have been joined by two seasonal employees to test irrigation systems and make sure systems aren't wasting water, bark and maintain the flower beds, clean and clear the gate tracks, adjust the chains, remove and maintain gates as needed, sweep streets of debris, and respond to owner inquiries.

THANK YOU

Board President Resignation

Debbie Paquin brought a wealth of experience in accounting, IT, and HOA management to the SRA Board. During her tenure, she leveraged this expertise to maintain community standards while keeping fees in check. Following her service as Vice President in 2024, she led the Board as President from 2025 through May 2026. Notably, after the GM resignation in November 2025, Debbie stepped in as Interim GM through March 2026, ensuring uninterrupted operations—including payroll, mortgage, insurance and other critical payments—without compensation. She oversaw the search committee for the hiring of the new GM.



Debbie Paquin

Due to health reasons, Debbie resigned as Board President in late May 2026. She extends her deepest gratitude to the SRA Staff and Board for their unwavering support and hard work and states it has been a true privilege to serve the community. Following Debbie's resignation, Delia Alberstein, the Vice President, stepped into the role with the consent of the BOD.

Board Member Resignation

Cary Clevenger has sold his home in May and has therefore resigned his position on the Board of Directors. Cary has been on the Board since 2023, including serving as the ASC Liaison for his first term and then Secretary. We appreciate everything Cary has contributed to the community and wish him luck on his next endeavor.



Cary Clevenger

What does it mean to be a Firewise USA community?



The Board is please to announce that the Semiahmoo Resort Association has been recognized as a Firewise USA participating community in good standing throughout the 2026 calendar year. This provides our community support from the Washington DNR for our continued work in managing wildfire mitigation efforts, forest health, vegetation and wildlife habitat, soil health, and more. This support includes on-site inspections and advice from WDNR subject matter experts, access to the most up-to-date educational materials, and higher priority access to applicable grant funds as they become available. The Board wishes to thank the Wildfire Mitigation Working Group for their efforts in obtaining this certification.



A recent story in The Northern Light focused on the Semiahmoo community. At the end of 2025, the SRA, St. Andrews Green 1 & 2, Boundary Ridge, Glen Eagle Villas 1 & 2, Glen Eagle Villas 3, and Prestwick Village officially became recognized Firewise USA sites. Firewise USA is a nation-wide program through the National Fire Protection Association helping neighbors work together to reduce wildfire risk. (Photo courtesy of Alexis Bryson/WCD).

FIREWISE USA

GLENEAGLE VILLAS COMMUNITY
Firewise USA® Site · Spring 2026 Edition

Neighbors Working Together

How Gleneagle Villas Is Reducing Wildfire Risk — One Home at a Time

If you've lived in the Pacific Northwest long enough, you've felt the tension of a dry August | afternoon — the smell of smoke in the air, the haze on the horizon, the nagging thought: *How close is too close?* Wildfire doesn't announce itself with much warning. But here's something we can do about it — and in 2026, our Gleneagle Villas community did exactly that.

Over the winter and spring months, residents of Gleneagle Villas — working alongside professional arborists and a dedicated volunteer crew — completed a meaningful series of fire mitigation projects that reduced wildfire risk across our entire neighborhood. Thirty-one homes were treated. Approximately twelve acres of forested areas were addressed. Neighbors showed up, rolled up their sleeves, and got to work.

"Wildfire prevention isn't just a government program. It's neighbors caring about neighbors — and protecting what we've all worked hard to build."

What Is Firewise — and Why Does It Matter Here?

Firewise USA® is a national program that helps communities like ours take practical, evidence-based steps to reduce the risk of wildfire damage. The idea is simple: wildfires are natural events we can't prevent, but we can make our homes and neighborhoods significantly harder to ignite.

Gleneagle Villas sits in an area where our beautiful trees and natural surroundings — the very things that make this such a wonderful place to live — can also create fire risk. Dry pine needles on rooftops become kindling. Dead trees become torches. Dense vegetation creates "ladders" that allow flames to climb from the ground straight into the tree canopy. The good news is that all of these risks can be meaningfully reduced with organized community action.

In 2026, with support from a Washington State DNR Firewise Micro Grant, our community did just that.

"Nine neighbors. Four hours each. Thirty-six volunteer hours invested in the safety of every home in our community."



The Earthworks Tree Service crew — and our volunteer neighbors — ready for a day's work.

The original material appeared in the Gleneagle Villas Community newsletter and is shared with permission. It shows what one community can do — and how they did it.

They started at the top with roof and gutter cleanup. Pine needles are especially dangerous because they dry out and ignite easily. Dun-Rite Services came after the weather cleared from January's storms.

