

# Semiahmoo Resort Association

# Community Courier



New Digital Edition Number 2

Spring 2016

## *President's Message*

The 2016 SRA ten member Board has four new members who have been quickly assimilated into productive roles. In March we recorded the Thirty-Fifth and Thirty-Sixth Amendments to the Semiahmoo Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) which were the product of two major initiatives successfully undertaken by the Board in 2015.

The Thirty-Fifth Amendment pertains to the addition of Seagrass (Semiahmoo Shore) to the Semiahmoo community and confirms the agreement between the SRA and the Seagrass owners that was negotiated by a committee of the SRA Board in 2015. Under this agreement the owners of the residential units in the Seagrass plat will become SRA members. As you may have noticed, the first of these attractive duplexes is nearing completion on the Semiahmoo spit.

The Thirty-Sixth Amendment pertains to the revised process for amending the CC&Rs that was approved by the membership at the October 24, 2015 annual meeting. Under the revised process any change to the CC&Rs requires a quorum of at least 40% of all potential votes of the Association together with at least two-thirds approval of the votes cast. The approval by the membership of this change was accomplished under the original rule that required the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all potential votes. After considerable effort to get out the vote by a hard working committee appointed by the SRA Board we managed to exceed the two-thirds participation requirement and achieved more than 95% affirmative vote of the votes cast.

Although unrelated to the revised CC&R process, the Board recently approved an additional roofing alternative under a procedure that has been available since 1995. The new alternative is Certainteed Presidential Shake, a product being installed on the Seagrass duplex buildings and which is also authorized for other Semiahmoo dwellings, both new construction and replacement roofs.

Another issue that has recently emerged involves the purchase by Ted and Angela Mischaikov of the 19 acre Burnside Village property across the Semiahmoo Parkway from Gleneagle. The new owners, who are long time Whatcom County residents, are in the process of developing plans for the property that include mostly residential units plus a park and some commercial uses. At the recent community meeting at the cannery lodge there was some uncertainty expressed by the owners regarding SRA membership. As with the Semiahmoo Shore project last year, the Board will seek an agreement that includes full SRA membership which we believe is required by the CC&Rs and which we believe should be mutually beneficial.

The Board and our dedicated SRA staff as well as the Architectural Standards Committee will continue to do our best to serve this beautiful community. We welcome your suggestions and thank you for your support.

John H Binns Jr, President, SRA.



Spring is here! A very good time for us all to do our bit to make Semiahmoo as attractive as possible. Please help by picking up litter as you see it along the roadsides or on the beach. We all appreciate what the City of Blaine does, within the constraints of its budget, to maintain the roads and paths outside our gates. Those of us who use the pathways could help with this maintenance by picking up any storm debris, small branches etc., as we walk. This takes only a few seconds (and is further exercise with bending!) and helps keep the paths clear of sticks etc. Usually they can just be placed on the wood side of the path.



My wife, Sallie, and I became interested in neighborhood security here in Semiahmoo last July when the SRA put on a security awareness briefing at the resort. At that briefing Blaine Police Chief Mike Haslip and Officer Jon Landis spoke about, among several other topics, the Blaine Neighborhood Watch Program. While Sallie and I have always felt safe here in Semiahmoo there had been some minor vandalism events close by that had heightened our concern. The turnout of neighbors for the briefing was terrific: my estimate is ~ 200 folks.

Before we moved to Semiahmoo five years ago, we were Neighborhood Watch captains for several years while we lived in Phoenix, AZ. We were well acquainted with the benefits of such an effort in our community. "Neighbors watching out for neighbors" just seems like the best front-line approach to deterring crime. A huge second benefit of this program, and maybe the most important, is we actually got to know our neighbors.

We all know that our Blaine police officers cannot be in all places, at all times, so watching out for one another seemed a good fit. We talked with several of our neighbors here in Semiahmoo and found a growing interest in Neighborhood Watch as a way we could take action to deterring potential crime.

Secondly, there has been growing attention to emergency preparedness here in the Pacific Northwest due to the high potential for a major earthquake. Scientists and geologists have concluded that we are overdue for what has been referred to as "The Big One". They have been studying the Cascadia subduction zone, which lies approximately 70 miles off the west coast from northern California north to Vancouver Island, BC. With this in mind, and the fact that emergency responders may not be able to help us locally for some time afterwards, we decided to combine emergency preparedness with the crime deterrent aspect of Neighborhood Watch. Having information about the potential of such a disaster and how to prepare to take care of ourselves was our primary objective.

