

Semiahmoo: A Premier Residential Resort Community in the Pacific Northwest

SEMIAHMOO NEWS

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**SRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 7TH, 2026 10AM TO 12 PM
SEMIAHMOO RESORT**

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

Summer Connections and Community Progress:

Semiahmoo's mild, sunny summer made it a pleasure to welcome back seasonal residents and reconnect with old friends. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the June 19 Town Hall. Behind the scenes, our committees and staff also had a busy and productive summer.

Board Appointments: In July, two former Board members volunteered to fill vacant positions. Jim Fitzsimmons served as Treasurer in 2021 and chaired the Communications Committee in 2022. Rod Nibbe served as Treasurer in 2024 and 2025 and continues to serve on the Finance Committee. The Board thanks Jim and Rod for again serving the community. Their experience and continuity will be especially valuable as new community members are elected to the Board for 2027.

Wildfire Mitigation and Emergency Services: The Safety and Environment Committee completed planned wildfire mitigation work in the SRA buffer areas. In partnership with North Whatcom Fire and Rescue and Firefighters Union Local 106, the committee also conducted an educational campaign on the proposed Levy Lid Lift on the August primary ballot. The measure received approval from 81% of Semiahmoo voters. Our sincere thanks go to the many members who supported this effort. Your participation has helped strengthen medical and fire safety in our community in advancing the opening of Fire Station 62 on Semiahmoo Parkway in 2027.

2027 Budget: The Finance Committee worked closely with General Manager Chelsey Rochester to prepare the proposed 2027 Budget. After reviewing the 2025 Financial Audit and the 2026 Reserve Study, the committee met several times to examine expenditures line by line and increase CD interest income from reserve investments. The resulting budget, which includes no dues increase, was approved by the Board in July and presented to members at the September 19 Town Hall.

Prestwick Village Tract B: The Architectural Standards Committee and Carroll Ballard worked closely with the Board to review the history of the planned multifamily development in Prestwick Village Tract B. The Board attended the September 3rd community conference, where turnout was strong and feedback was thoughtful and direct. It then sent the Blaine Community Development Director a letter summarizing the community's feedback. The Board remains committed to working directly and through the

ASC with the developer and the city to ensure that any development of this iconic tract respects the scale and architectural character of the surrounding neighborhoods and clubhouse.

Preparing for Fall and Winter:

As we move into fall and winter, SRA staff remain hard at work. The conference room now has acoustic paneling and a new microphone system, and the exterior security system at the SRA Center is being upgraded. The street sweeper has been replaced, the snowplows have been serviced, and stormwater system cleaning is scheduled for October.

Your Participation Matters: SRA staff and committees are working together to maintain and enhance our beautiful community. Please participate in the upcoming SRA election and, if possible, attend the Annual General Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 7, 2026, in the Discovery Theater at Semiahmoo Resort. Your participation makes a positive contribution to the SRA community.



President Delia Alberstein



End of summer scene at Semiahmoo Beach.

GENERAL MANAGER'S NOTE

Happy Fall Semiahmoo! The SRA is undergoing acoustical and security upgrades. The conference room is being renovated to enhance the sound barrier of the room, in addition to upgrading the audio equipment. This will improve the quality of meetings for those attending in person and via Zoom.



Mascot Lady Rochester

As a result of the 2025 audit, the Association remains in good financial health. Over the past couple of months, the Finance Committee, General Manager, and the Board have agreed on a draft 2027 budget to present to the owners of Semiahmoo. This budget was presented at the Town Hall by Jim Simpson, the Treasurer of the Board and Chair of the Finance Committee. There are no projected dues increase, which was an effort made by the Finance Committee to utilize funds for investment returns. Increasing our capital contributions has allowed the association to increase income received from investments. This tactic has allowed the association to not increase dues, even with the increase in operating expenditures. One of the biggest operating expense increases is in legal. We had to increase this budget item to prepare for WUCIOA taking effect January 1, 2028. This allows the Association time for the governing documents to come into compliance and provide guidance to the NHOAs in Semiahmoo.



GM Chelsey Rochester

We hope to see you at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 7, 2026 at 10 a.m. at the Semiahmoo Resort Discovery Theatre at the Resort.