In April, they organized a Community Cleanup Day armed with rakes, gloves, and good spirits. The crew of nine neighbors spent four hours each gathering fallen limbs and storm debris. These next-door neighbors came together for a common purpose.

The next step was breaking the "ladder" by limbing up trees. When a wildfire spreads along the ground, it finds low-hanging branches and climbs. Forty trees were trimmed in the process.



WHAT ABOUT THOSE SRA BEACH STAIRS?

Which Stairs? The ones accessed at the end of Shearwater in Boundary Ridge with a small sign. These are open to all of Semiahmoo community.

The SRA membership voted in 2024 in favor of a special dues payment, paid in the first half of 2025, to cover the refurbishing of the SRA Stairs at Boundary Ridge, open to all of the Semiahmoo community. A number of residents — young and old — have stopped to tell Staff they are running up and down the stairs for exercise, enjoying special private beach access away from the more crowded public park area, or simply having another outing option for their pets and children to enjoy. The views are amazing! Previously the community had several other access stairs but they were removed for safety reasons.

History of the Stairs:

Previously Boundary Ridge had two other sets of beach stairs descending from the community park spaces. They were removed but the park areas remain. It was important to save the remaining Stairs.

The Stairs were closed several years ago after being declared unsafe by an engineering firm after approximately 40 years of usage. Bids were obtained. In 2024. An estimate of \$150,000 was given to extend the life of the Stairs by approximately 30 years.

At the 2024 Annual General Meeting, the Board presented a one-time \$150,000 special assessment to repair the Stairs in 2025. It passed. A breakdown of the assessment by property type, given at a Town Hall: \$179 for a lot with a house, \$90 for a vacant lot, between \$67 and \$157 for multi-family/condo units (based on size) and \$9,115 for Semiahmoo Resort. Another SRA amenity was cleaned up during 2025: the Drayton Harbor easement. The SRA maintenance team rented equipment and did significant cleanup in a short period of time.

Due to additional costs of materials (tariffs) and more repairs warranted, the project wasn't completed until fall of 2025. The SRA Maintenance staff worked on clearing/trimming bushes and adding rocks to the entry. Ongoing maintenance to keep the Stairs functional is in the ongoing SRA budgets.



DID YOU KNOW?

Submitted by Staff

We hope you are enjoying the summer season! As the warm weather continues, we want to remind you of a few key things:

Watering Restrictions: The city of Blaine, Washington, has a voluntary watering schedule in place from June 1st to September 15th. Residents with odd-numbered street addresses can water on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays, while those with even-numbered addresses can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Mondays are designated as non-watering days. This schedule aims to conserve water during peak summer demand.

Upcoming Events: We encourage you to support local events in our Semiahmoo community, city of Blaine and Whatcom County. We have a few of them in this newsletter but below are links of interest to show more.

- **Semiahmoo:** <https://www.semiahmoo.com/experiences.php#!/>
- **Blaine:** <https://www.blainechamber.com/events>
- **Bellingham/Whatcom County:** www.bellingham.org

Contact Information for the SRA Office: Be sure to read the SRA Weekly on Fridays. Do not hesitate to use the contact page on our website if you have any questions or call 360-371-7796.

<https://www.semiahmooresortassociation.com/contact-us/>

The SRA appreciates all your efforts in maintaining the community, we wish all our residents a safe and joyful summer.



Refrain from Feeding Ducks in Semiahmoo

Here is why:

Feeding ducks in Washington State, particularly bread, crackers, and popcorn, is discouraged because it causes severe malnutrition deformities like "angel wing" and reliance on humans. It leads to overcrowding, water pollution from rotting food, and increased disease transmission.

Nutritional Harm: Bread lacks essential nutrients, causing malnourishment and the fatal wing deformity known as "angel wing," where wings cannot fold properly.

- **Environmental Damage:** Excess food leads to algae growth, which pollutes waterways and can kill fish.
- **Disease and Pests:** Overcrowding at feeding sites fosters diseases like botulism and avian cholera, while uneaten food attracts rats and raccoons.
- **Behavioral Changes:** Ducks lose their natural fear of humans, becoming aggressive and more likely to cross busy roads.

Instead of feeding, it is best to observe wild birds from a distance, allowing them to rely on their natural, healthier diet of insects, snails, and aquatic plants.



The City of Blaine is responsible for the entire water system (including fire hydrants and manholes) and the sewer system within the SRA gates. If you notice any issues with this infrastructure, the SRA recommends contacting the City via email at customerservice@cityofblaine.com. Semiahmoo property owners are responsible for ensuring landscaping does not encroach upon fire hydrants.