On February 24, 2016 with the help of Officer Jon Landis we had our neighbors convene at our home to explain the, now expanded, program and solicit their participation. Of the neighbors in Stonehaven available, approximately 50% came and agreed to participate. My wife Sallie, working with one of our neighbors, Ted Metz, were identified as co-captains for leading this effort going forward. We discussed both aspects of the program, crime deterrence and emergency preparation, and handed out information provided by Whatcom County and shared household information for future communication purposes.

With that we were on our way. We have only begun, but have made good progress in this neighborhood effort.

Dennis and Sallie Cymbalski, Stonehaven.



## *Are You Ready To Rumble?*

On December 29, 2015 at approximately 11:39 p.m. an earthquake rumbled through our community. Dishes rattled, a picture or two may have shifted, night owls such as myself were temporarily unbalanced and those sleeping may have been jolted awake. A four-legged companion may have notified you that something was amiss just before the sound that can be likened to a truck hitting your house commenced. Though many clearly felt the impact, this earthquake that struck near Sidney on the Island was only a 4.8 magnitude on the Richter scale.

According to WA Department of Emergency Management, Washington State experiences approximately 1000 earthquakes per year. Though most are small enough that little, if anything is felt, larger seismic events have occurred and are expected to occur again. Our area is no exception. The United States Geological Survey indicates not only the well-known Cascadia Subduction Zone presents a potential seismic hazard, but also three faults in our area (Drayton Harbor, Birch Bay and Sandy Point faults). All have the potential to present a significant seismic event (6.0-6.5 on the Richter scale). A significant earthquake can cause flooding, power outages, trees/branches, power lines to fall, internal and/or external structural damage, personal injury, breakage among other hazards.

Are you ready should a larger event occur? Ask yourself these critical questions:

- \*Do I know how to protect myself and my family from injury during an earthquake?
- \*Do I know what to do to prepare my home for a large earthquake?
- \*Do I know how to contact my neighbors for help or to check on them?
- \*Do I know how to safely turn off the gas or water?
- \*Do I have enough water and non-perishable food to last for at least 3 days?
- \*Do I have a working fire extinguisher and know how to use it?
- \*Do I know how to protect my pet?
- \*Do I know where to turn for assistance/services after an event?

If you answered “no” to any of these questions, it may be time to take a proactive stance and begin preparing. Below are some resources to consider as a start:

<http://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division/preparedness/personal>

This is a solid site. This site offers information such as a booklet for building preparedness activities over the course of a year, a home preparedness booklet, guidelines for preparing a disaster kit for your home and for your car, as well as links to videos and resources.

<http://www.disastersrus.org/emtools/earthquakes/fema-526.pdf>

FEMA Earthquake checklist - thorough and easy to navigate - pdf doc.

<http://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division/preparedness/map-your-neighborhood>

Map Your Neighborhood is a program designed to help develop a plan for emergency preparedness at the neighborhood level. Our neighbors in Stonehaven have started a Neighborhood Watch program and are working diligently with local resources to begin the Map Your Neighborhood process.

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/EmergencyPreparednessandResponse/Factsheets/PetsandEmergencies>

This fact sheet link is a good resource for pet owners - what to do before, during and after an emergency, an emergency kit for pets and pet resources.

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/EmergencyPreparednessandResponse>

The previous fact sheet came from this site, which has a multitude of links for Emergency preparedness, including those for individuals with disabilities/limitations.

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<http://www.cngc.com/docs/pdf/click-here-to-view-earthquake-safety-news.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

Public safety notice from Cascade Natural Gas Company regarding earthquake preparedness and safety tips before and after an earthquake for natural gas appliances and service. This notice includes a picture guide to turning off gas service in an emergency.

<http://www.whatcomready.org/preparedness/individual-family-preparedness/>

Whatcom County Unified Emergency Management has put together some helpful resources for groups who would like training in some respect. For instance, a group of 10 or more people can request free training from the Red Cross.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/>

Resources for emotional support after an emergency situation/disaster.

<http://www.dropcoverholdon.org/beatthequake/game/>

Beat the Quake - Online 'game' to test your home's earthquake preparedness. Sounds silly, but it makes you think and walks you through instructions after the 'earthquake'.

<http://earthquaketrack.com/v/pnw/recent>

Information about recent earthquakes you may have felt. You may request earthquake updates through Twitter from this site (originating with USGS – United States Geological Survey), which show recent earthquake activity near the Pacific Northwest.

**N.B.** A large, multi-day exercise, “Cascade Rising,” planned for early June that will involve public safety agencies across Washington and Oregon in ‘mega-quake’ disaster management.