MAINTENANCE CORNER

Our Maintenance team is overseen by Leroy Dougall who was a long-time employee/manager for the City of Blaine Public Works. His team has two full-time employees and seasonal help. The activities are reported to the Board of Directors monthly and put online. This is what the team worked on this summer and as it heads into fall:

A portion of current reporting period and ongoing:

- Sea Smoke—irrigation system failure and investigation
- Drayton Harbor easement's ongoing maintenance
- Drayton Hillside gate repairs from damage
- Planting, raking and maintaining flower beds by gates
- Pressure washing and replacing signs
- Cutback on underbrush and along roads for sweeping
- Testing irrigation systems to not waste water
- Cleaning/clearing gate tracks/rollers/bearings
- Fixing/defogging sensors and reflectors on gates
- Replaced posted on SRA Stairs at Boundary Ridge
- Responding to owner inquiries



The SRA Maintenance team has a director, two full-time employees, and seasonal help for the summer months. The team is preparing for fall and winter seasons now.

SEMAIHMUO SPEAKERS

A Salute to the Semiahmoo Speakers Club

From Dave Leu

As a former officer of the Semiahmoo Speakers Club, known at that time as the Semiahmoo Men's Breakfast Club, I would like to commend Christopher Marxen, President, and Paul Berg, Vice President and Treasurer, for the outstanding job they have done this year.

The Club has faced several significant challenges in recent years. Like many organizations, it had to navigate the disruptions caused by the COVID pandemic. It also had to adapt to rising costs, relocate to a new venue, and successfully transition from a men's organization to one that welcomes both men and women following the loss of the Women's Club.

Despite these challenges, Christopher and Paul have done a remarkable job keeping the Club vibrant, relevant, and engaging. They have assembled an impressive lineup of dynamic speakers who address a wide variety of timely and interesting topics. Just as importantly, they have preserved one of the Club's greatest traditions: providing a welcoming atmosphere where neighbors and friends can gather to learn, socialize, and strengthen community connections.



The next club meetings are Oct. 1 & 15, and Nov. 5 & 19 at 7:30 a.m. at the Resort. Registration is online.

The Club's scenic setting, excellent fellowship, and delicious breakfasts make every meeting a pleasure. Combined with thought-provoking presentations from outstanding speakers, it continues to be one of the most enjoyable and worthwhile community activities available in Semiahmoo.

I encourage everyone in our community to attend a meeting and experience the Semiahmoo Speakers Club firsthand. Whether you are interested in current events, local issues, history, travel, business, science, or simply meeting new people, you are likely to find something that captures your interest.

WELCOME BACK



Rod Nibbe

Rod Nibbe and Jim Fitzsimmons stepped up to volunteer and join the SRA Board of Directors this summer to complete two vacant seats. They each have served on the BOD in the past and we welcome them.



Jim Fitzsimmons

Rod Nibbe and his wife Nancy relocated to Blaine from Anchorage where they had lived and worked for more than 30 years. "The setting of this community is truly unique. As a Board member of the SRA, I will leverage the best practices of project management and teamwork."

Jim Fitzsimmons retired in 2019 and moved with his wife Marilyn from Seattle to Semiahmoo. "An important goal for our retirement is to find ways to give back. For me, serving on the SRA Board is a perfect chance to make a meaningful contribution to my new community." Fitzsimmons previously filled a vacated Board seat and served on the SRA Board from June of 2021 through December of 2022.

GET OUTSIDE AND WALK

EXPLORE. EXPERIENCE. SEMIAHMOO PARK & PENINSULA

There are endless activities to do in Semiahmoo Park. The park sits on a 125-mile peninsula extending between Drayton Harbor and Semiahmoo Bay. Known as Semiahmoo Spit, the park is a great destination for year-round family fun, offering great outdoor activities. The park is perfect for walking, biking, kite flying, picnicking, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, canoeing, and beachcombing. You'll find a wide variety of outdoor activities, including: canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, canoeing, and beachcombing. You'll find a wide variety of outdoor activities, including: canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, canoeing, and beachcombing.

Semiahmoo Park Trails

Semiahmoo Parkway Trail The paved trail follows the waterfront, connecting the Pacific Northwest Coast with Semiahmoo Bay. It's a 2.5-mile trail that runs along the waterfront, connecting the Pacific Northwest Coast with Semiahmoo Bay. It's a 2.5-mile trail that runs along the waterfront, connecting the Pacific Northwest Coast with Semiahmoo Bay. It's a 2.5-mile trail that runs along the waterfront, connecting the Pacific Northwest Coast with Semiahmoo Bay.

Ride the Historic Flower Ferry (seasonal) One of the historic Flower Ferry (seasonal) runs across the water. It's a historic ferry that runs across the water. It's a historic ferry that runs across the water. It's a historic ferry that runs across the water. It's a historic ferry that runs across the water. It's a historic ferry that runs across the water.