INTO THE WILD: BABY SEALS VISIT MARINA

COMPILED BY ELISA CLAASSEN
SRA OFFICE

Enjoy visiting the seals along Semiahmoo's waters, but don't get too near. In late June, 2026 a malnourished seal was found abandoned in Bellingham, per the Seattle ARC news,. Eight Harbor seal pups rescued since May 24; 17 marine mammals since January 1 until June 24. Per Wikipedia, the harp seal is also known as the saddleback



A malnourished baby seal was found abandoned in Bellingham in June, 2026. (Image from PN.W Bolston used by Seattle ARC News.)

seal or Greenland seal. The mature harp seal has pure black eyes. It has a silver-grey fur covering its body. Adult harp seals grow to be 5 foot 7 inches to 6 feet 7 inches) long and weigh from 154 to 309 pounds.

Pups have a white coat for the first two to three weeks until the first moult and it gets a black-dotted silver to grey coat. Lactating female harp seals spend about 80% of the time in the water and 20% of the time on ice or land — close to their pups. The primary season for baby seals to be born in the Pacific Northwest is June through August.

What do they eat...and who eats them? They are carnivorous. They eat fish and invertebrate species. They also can become food for apex marine predators and large Arctic land mammals (including killer Orcas whales, sharks, and polar bears are a few).

Harbor seals, and other marine mammals, are protected by law under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. If a seal pup appears to be visibly injured or abandoned, do not touch it or try to move it. Contact a local marine mammal network. The hotline number of 1-866-767-6114.



Baby seals lay side by side between the old abandoned dock and the beach as their mothers swim nearby in August of 2025. Locals enjoy their presence but keep a distance. (Elisa Claassen)

**SRA
UPCOMING**

**BOARD
MEETINGS**

7/22 & 8 /19 & 9/16 AT 4 P.M.
SEE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

SRA CONFERENCE ROOM

JOIN IN PERSON OR VIA
ZOOM

MEETINGS ARE ALSO POSTED ON YOUTUBE FOR
FUTURE VIEWING.

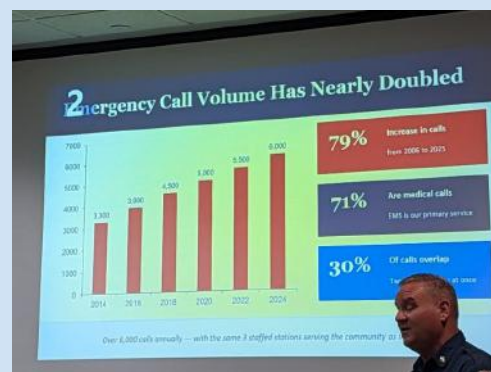
TOWN HALL

Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, June 13, 2026 at Semiahmoo Resort

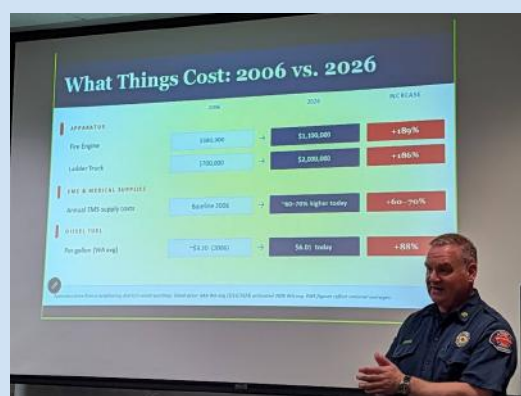


What is the purpose of Town Halls? These meetings allow members to learn more about what is happening in the community. The first one of 2026 focused on wildfire mitigation and the upcoming fire department levy lid lift going to the ballot later this year. The presentations were recorded and available on the SRA YouTube channel.

Upcoming Town Halls: at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 19 at the same Discovery Theatre at the Resort to discuss the proposed 2027 SRA Budget, and Oct. 31 is the Annual General Meeting that all members are encouraged to attend in person or via Zoom.



Semiahmoo resident and Blaine Mayor Mary Lou Steward listened attentively (upper left). SRA Vice President and Chair of the Safety & Environmental Committee Luc Clement speaking (upper right). Robert Walters of the Conservation District, serves as a wildlife resilience specialist and spoke about programs Semiahmoo communities have been actively participating in during the past year (middle left). SRA President Delia Alberstein (center) introduced speakers. Fire Chief Jason Van der Veen, from North Whatcom Fire & Rescue (FD21) showed statistics involving his department and the reasons for the levy lid lift request in the remaining photos. The following pages contain more information regarding the need. (Photos by Elisa Claassen)



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRE LEVY LID LIFT

Why Station 62 Matters — and Why Participation Matters Too

The Semiahmoo Gap

Most of us assume that when we call 911, help comes from the nearest fire station.