Details at: <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/science/preparing-for-the-really-big-one-cascadia-earthquake-tsunami-drill/>

Full exercise plan at: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/2724308-Cascadia-Rising-2016-Exercise-Plan-REVISED-DRAFT.html>



### *Our Street Names.*

Chickadee Way, Great Horned Owl Lane, Mallard Road, Great Blue Heron Lane, Wood Duck Way, Pine Siskin Road, Puffin Place, Sanderling Way, Bald Eagle Drive, Goshawk Road, Blue Grouse Way – such interesting street names make up our lovely neighborhoods. Do you see a pattern? Semiahmoo developers were careful to name each of our streets after a fine feathered friend. Search the online Audubon Bird Guide to find a picture of the feathered friend your street is named for: <https://www.audubon.org/bird-guide>. In each subsequent edition of the Community Courier we will spotlight one of our street named birds with more information!



### *Living With Deer: Some Useful Hints.*

It's lovely to see an occasional deer wander through the neighborhood, but how do you protect your new Spring flowers from these voracious eaters? wikiHow offers several natural, humane and inexpensive solutions:

- \*Human hair – Deer don't like human hair. Ask your local Barber or hairdresser for some and sprinkle it throughout the garden.
- \*Spray your flowers/plants with hot pepper spray. This is available in many hardware stores as a natural deterrent. You may make your own by bringing 1 quart of water and ½ cup of dried hot pepper flakes to a soft boil. Cool, strain out the peppers and discard. Use the liquid in a spray bottle. Be sure to protect your hands and eyes from coming into contact with the spray.
- \*Plan your garden to include plants/flowers that aren't appealing to deer such as iris, foxglove, reed grass, sage, chives, lemon balm and some thorny flowers/bushes (though they seem to love roses)
- \*Allow your dog to mark the area surrounding your flower beds.
- \*Sprinkle soap flakes around your flower beds.

## *What Goes On Here?*



Back in January we spotted this unusual trailer parked outside the Marin buildings.

It turned out to be one of the latest types of mobile simulator designed to train corporate and business jet cabin crew in emergency procedures. The unit is based in Tacoma and came to Semiahmoo to train Canadian cabin crew members.

The unit has a life-like aircraft cabin built inside with windows and operational emergency exits over the "wings"; i.e. fold down external platforms.

The use of simulators to train pilots has been around for many years. More recently it has become standard practice to train cabin

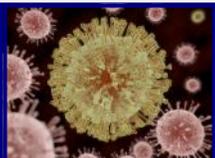
crews to deal with emergency situations by exposing them to realistic scenarios. Hydraulic failure requiring a crash landing, land or water evacuation, loss of cabin pressure, and cabin smoke and fire are just some of the situations that might be presented in a frighteningly realistic manner. The cabin crew under training are expected to deal with the emergency and following this will be debriefed on their performance.

In order to make the process as realistic as possible and to eliminate pretending the simulator is equipped with a realistic cockpit. This permits cohesive training between aircrew and cabin crew during various in-flight emergencies.

The cabin in the simulator floats on an airbag system that allows the operator to simulate smooth aircraft movements but can be rocked and bumped by hydraulic lifts to reproduce emergency conditions. Cabin and flight deck are equipped with real working emergency equipment that crews can use during simulations, including fire extinguishers, life vests, and life rafts.

To teach cabin crew to deal with fires the cabin will fill with smoke and the trainees will have to find the fire extinguishers in the dark and activate them. Realism is provided, for example, by having a laptop computer battery suddenly burst into flames.

Commercial passenger aircraft cabin crew are trained in full scale reproductions of familiar aircraft types. These are so large that they must be mounted in aircraft hangers or similar buildings. If you wish to see one of these go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAahrod4WC4>.



## *Zika Virus Risk For Semiahmoo Residents?*

Definitely not! - Unless you travel to areas where the disease is endemic. The type of mosquito that transmits the disease is not present here. So far there has only been one case in Washington State and that person got infected on an overseas trip. In fact there have been no cases of mosquito-borne Zika associated disease in USA (inc. Hawaii). Zika transmission by mosquito has been reported in Puerto Rico, US Virgin islands and Samoa. Zika virus infection is a definite risk in Mexico and Central America, South America, the Caribbean and Western Pacific Islands, and Africa. For more information go to <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-information>.

## *Smallpox Risk In Semiahmoo!*

If Zika is not currently a risk in Semiahmoo, smallpox was a definite risk in 1888. There was a serious outbreak across the border near Langley B.C. centered on a homestead occupied by the Wallworth family; eleven persons had been infected and three died. The Blaine Journal of 4th October 1888 described the precautions that were being taken at that time. All public meetings were discontinued, even church or prayer services. The locally assembled board of health directed that all persons should stay as close to home as possible and should fumigate their premises; sulphur or carbolic acid was used. On Monday, October the first, Semiahmoo quarantined against all travel from Blaine at the level of Dakota Creek. No person was allowed to cross over the water between Blaine and the Spit. At this time, there was a thriving community on the spit complete with a hotel, a store and post office, several houses and many tents. On the next day, Tuesday, guards were placed on Hall's Prairie Road which led due south from present Surrey to the border at Blaine. Two houses there were quarantined with yellow flags posted. All this was necessary because even in those days people came south across the border to shop! In fact they even came to the Spit to shop.