On the Water Recreation Semiahmoo Bay and Drayton Harbor have become a destination for boaters and water recreation. Semiahmoo Bay and Drayton Harbor have become a destination for boaters and water recreation. Semiahmoo Bay and Drayton Harbor have become a destination for boaters and water recreation. Semiahmoo Bay and Drayton Harbor have become a destination for boaters and water recreation.



Many residents and visitors may prefer to stay on the waterside trail along the Spit which does give scenic views of both British Columbia, Canada and Blaine, Washington — and Drayton Harbor and Semiahmoo Bay. Along the way, look up and see Mt. Baker an array of birds. Look beside and pet a dog or make a friend. Look down and note which wildflowers might be in bloom. The 291.9 acre park, part of the Whatcom County Parks Department, was established in 1980 when Trillium purchased the former salmon cannery property. (Map at Blaine Chamber of Commerce.)

What about the other trail?

In addition to the trail along the Spit, there is a second trail at the base of the hill. *While it is thought of as a trail now, and essentially is, it was an extension of the old course of Drayton Harbor Road before it shifted higher up.*

The trail along the Drayton Harbor at the base of the hillside below the Drayton Cove and Aerie neighborhoods used to be part of the old road that originally followed closer to the waterline. When driving up the hillside on the current road and look to the right, or north, for a chain link fence, and that leads to part of the old road where an abandoned house still exists along the shoreline. The road was closed decades ago to regular vehicular traffic and now functions as a pedestrian and recreational pathway/easement offering shaded walking routes. This easement was deeded to the Semiahmoo developer, Trillium Corporation, in _____. In exchange, other property was exchanged for the relocated and current roadway. Due to the overflow from the hillside and the mature tree root systems, the now trail can be a bit on the bumpy side. Watch your step. The SRA Maintenance Department staff rented specialized equipment the summer of 2025 and proceeded to clean the trail for both those walking and for their own team to access areas they service.



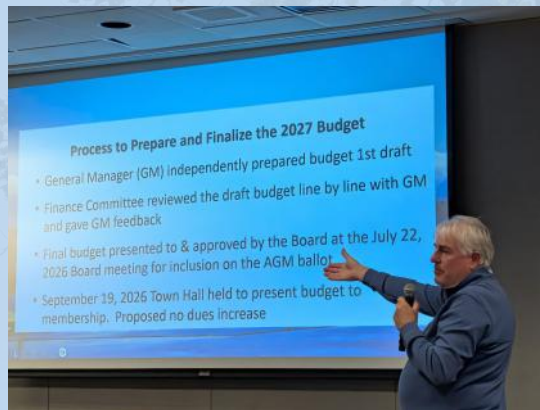
Photos of the old shoreline home from the County Assessor's old records, the gate to the old roadway, and a portion of the current trail.



BUDGET TOWN HALL

Looking into the 2027 SRA Budget at the Sept. 19, 2026 Meeting

A Town Hall at the Resort's San Juan Room presented the draft 2027 SRA Budget with thorough explanation by the SRA Treasurer Jim Simpson. He explained the budget process before presenting the details of the Operating Budget and Restricted Reserve Budget. The Finance Committee started work on June 29 with GM Chelsey Rochester. The committee finalized the draft budget on July 13. It was adopted by the SRA Board on July 22. The next step after this presentation is for the Annual Meeting ballots to go out Sept. 25, a voting period between Sept. 30 and Oct. 29. The Annual General Meeting is Saturday, Nov. 7. The results of the voting will be announced at that time. Full details of this budget will be in the AGM packet. Fire Chief Jason Vander Veen thanked the community its support of the recent fire district levy lid lift that passed.



LOCAL HISTORY

Drayton Harbor

A bit of history of Drayton Harbor and Surrounds

Drayton Harbor has noticeable ups and downs — or levels of water that rise and then draw so far back as to expose quite a few rocks. From Historylink.org, Phil Dougherty contributed: By the time of European explorations in the early 1790s, the Semiahmoo people had moved their principal village from Semiahmoo Spit to the shores of Drayton Harbor — between California and Dakota creeks. The Semiahmoo lived off of marine life especially salmon. More aggressive Indian tribes fought and smallpox came along, the Semiahmoo had a population decline. In the early 1850s the people moved north near the mouth of the Campbell River on Semiahmoo Bay but it was now in Canada. (It is now located off of the first exit north of the US-Canadian border, the Semiahmoo Indian Reserve.)