But emergency response in our area does not work that way.

Fire and EMS services operate as one coordinated system across Blaine, Birch Bay, Semiahmoo, and surrounding communities. Crews respond from whichever station has the closest available unit at the moment the call comes in.

That word — *available* — matters more today than it did twenty years ago.

A Lot Has Changed Since 2006

The last time voters approved the district's levy rate was in 2006.

Since then, emergency call volume across Fire District 21 has roughly doubled, reaching more than 6,000 calls annually. Yet staffing levels have remained essentially unchanged since 2007.

At the same time, the nature of emergency response has changed dramatically.

77%

Of emergency calls are medical in nature

Heart events, strokes, falls, breathing emergencies — many requiring hospital transport of up to 90 minutes.

Many of these calls require hospital transport, which can keep a responding crew unavailable for up to 90 minutes.

As call volume increases and calls overlap, crews are more often already committed elsewhere when the next emergency occurs.

That is where geography begins to matter.

The Semiahmoo Gap

Fire District 21 has adopted a district response goal of first-unit arrival within 10 minutes of dispatch on at least 80% of emergency calls.

In Blaine and Birch Bay, that target is generally being met.

Semiahmoo is different.

2024 RESPONSE TIME DATA - NWFR

% of emergency calls receiving a response within 10 minutes



Source: NWFR 2024 Response Time Analysis. District standard: 80% of calls within 10 minutes.

Recent district data shows that only 28% of Semiahmoo emergency calls currently receive help within that 10-minute target window.

Only 28%

of Semiahmoo calls are answered within the 10-minute target

District goal: 80%. Blaine: 82%. Birch Bay: 80%. Semiahmoo: 28%.

Approximately 7 out of 10 calls originating in Semiahmoo are responded to by a unit coming from farther away.

7 of 10

Semiahmoo calls handled by a more distant unit

Overlapping calls, train delays, one road in/out — it all adds up.

There are several reasons for this:

- Semiahmoo is farther from the district's current staffed stations
- Nearby crews are frequently already committed to overlapping emergencies elsewhere in the district
- Train delays and limited access routes can affect travel time
- Emergency medical calls increasingly tie up crews for extended periods

This difference in outcomes is what many have begun referring to as the Semiahmoo Gap.

The system itself is functioning as designed. Crews continue responding to every emergency call. But the data clearly shows how local crew availability affects response times for communities farther from the center of operations.

In emergencies involving cardiac events, strokes, severe falls, or trauma, minutes matter.

Quick arrival of trained responders can stabilize a situation, begin treatment earlier, and buy critical time before hospital care is reached.

Why Station 62 Matters

Station 62 already exists on Semiahmoo Parkway. The building was constructed years ago — but it has never been opened and staffed full time.

If Proposition No. 2026-03 is approved by voters this August, Station 62 would open and operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For Semiahmoo residents, this would mean:

- More emergency crews west of the railroad tracks
- Increased local crew availability
- Reduced reliance on crews responding from Blaine or Birch Bay
- Better ability to respond to overlapping emergencies closer to home

This is especially important in a community where many residents are older adults and where medical emergencies now represent the overwhelming majority of calls.

Another Issue Affecting Homeowners: Insurance

Many residents have already experienced substantial increases in homeowner insurance premiums in recent years.

Across the insurance industry, wildfire exposure, emergency response capability, and community risk profiles are becoming increasingly important factors in determining rates and coverage availability.

Communities with limited fire protection resources or slower emergency response performance can face growing pressure over time — including higher premiums, stricter underwriting, or reduced coverage options.

While no one can predict future insurance pricing, many residents are understandably concerned that

continued strain on emergency response infrastructure could contribute to worsening insurance conditions in the years ahead.

\$18 / mo

Estimated monthly cost for a \$500,000 home

Proposition No. 2026-03 at the proposed levy reset rate.

For many homeowners, that amount is modest relative to the insurance increases some households are already experiencing.

Why Participation Matters

Over the years, similar levy measures have failed multiple times — often not because of overwhelming opposition, but because many eligible voters simply did not participate.

That matters here.

A significant number of people living in the Semiahmoo community are not eligible to vote in local elections. The outcome is heavily influenced by those residents who can vote.

Whatever your personal position may be on Proposition No. 2026-03, understanding the issue and participating in the process is important.

Emergency response affects every household in the community. Most of us will need it eventually — whether for ourselves, a spouse, a friend, or a neighbor.

This August, residents will once again have the opportunity to decide whether Fire Station 62 should finally open and be staffed.

Be informed. Be ready. Participate.