Mrs. Margaret Stewart wrote her reminiscences of early life in Hall's Prairie (Usually called Hazelmere Valley and now a part of Surrey) in 1959 at which time she was 83 years old. She wrote *"In the early '80's Blaine started to grow and the settlers on this side of the Line did most of their shopping there. For quite a time there were no Custom's officers or anything to stop people coming and going"..."The only grocery store that was nearer than New Westminster when we came\* was at Semiahmoo Spit. The store was kept by a man called Murran. Our father often went there for flour."*

In fact, smallpox almost completely bypassed Blaine and Semiahmoo so the precautions taken by the quarantine committees were successful.

One of Margaret Stewart's other reminiscences is also of some interest!

*"Blaine always made a great to-do over the Fourth of July. For the first year or two they set long tables in someone's orchard and had free meals for all. I remember eating there once, but they soon discontinued this as too many Canucks, as they called us, came over. One attraction they always had on the 4th was to grease a pig and turn him loose on the sand flats, offering \$5.00 to anyone who could catch the pig. This made lots of fun and quite a few tried to catch it."*

It appears Blaine's "Old Fashioned Fourth of July" does have a long history.

\*This would be 1878.

If you want to read more of Margaret Stewart's reminiscences go to:

<http://www.surreyhistory.ca/hazelmere.html>

## *Upcoming Events.* (Additional information at <http://www.semiahmooresortassociation.com>)

**May 21 and 22:** Blaine Harbor Art Gallery, will once again sponsor and curate Springfest Art Show and Studio Tour. The main venue will be the new Blaine Pavilion adjacent to Blaine Boys and Girls Club. Celebrate the fine art and craftsmanship at Blaine's first art show of the season. Visit us and learn more at:

<http://blaineharborartgallery.com/index.html>

**July 11:** Second Annual **SRA Blood Drive** at the resort 11:00 am—3:00 pm; come and support your blood bank.



## Semiahmoo Resort Association

9001 Semiahmoo Parkway  
Blaine, WA 98230  
360-371-7796  
(In the fire station).

We are on the Web!

[www.semiahmooresortassociation.com](http://www.semiahmooresortassociation.com)

**SRA Board of Directors**

John Binns Jr., , President  
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Kathy Parks  
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### INVOICING OF DUES INFORMATION

The majority of property owners in Semiahmoo will receive their SRA dues invoices via email. Invoices are emailed from: [invoicing.of.dues@semiahmooresortassociation.com](mailto:invoicing.of.dues@semiahmooresortassociation.com)

Many email servers detect the invoices as "spam" or "junk" and some people missed seeing them in their inbox. Please keep an eye out in July for your invoice and mark it as "not junk".

**The invoice also includes the new gate code for your neighborhood.**

The most convenient way to pay your dues is our *Direct Debit* option. Contact Lori (See below) to request a Direct Debit authorization form. Customers who use Direct Debit still receive an invoice stating the amount to be debited from their checking or savings account and the date the draw will take place.

Whether you receive your invoice via email or snail mail, please contact Lori by email or phone at [lorithorne@semiahmooresortassociation.com](mailto:lorithorne@semiahmooresortassociation.com) or at 360-371-7796 to ensure your address (email or mailing) is accurate in our database.



*Starfish Coffee and Gifts* at the Marina has recently renovated the serving and seating areas and invites Semiahmoo residents to come by and check out the new facilities. In addition to serving coffee, soups and sandwiches, the store features a range of gifts and artwork. This makes a pleasant summer or winter meeting place for our Resort Association members. Free Wi-Fi is provided. The store also stocks basic food and drink items and a has good selection of wines; very useful for last minute needs.



## Where Activities & Experiences Begin: All Summer and Beyond!

- Friday and Saturday BBQs  
May 20th through September 10th
- Summer Dining on the Deck at Loomis Trail Golf & Country Club
- Special Holiday Dining Experiences
- Cooking Classes with Executive Chef Bruno Feldeisen
- Vintner Dinners
- Special Evening Events at Great Blue Heron
- Golf Education Series' for all skill levels, including kids
- Music on the Deck at Semiahmoo Golf & Country Club
- Foot Golf
- Endless beach activities!

Visit [Semiahmoo.com](http://Semiahmoo.com) for more experience details!