The name of the tribe is the name of the Spit — and the residential community. Drayton Harbor was named during the age of Spanish and British explorers. In April, 1841, a U.S. sponsored naval expedition led by Lt. Charles Wilkes after a civilian artist, Joseph Drayton, who was also on the expedition. He was also the oldest member. He was born in England in 1795. Died in 1856 at age 60 or 61. According to material on Find A Grave, in which his burial is not known, he came from England to the United States and joined Wilkes on an adventure that went to explore and survey Hawaiian volcanos, Fort Nisqually to Fort Vancouver in the then Oregon Territory, drew some of the earliest drawings of Mount Shasta in California. The drawings are kept at Harvard University, Smithsonian, and other archives.



Mount Shasta by Joseph Drayton

One other location is named for Drayton: Drayton Passage between Anderson Island and the Key Peninsula in the southern part of Puget Sound, Washington. One location to see Drayton's art online: <https://collections.gilcrease.org/creator/joseph-drayton>

Drayton Harbor

WDFW Beach Season Information

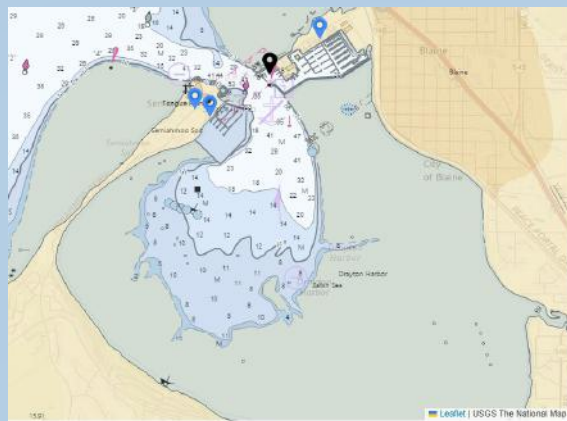
Clam, mussel, and oyster seasons OPEN for harvest year-round.

Please obey Department of Health warning signs and stay well to the south of the north boundary of Drayton West. The area north of a line of fiberglass posts is in a Marina zone and is closed year-round for clams, mussels and oysters.

What's in the Harbor? According to the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife keeps a page for shellfish beaches and specifically has information about Drayton Harbor: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/places-to-go/shellfish-beaches/200104>

Before heading to the beach, please check the Department of Health information online related to the health of shellfish — which may be updated daily. Nautical charts of the harbor are at <https://www.usharbors.com/harbor/washington/blaine-drayton-harbor-wa/map/> Per a NOAA depth chart, only parts of Drayton Harbor are navigable. The portions of the harbor closer to the shoreline are quite shallow.

Due to the narrow lanes of the roadway along the harbor, it pays to pay attention when driving. One SRA staff member saw a car being towed out of the harbor waters a year or two ago. For those driving toward Semiahmoo along the harbor, you may notice a driveway or two by the bridge leading essentially to nothing. The Whatcom Trust obtained the property, removed the homes to pay to the adjacent park.



DID YOU KNOW?

Submitted by Staff

As we head through Fall and into Winter:

It's a good time to clean your gutters from leaves and debris, make sure your downspouts push water at least six feet from your home's foundation, inspect your roof. Take time to disconnect outdoor hoses before a freeze, insulate the outdoor faucets, and seal windows and doors which may have worn weatherstripping. Schedule a tune-up for your furnace or heat pump before cold weather arrives and stock emergency supplies (new batteries, flashlights, non-perishable food, and warm blankets).

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. Work hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (other than holidays). Dues invoices are sent twice a year: January for February payment and July for August payment. Please keep your emailed invoice as it contains the gate codes.

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

If you are new to our community, welcome here! Be sure to stop by the office and introduce yourself! We would like to meet you and give you an informational packet. We want you to feel at home.

The SRA appreciates all your efforts in maintaining the community, we wish all our residents a wonderful Fall and Winter. The next quarterly newsletter will be at the end of the year.

INTO THE WILD: WHO LIVES IN THE WATERS NEARBY

COMPILED BY ELISA CLAASSEN
SRA OFFICE



Southern right whale



Harbor seal

Who are the neighbors of Semiahmoo in the water and alongside of it? It can depend on the time of year, but these are a few creatures to look for and where:

- **Whales** (Semiahmoo Bay and Birch Bay) - Multiple types of whales including transient orcas, humpback whales, gray whales and minke whales seen from late spring through the summer. The fully aquatic marine mammal are warm-blooded and breathe air through the lungs using a blowhole on top of their head.
- **Harbor Seals** (along Semiahmoo Spit in Drayton Harbor, especially at the old dock in summer) - The City of Blaine website advises people to not touch or molest marine animals as mother will abandon the babies if they have been touched by humans.
- **Pacific Herring** (The Semiahmoo Bay) - small and silvery
- **Shellfish and Mollusks**—These are water animals with hard outer shells such as oysters and crabs. The mollusks have soft bodies such as clams and oysters.