VOTE DATE: AUGUST 4, 2026 - BALLOTS MAILED IN JULY

Be Informed. Be Ready. Participate.

Information provided by Fire District 21 and shared by the Semiahmoo Resort Association.
The SRA Board of Directors encourages voters to educate themselves on Proposition No. 2026-03.

Fire Safety Tips:

- Install working smoke alarms on every level of your home
- Keep flammable items away from space heaters
- Never leave cooking unattended
- Never run extension cords under rugs



Home and Landscape Renovations

Reminder: The season for home maintenance and landscaping is upon us. If you are preparing to replace and repair decks, roofing, repainting, etc., please remember to submit the appropriate forms to the Architectural Standards Committee for approval. If you plan to landscape 25% or more of the landscapable area of the lot, please submit a Landscape Alteration Request.

EXPLORE ACROSS THE LINE

Minutes away to White Rock, BC

From Elisa Claassen/Staff

Grab your loved ones, passports, enhanced licenses or Nexus cards (although a Nexus card is truly a must when the border gets busy) and head north of the border for a change of pace, of taste, and of scenery!

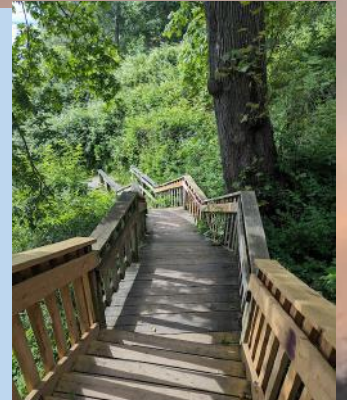
Many people think of the many things to see and do in Vancouver, but what about nearby White Rock, BC? You might be surprised.

- *Are you hungry?*
- *Wanting to have water views?*
- *Do you enjoy nature?*

1001 Steps, 12500 Block of 15A Ave., Surrey (at the end of 16th Ave. and to the south a block. Park along the street where you can and be prepared to have a back-and-forth venture from the top of the cliff to the beach. Free public park. The wooden slats were replaced by metal in a recent lengthy renovation. A short trail at the base walks by and under train tracks.

Chez Christophe Chocolaterie Patisserie—1558 Johnston Rd, White Rock, BC. Parking is a bit tricky in a nearby lot or along the road but the eats — sweet and savory — with some nice beverages as well. While Chez Christophe has won plenty of awards, the setting is comfy and cozy for all ages. Not pretentious at all! Select from large cakes or individual ones, tarts, cookies and macarons, chocolates, and sandwiches. Chez-Christophe.ca

Sapporo Kitchen—Semiahmoo Shopping Centre, 1625 152 St., Surrey, BC. The Japanese kitchen is fast and has sushi, teriyaki, chef's special rolls, grill, bento and ramen options.



White Rock Pier, White Rock, BC—At 1,540 foot, this pier is the longest in Canada. (Although Wikipedia says it is disputed with Quai de Portneuf in Portneuf, Quebec.) The original pier was built in 1912 at 300 feet and destroyed in winter storms in 1913. It has since been rebuilt a few times — and now has a permanent rock breakwater at the end of the pier. In its latest update, in 2024, it now has an accessibility mat to allow safer passage by those with mobility issues. It also hosts special music events during the summer. Parking nearby is in paid parking lots. Fine dining and fish-and-chip restaurants and cafes are in walking distance. Stop by the White Rock Museum & Archives nearby to purchase a gift, learn about local history (or to see where the guys from the Psych TV show had their offices). A real large white rock is visible along the beach.

Darts Hill Garden Park, 1633 170 St, Surrey, BC is at the corner of 16 Ave. and 168 St on the west and 170 St on the east. Open on a limited basis on weekends from April until September. It is the result of more than 75 years of work and dedication by the late Francisca Darts who spent weekends at



the now 22.5-acre country property developing what we see today. The Darts family donated in 1994 to the City of Surrey — and its residents. A non-profit works with the parks system to maintain the property. Donation admittance. See dartshill.ca website for a list of artists working in the garden and special events.



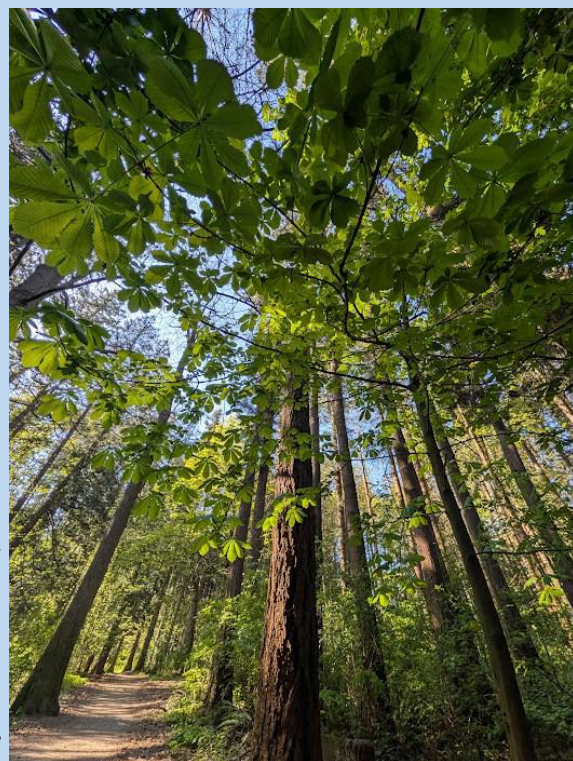
Darts Hill Garden Park has pathways through an abundance of rhododendrons, azaleas, orchards, and a great lawn. Open spring and summer months.

were sons of David Brown, the first postmaster and a Justice of the Peace for BC. They ordered tree seeds from around the world, including the largest stand of Redwoods north of the California. Other trees include Douglas Fir, Ponderosa Pine, Colorado Blue Spruce, Grand Fir, Lawson Cypress, Pacific Yew, Wych Elm, Black Walnut, European Ash, Chinese Chestnut, Katsura, maples, Cedar of Lebanon, and others. While the treehouse inhabited by the Brown brothers is now gone, another replica remains in the central area. It contains rustic picnic areas, all-abled playground, and occasionally filming crews. Sometimes children bring in decorated homes for fairies with notes for loved ones in heaven. Free.

Additional place to consider: Campbell Valley Regional Park is a large regional park maintained by Metro Vancouver Regional Parks formed from six historic farm plots and contains an equestrian area, an old farmstead, a moved one-room school house, an old racing car track, boy scout camp, and a tree farm. It is located between 8 Ave. and 16 Ave. for the main trail system. Free.

Redwood Park/ Surrey, BC—17710 20 Ave, Surrey BC.

What once was a clearcut became a home for twin brothers, Peter and Davis Brown. The boys, who were deaf,



Well-established forests of 30-plus types of trees inhabit Redwood Park, one of several public parks in Surrey, BC .

UPCOMING EVENTS: SUMMER AT SEMIAHMOO



Semiahmoo Speaker Series –formerly known as the Men’s Breakfast - continuing – Thursdays, July 16, Aug. 6, Sept. 17 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. on select Thursday mornings throughout

the year. Connect with stories, voices, and the culture Coffee time begins at 7:30 a.m. The speaker takes the floor at 8 a.m. Tickets are \$30 per person and includes a classic breakfast. RSVP at the Resort’s website for each date.

Summer Paint & Sip – Summer-inspired for seasoned artists or someone just picking up a brush for fun directed by an instructor. All supplies are provided and tasty food and drink upgrades available. Saturday, Aug. 22 at 4 p.m. at the Resort.\$35 for adults/\$25 for under 12. Limited to 25. Sign up at the Resort’s website under events. Additional Paint & Sip events throughout the year.

Resort Summer BBQ Series is back — Executive Chef grilling over an open flame and bringing bold, coastal flavors to every plate. From Memorial Day weekend through September offering three seating times at 5p.m., 6 p.m., and 7 p.m. Enjoy a rotating menu featuring fresh seafood, locally sourced meats, and seasonal veggies—all grilled to perfection over the open flame and crafted to satisfy all diet preferences. Each ticket includes hearty mains, seasonal sides, dessert, and a non-alcoholic drink. A full bar will be available for additional beverage purchases. Tickets: \$65 adults and \$25 for children 12 and under.



2026 Event Dates & Live Music Lineup:

- **June 20** – JD Falcon Band
- **July 4** – Cardova (featuring a spritz cart & photo booth)
- **July 18** – Charlie Partin
- **August 1** – Uncle Doug Cooper
- **August 15** – Joe and Kelly (featuring a spritz cart & photo booth)
- **August 29** – Saltwater Cowboy
- **September 5** – Ki’ihele Music

Semiahmoo Marina Summer Shindigs of music, dancing and BBQ — Friday, July 3—Pre-Fourth of July Kick Off featuring Fossil Rock and Tacos La Guelaguetza. Additional dates with more music and eats: July 10, July 24, Aug. 7, Aug. 21, and Sept. 4. from 5 to 8 p.m. Fee.