If you look above your head, you will see diving waterfowl (Surf Scoters, Harlequin Ducks, Buffleheads, Common Loons, and Red-breasted Mergansers), shorebirds (Dunlin, Black Oystercatchers, and Black Turnstones), as well as Apex Predators (Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons). A number of Semiahmoo residents enjoy using free phone app Merlin Bird ID for real-time sound and photo recognition. It was developed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Facebook has a Whatcom County Birding Group. The North Cascades Audubon Society has a Whatcom Birds listserv providing a place for people to inform each other of bird sightings. [https://](https://www.northcascadesaudubon.org/whatcom-birds)

www.northcascadesaudubon.org/whatcom-birds



Marine Life Center

The Marine Life Center at the Port of Bellingham, 1801 Roeder Ave. Suite 100 — at the Bellingham Waterfront at Squalicum Harbor gives an opportunity for hands-on look — and touch— of octopuses, sea cucumbers, and types of crabs. It is enjoyed by all ages and free. The touch tanks are not always open. Handwash station is adjacent. Hours are listed at the Port's website. Volunteer opportunities available at the center.

SRA UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

10/21, 11/18, 12/16 AT 4 P.M.
SEE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

SRA CONFERENCE ROOM

JOIN IN PERSON OR VIA
ZOOM



MEETING MINUTES ARE SHARED VIA SRA WEEKLY

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

WHAT IS NEXT FOR THE FIRE STATION?



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Good news for Semiahmoo residents: real progress is underway to staff Fire Station 62 on Semiahmoo Parkway. .

After voters approved the District's levy this past August, we're moving forward on multiple fronts. Renovations at Station 62 are underway to prepare the facility for round-the-clock operations. On the apparatus side, the District has ordered a new aid car, expected to arrive in spring 2027, and a new engine, expected to arrive in fall 2027.

Hiring is already underway, and the District aims to staff an aid car at Station 62 as soon as sufficient personnel are trained and available, bringing dedicated 24-hour emergency medical response to one of our fastest-growing service areas.

This is a major step toward faster response times and reduced reliance on mutual aid from neighboring stations for residents of Semiahmoo and the surrounding corridor.

Thank you, District voters, for making this possible. We'll continue to share updates as renovations, apparatus delivery, and staffing progress.



Fire Chief Jason VanderVeen
North Whatcom



THE SNOWBIRDS: OVER SEMIAHMOO

The Canadian Forces Snowbirds are the Royal Canadian Air Force's military aerobatics flight demonstration team, also known as 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, they are based at 15 Wing Moose Jaw in Saskatchewan and have been flying the red-and-white Canadair CT-114 Tutor jet trainer. Per the Canadian government, the Tutor plane was the primary jet trainer for its air force until 2000. The ones being flown more recently have been modified for the shows in which the pilots fly low-level aerobatic flying. The team represents the Army, Navy and Air Force and has not only pilots but logistics and public affairs officers and other support staff. Its website shows the different formations used in performances for nine and seven planes. The pilots learn 50 different formations. The team acknowledges what they do comes at a risk and has tributes for those killed: 10. Considered their final season of flying the iconic CT-114 Tutor jets the team performed a free 45-minute show over White Rock, B.C. at 5:30 p.m. on August 12, 2026. During that time many in Semiahmoo/Blaine/Birch Bay also enjoyed this final show of the 2026 season. According to press materials, the team is on hiatus and is scheduled to return to the airshow circuit in the early 2030s until the CT-157 Skiskin II turboprop aircraft arrive. (Photos by Rod Nibbe)



MEET THE PHOTOGRAPHER



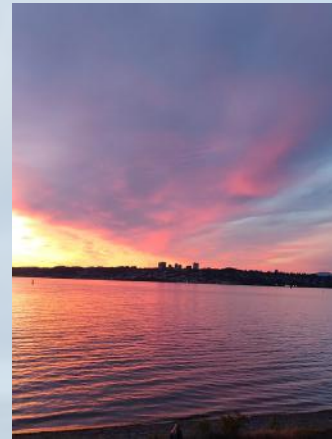
Rod Nibbe

Rod Nibbe, a resident of Drayton Cove and a SRA Board member, has recently had been the featured artist/photographer at the Great Blue Heron. Nibbe was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Nibbe earned his master's degree from the University of Wisconsin in geoscience. Nibbe was recruited to work for ARCO in Dallas in 1985. From 1986 to 2005 I worked in the oil and gas industry as a geophysicist, specializing in the development and integration of scientific software. During that time he lived between California and Alaska. In 2001, he returned to school on a part-time basis to take courses in chemistry, eventually completing a Ph.D. program in biomedical science at Case Western University in Ohio. Academically trained in Pharmacology, his research focused on systems biology of human disease.

One of Nibbe's passions is photography and his work was on the Great Blue Heron walls earlier this year. "I formally retired February of 2023 and moved from Alaska to Semiahmoo. My professional life has been devoted to science, both earth and life sciences specifically. I've been an amateur photographer, using point-and-clicks for many years. Only in the last few years, have I begun using full-frame mirrorless cameras. My current camera body is a Sony A7. I have two Tamron lenses: 35-150 and 50-400. I enjoy photographing wildlife, especially birds, but also landscapes. Lately I have also been interested in abstract photography."

SRA SUMMER PHOTO CONTEST



Thank you to all who contributed images from their favorite parts of summer near us. Entrants included John Kros (upper left), Darlene HERNs (upper middle and upper right), Jim Clemons (lower left), Joseph Slaman (center bottom), Jim Clemons (lower right), and John Kros (the background image). We enjoy seeing the beauty of our beautiful area through your eyes and lens. We look forward to having more of these contests in the future!



THE WINNING PHOTO

Three cheers forour contest winner! The winning image is from Helen Worley. (The original image shows the entire tree and has been shortened for publication and space.) Worley said, "I call this the Great Blue Heron Takeover. I was walking on the Spit when I spotted a highly unusual event: three adult herons had brought their three chicks to the eagles' soar tree. Everyone who has seen it was astonished. They had never seen anything like it either."

Worley will enjoy a half hour Tension Tamer treatment courtesy of the Semiahmoo Resort valued at \$80. It will focus on the neck, shoulders and arms. She is sure to leave more centered and ready to take on the day! Be sure to visit the local spa for their fabulous offerings.



**The Great Blue Heron
Takeover by Helen Worley**

EXPLORE FALL COLOR

Minutes or Hours away to colorful NW



Tree-lined Cordata streets provide dependable color.



This roadside stand was set up near Lynden's Safeway mall last year.



Seattle hosts several Japanese gardens — with many maple trees. This is Kubota Garden which is a free public park.

Most of the photos from Staff member Elisa Claassen

From Elisa Claassen/Staff

When thinking of fall color, many envision trips to the New England states with noted colorful Maple trees. In contrast, the Pacific Northwest is known for its dense green evergreen forests and only part of that becomes colorful as the weather cools down. In addition to farmstands, I've compiled a few options to see fall color in excursions.

HALF HOUR AWAY

Bellingham's Cordata District—The north side of Bellingham contains the main shopping mall, new residential areas, and the community college. Both Cordata Parkway and adjacent streets are tree-lined and offer incredible fall color on a commute to shop or to visit a park.

AN HOUR PLUS AWAY

Mt Baker's Heather Meadows - Fill the car with friends or family and plan for a leisurely drive along a winding cliff-side Mount Baker Highway. Seasons at the mountain may not match the seasons down below closer to sea level so check the weather before you go. Within a few months as snow melts spring flowers will bloom and within weeks the fall color bursts forth around September — vibrant red and gold huckleberry and blueberry bushes reflecting against small lakes. Check the weather for early snowfall before going. Snow usually comes late September or early in October. Heather Meadows is located near milepost 55 of the highway and sits at 4,400 feet. Artist Point is located at the very end of Mount Baker Highway with views of Mount Shuksan and Mount Baker and is located 5,000 feet above sea level. Day or season parking passes are available.