Additional events are being added so check online. Ongoing: Wine Down Wednesdays at the Resort from \$10 for 6 oz. at 11 a.m., Prime Rib Wednesday at the Great Blue Heron available from 5 to 8 p.m. Summer of Spritz at the Resort at Packers Kitchen + Bar from June 1 to Aug. 31



Midweek Member Refresh

Treat yourself this week at The Spa at Semiahmoo. Health Club members receive 30% off spa treatments Monday through Thursday when appointments are booked during the same week as the visit.

From tension-melting massages to glow-boosting facials, our treatments are designed to help you feel refreshed and restored. Call 360.318.2009 to reserve your appointment.

**Offer valid for new Monday–Thursday bookings for Health Club members only. Excludes salon services, packages, and special offers. Cannot be combined with other promotions.*



WELCOME TO SEMIAHMOO GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Join One of Washington's Premier Private Golf Clubs in the Northwest

Interested in a golf membership at Semiahmoo? Try it out for the summer!

- ✓ Try out all the membership benefits by paying \$1000 down + \$484/month **for singles** or \$1500 down + \$661/month **for families**, through the end of October.
- ✓ If you join, the non-refundable \$1000 fee paid will be applied towards the initiation fee.
- ✓ Let us know by September 15 if you plan to join. Membership expires October 31, 2026.
- ✓ Trial membership benefits include unlimited use of the golf course, practice facilities, tennis courts, and swimming pool. Also experience our assortment of member golf events and socials.

Membership not available if you were a former member or have participated in a trial membership already. Trial Members may not participate in reciprocal programs. Trial Members may not participate in the Club Majors.

SUMMER IS HERE & CONSIDER JOINING THE CLUB

— Enjoy golf at the Pacific Northwest's premier private golf course, designed by Arnold Palmer. Semiahmoo Golf & Country Club offers members the experience of private country club life with unlimited access to golf, driving range, tennis courts, and A seasonal swimming pool. It is open year-round, and this 7,005-yard tree-lined masterpiece allows golfers to enjoy nature at its best. Call Kris Henderson at 360-371-7005 or khenderson@semiahmoo.com. The club also hosts the Jeff Coston Academy, the Pro Shop, and the Great Blue Heron Grill. Golf memberships and social and tennis memberships are available.

Great Eats at Great Blue Heron

Dress Code

We require all players to wear traditional golf attire while on the course. Collared, sleeved shirts are required for men, and shorts should be of moderate length with pockets and zippers. Denim, tank tops, and halter tops are not permitted. To help protect the course, soft spikes are required on all golf shoes.



UPCOMING EVENTS: BLAINE & BIRCH

The Fourth of July is possibly the biggest holiday of the year for Blaine

Freedom Eve – Outdoor Music Concert featuring Uncle Lucius and guest Brushpopper– Friday, July 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Blaine High School's Borderite Stadium, 1055 H Street, Blaine. Admission; \$25. Bring camping chairs and friends. Produced by Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District #2. Contact: 360-656-6416.

Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration – Downtown Blaine and Blaine Harbor host a Farmer's Market with a variety of vendors, music, Friends of the Library book sale, and car show. Fireworks light up the sky over Semiahmoo Bay. A lunch-time parade brings smiles. Free.



Blaine Harbor Music Festival and Camp – Concerts are held everyday from July 13 through July 18. All classes are taught by a world-class faculty. Students select from four programs: Instrumental Jazz, Vocal Jazz, Pop/Rock Performance/Songwriting and Concert Band/Orchestral Instruments. Full schedule at www.blaineharborfestival.org/festival.

Blaine Finals Watch Party – Watch the biggest sporting event live on the 19 foot by 8 foot LED television on Sunday, July 19 starting at 10 a.m. at Blaine High School soccer fields. Kids Zone with soccer matches. Free. Bring your own seat.

Visit Tall Ships – The Tall Ships Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain invite visitors in Blaine Harbor for self-guided tours on Friday, July 19.

31. Crew will be on hand in period costumes to answer questions and tell stories. To purchase tickets, call 1-800-200-5239 or visit www.historicalseaport.org.

Birch Bay Sand Sculpture Competition – Beloved summer tradition that transforms the shoreline into a gallery of creativity and imagination. Saturday, Aug. 1 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Birch Bay Beach Park at 7930 Birch Bay Dr., Birch Bay. Sculpting begins around 10:30 a.m. with judging at 2 p.m. Event is dependent on tides. Free. Family friendly. Contact: 360-371-5004.

Birch Bay's Rollback Weekend Car Show – Classic cars and coastal energy. Sunday, Aug. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Birch Bay Beach Park, 7930 Birch Bay Dr., Birch Bay. Free admission. \$25 (in advance) or \$30 (day of) registration for cars. Participants must check in between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. No late arrivals or early departures. Contact: 360-371-5004.