Skagit County Farm Tour—Oct. 3 & 4 – Local Skagit farmers produce about \$340 million of crops, livestock, and dairy products on 67,000 acres of land. The family farms of Skagit Valley welcome and open their barns and lifestyles to families. Talk to farms and follow your food from the fields to the table. Use a farm map for a self guided scenic tour. Free. Online donations taken. Farms include Double O Ranch (Concrete), Gordon Skagit Farms (Mt. Vernon), Beaver Marsh Blueberry Co. (Mt Vernon), RoozenGaarde (Mt. Vernon), Samish River Dairy (Bow), Sauk Farm (Concrete), Shuh Farms (Mt. Vernon), Hedlin's Family Farm (La Conner), Taylor Shellfish (Bow). Look for orange flags at each site. <https://www.festivaloffamilyfarms.com/>

TWO HOURS AWAY TO THE SOUTH

The Washington Park Arboretum & Japanese Garden - South of the University of Washington—While the 230-acre botanical Arboretum is free of charge, the three-and-a half acre Japanese Garden has winding gravel paths, lanterns, bridges, and special Japanese festival programs and workshops. It was designed by renowned landscape designer Juki Iida following the principal of shinzensa (essence of nature). It has an admission fee. Highlights are an azalea way in the spring, a two-mile looping trail, and some plants only found here within the Northwest. Plan ahead for parking. Look online for maps. <https://botanicgardens.uw.edu/washington-park-arboretum/> and <https://www.seattlejapanese garden.org/>

Kubota Garden—9817 55th Ave. S., Seattle—Part of the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department, this 20-acre Japanese garden is free to the public. The garden originated from master landscaper Fujitaro Kubota who started with logged swampland and merged Japanese design with North American materials in what was then his display garden for his business in 1927. During World War II, Kubota and his family were incarcerated at an internment camp and returned to restore the garden. The city acquired the site from his estate in 1987. The gardens have hills and valleys, streams, waterfalls, ponds, bridges. <https://www.seattle.gov/parks/parks/kubota-garden>

TO THE NORTH IN CANADA

Close to the border in Surrey/White Rock, BC—Redwood Park, Crescent Park, Campbell Valley Park. These are all within a few miles of the border crossing and family-friendly — and free.

Fall hikes: Hollyburn Peak at Cypress Mountain, Bunzen Lake at Anmore, Lindeman Lake in Chilliwack, Golden Ears Canyon Loop at Maple Ridge, Manning Park at Mount Frost.

Vancouver Neighborhoods & Parks—based on Instagram recommendations—West 10th Ave & Dunbar Street in Kitsalano, Barclay Street in the West End, Beach Avenue, Cambridge Street in East Vancouver, Foster Avenue in Joyce-Collingwood, Stanley Park Seawall, Trout Lake in East Vancouver, Queen Elizabeth Park, Van Dusen Botanical Garden.

Nitobe Memorial Garden—as part of the botanical gardens at the University of British Columbia campus in Vancouver, B.C. One of the most authentic Japanese gardens outside of Japan — for peace, contemplation, and cultural connection. The garden was created after Dr. Inazo Nitobe's death (1862-1933) and enlarged after World War II. Admission. Visits can be booked online: <https://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/nitobe-memorial-garden/>



Don't overlook the bounty of colorful pumpkins at the local grocery stores.



Front Street in Lynden is lined with grown Pin Oak trees planted in the late 1950s.



Family fun is offered at Everson's Stoney Ridge Farm — cider, animals, corn maze.



All ages enjoy Fall at Bellewood Acres located on the Guide between Bellingham and Lynden.

UPCOMING: FALL AT SEMIAHMOO

Semiahmoo Speaker Series—formerly known as the Men’s Breakfast - continuing – Thursdays, Oct. 1, Oct. 15, Nov. 5, Nov. 19, Dec. 3 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.

Fall Paint & Sip Times—October—Join for an Indigenous Peoples’ Day-inspired Paint & Sip on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 4-6 p.m. November—Thanksgiving inspiration on Wednesday, Nov. 25 from 4-6 p.m. All supplies are provided and tasty food and drink upgrades available. \$35 for adults/\$25 for under 12. Limited to 25. Sign up at the Resort’s website under events. Open to any skill level. Additional Paint & Sip events throughout the year.

Wine Dinner with Caymus Vineyards — A memorable five-course dinner celebrates the wines of Caymus Vineyards on Friday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. in the Stars Room in which you have thoughtfully-paired seasonal dishes and stories about the vineyard. Tickets are \$175++ per person. These menus are designed in advance. Modifications are not available (but dietary needs can be addressed at booking).

Thanksgiving Feast (American) —Thursday, Nov. 26—Gather by the sea for a warm and welcoming buffet feast at the Resort. Traditional holiday food fare favorites — with all of the fixings and a cozy coastal touch. Wine and beverage upgrades available. Seatings are available between 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Stars Room. Reserve online. \$85 per adult and \$55 per child (ages 12 and under).

Additional events are being added for the holidays 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. Resort guest and gym members also have options for gentle restorative yoga, water aerobics, Pilates, beginners Tai Chi, Intermediate sword Tai Chi, full body yoga flow, line dance, Bosu, pickleball and Zumba. Thank you for supporting local. See the SRA Weekly as well for updated opportunities.



UPCOMING EVENTS: BLAINE & BIRCH BAY

The 25th anniversary of 911 drew a large cross-border crowd on Sept. 11 at the Peace Arch on the border



Representatives of the U.S. and Canada came to honor the memory of those who lost their lives with songs, prayers, speeches, and a flyover.

2nd Saturday Art Walk – Saturday, Oct. 10 & Nov. 14 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – The monthly event begins at Blaine Art Gallery at 922 Peace Portal Dr., continues to Blind Bird Art Studio at 264 H Street. Free. <http://blaineartscouncil.org>.

Blaine's OysterFest – Saturday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Downtown Blaine at H Street Plaza – Presented by the Blaine-Birch Bay Park & Rec. District #2. A coastal celebration of Pacific Northwest flavors, local makers, music, and the community spirit that makes Blaine one of Washington's most charming seaside towns. Whether you are an adventurous foodie, a seafood lover, or simply looking for a quintessential day by the water. Activities include oyster shucking competitions, contests, live music, beer garden, food, and an opportunity to be part of the community photo. Bbbparkandrec.org. Free.

Trick-or-Treat on the Berm – Saturday, Oct. 24 or Oct. 31 – More details coming. See birchbaywa.org.

Blaine Holiday Harbor Lights—Saturday, Nov. 28—Activities throughout the day in down town Blaine including live music, caroling with the Blaine choir and band at 3:30 p.m. at the plaza, tree lighting at 4:45 p.m.

Additional events being planned for the Holidays. See blainebythesea.com. The organizer is Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2.

UPCOMING EVENTS: WHATCOM COUNTY

Harvest Season—U-pick Apples and More! - started Sept. 5 at 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bellewood Farms & Distillery, 6140 Guide Meridian Rd., Lynden. This is ongoing from Wednesdays through Sundays until Oct. 31. Visitors can choose their apples from trees on the 62 acres at the farm (which has a view of Mount Baker!). The pumpkin patch onsite opened on Sept. 26. The store offers 22 just-harvested apple varieties for purchase, as well as gifts and lunch. Bellewoodfarms.com.

Open Roller Skate—The first Friday of every month until Dec. 4. from 6 to 8 p.m. at Depot Market Square, 1100 Railroad Ave., Bellingham.

Bellingham Farmers Market: A Saturday Market—The local farmers market continues every Saturday until Dec. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Depot Market Square, 1100 Railroad Ave., Bellingham. The popular market has fresh produce, crafts, food, and often music. No admittance. <https://www.bellinghamfarmers.org/>

Sugar: A Cabaret—10th Anniversary Show—Friday, Oct. 2 and Saturday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. at Bar 211, 211 E. Chestnut St., Bellingham (formerly The Underground) Live music with powerhouse vocals and dancing for patrons 21 and older. Adult content. <https://events.humanitix.com/sugar-a-cabaret>

Oktoberfest Ferndale Fundraiser – Saturday, Oct. 4 from 5-10 p.m. Bavarian fun and festivities at a 21-plus event filled with music, dancing, a costume contest, and traditional Bavarian games. Tickets are only \$30. The ticket includes entry to the event and two drink tickets. Proceeds benefit the Ferndale Downtown Association.

Whatcom Artists Studio Tour—Juried artists open working studios for two weekends of a self-guided tour and sale including four group exhibits at local art galleries. Home studios are located throughout Bellingham and the County. Interactive online map. www.studiotour.net Oct. 3 & 4 and Oct. 10 & 11. The Whatcom Artist Studio Tour was founded in 1994 to bring the public into the creative process.

Deming Log Show Oktoberfest – Oct. 11 & 12 at the Deming Log Show Grounds. Proceeds benefit the Busted Up Loggers Fund. Must be 21 and older to attend. Festival includes live music, dancing, Bavarian food, stein holding competition, free dry camping, and a free beer stein with admission. Demingloggingshow.com

Doctober Film Festival at Pickford Theater – Month of October (through Oct. 25) – Doctober is the largest documentary film festival in the Pacific Northwest, held annually in the heart of downtown Bellingham. Approximately 35 films are screened in one month along with special guests, filmmakers, pre-screening receptions, and guided group discussions. Pickfordfilmcenter.org/doctober.

Additional live music, theatre, film, and other events at Bellingham.org/events.