UPCOMING EVENTS: WHATCOM COUNTY

What will you attend?

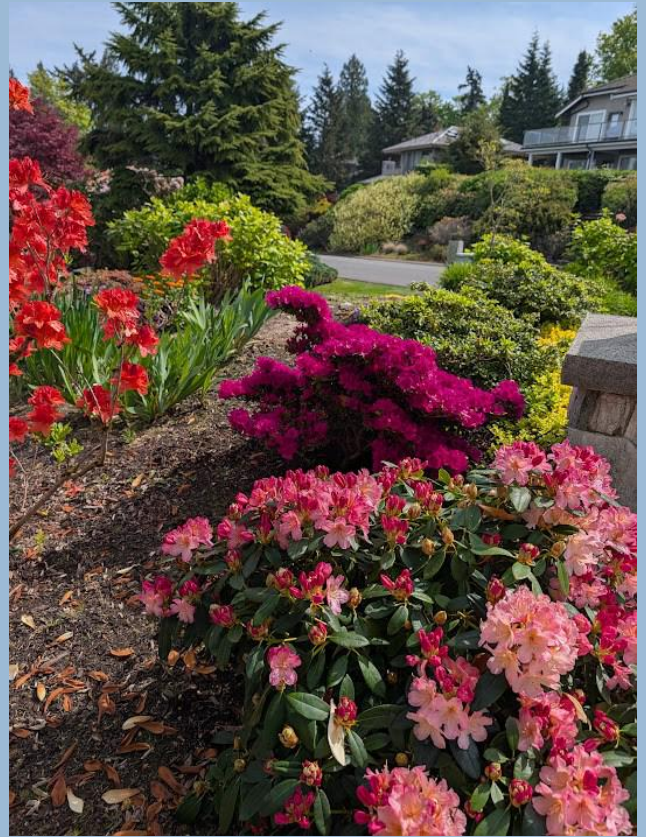
This is a sampling of Whatcom County activities.

Additional ones online at <https://www.bellingham.org/events>.

- **4th of July- Blues, Brews & BBQ: Baby Cakes** – July 4 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Hotel Bellwether and Bellingham Bay, 1 Bellwether Way, Bellingham. Celebrate the Fourth of July on the waterfront with a chef-crafted BBQ dinner, live music, and fireworks. The band is Baby Cakes – high-energy soul, funk, and R & B hits. Doors open at 6 p.m. Live music from 7 to 10 p.m. Fireworks start around 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$85 for adults, \$75 for kids 10 and under (plus taxes/fees). For more details, call 360-392-3100 at Bellwether.
- **“Charles Villiers: Untethered” shows at Cordata Gallery** (formerly Syre Gallery), 465 W. Stuart Rd., Bellingham, WA. Started May 21 and ends August 1. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Cordata Gallery invites you to ‘Charles Villiers: Untethered’—the first comprehensive exhibition of art by local artist Charles Villiers.
- **Women on Water Wednesdays** – every week until Sept. 23 – at Bloedel Donovan Park Boat Ramp, 2114 Electric Ave., Bellingham (Lake Whatcom). A mid-week confidence boost to ride solo or with a girl “gang” in a supportive wakeboarding session just for women. Contact: 360-333-8774.
- **Kayak the Cove Tour** – Every week on Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday until Sept. 14. Two time options: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 2 to 5 p.m. at Larrabee State Park. Contact: Moondance Sea Kayak – 360-738-7664. Hands-on instructions to acquaint new paddlers with safety procedures and equipment.
- **Tuesday Tunes on the Barkley Green** – Tuesday weekly until Aug. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at 2215 Rimland Dr., Bellingham. Bring a picnic basket or stop at the food trucks. Free. Contact: 360-671-6450.
- **Downtown Sounds** – Wednesdays in Downtown Bellingham from July 8 through Aug. 5. Music begins at 6 p.m. through 9 p.m. Free. What started as a small concert series in an alley has grown over the past 20-plus years to fill Bay, Holly and Prospect Street. Call 360-527-8710.
- **Fairhaven Chicken Fest** – Saturday, July 18 from 12 Noon to 4 p.m. at the Fairhaven Village Green, Bellingham. Family-friendly celebration with chicken-themed games, prizes, storytelling, live music, vendors. Free.



SEMIAHMOO: THROUGH THE YEAR



If you are new to our community, welcome! Stop by the SRA Office and say hello and we will get you a welcome bag and our greetings. Check your email on Fridays — and sometimes in between — for the SRA Weekly to be in the know for what is happening in our community. The next newsletter will be issued in September 2026. (photos by Elisa Claassen, Staff).