

RSCC NEWS

Fall/Winter 2016/17



Rainbow Springs Community Club, Inc., P.O. Box 388, Granite Falls, WA. 98252 | Phone: 360.691.2683
<http://www.rscconline.org> info@rscconline.org

Paving Update – Kenny Jans

We've received questions on when paving will begin, which will begin once the project is fully funded, so far about \$30,200 has been collected.

With help of industry professionals, it's been determined doing just an overlay to be a poor use of community funds as the life expectancy is only 5 years until alligator cracks would return. The cost for the remaining options is between \$52,000 and \$73,000, but after more input from industry professionals, there is concern that the \$52k option which was to grind and compact the existing asphalt may not provide the same life as initially researched. The old road material will grow in size once ground up and will not compact like new gravel will. The best investment of community funds is total replacement, but this is also the most expensive initial outlay of funds so we're working to determine the best approach.

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Parking Pass Policy

Please be sure to display your parking passes properly so they are visible through the windshield with the printed surface facing outward. If we cannot see your parking pass, your vehicle is at risk to be impounded.

Parking passes which are expired should not be used and may also result in your vehicle being impounded. The Association recently entered into an agreement with R&R Towing of Granite Falls and new signs have been posted. Persons whose vehicles are impounded are responsible for all impound fees which may be incurred.



Thank You Volunteers

There was a well-publicized Work Party on Sat. June 25th. Reminder cards went out to invite all 191 lot owners. The following people turned out to work.

Vicki Jans – RSCC President
John Angell – RSCC Vice President
Kenny Jans – RSCC Trustee
Annette Blandino – RSCC Business Ops
John Yauger – Resident
Marianne Romona – Resident

Because of low turnout, we were not able to complete most of the projects. If you find yourself with some time to help finish any of the projects and keep our dues down, please call the hotline to find out how you can help.

360-691-2683

New Board Members

This summer 4 new Board of Directors Trustees were installed to the Board of Directors by President Vicki Jans. The appointments filled 4 vacancies created when former Board Members moved away. The new members include: Katie McCaffrey, Chelsea Baty, Amanda Bruce, and Tessa Turner. There is still one vacant trustee position, if you'd like to volunteer or consider joining the board please contact RSCC.

Also, the Board of Directors recently accepted the retirement of longtime board member Warren Rainville. Warren's contributions to Rainbow Springs are numerous. Warren designed and built our current storage shed, and he was the person who installed the concrete and granite sign at the entrance. Thank you Warren for all your service to Rainbow Springs.

The board of Directors meets monthly provided they have a quorum. The meetings are intended for the specific purpose of the Board of Directors to conduct the Business of Rainbow Springs. Property owners are allowed to attend and an opportunity for new business is provided. Only Property owners whose names appear on the property summery at the county are allowed to have a voice, or issue addressed at the meetings.

All members of the Association are invited to attend the Annual Business Meeting which is held in April each year.

To stay informed you can read the Meeting Minutes online at our official website at:

www.rscconline.org

Winter Weather is Coming

The Board is looking for a contractor that can be hired and used on an as-needed basis for snow plowing in the community. The last one we used retired, and we are actively looking for a replacement. As a reminder, only the hills get plowed. If you live on a flat and level street that is treacherous to drive, you need to remember that the roads outside of the community are probably worse and it might be a good idea to wait or stay home.

Challenge at Annual Meeting Clarified

At this year's Annual Business Meeting a challenge was made that the board was not operating legally, by having a married couple serving on the board, and being able to each have a vote.

The issue was sent to our attorney for legal interpretation. This was completed and the findings were that our RSCC Bylaws do not prohibit husband and wife from volunteering on the BOD. The section cited (Article 1) refers to community membership only and not the BOD positions.

*Article 1 Section 1 referring to **MEMBERSHIP** The Bylaws state: For the purpose of these by-laws a husband and wife shall be considered collectively as one person. The vote for any membership owned by a single marital community, may be cast by either spouse without evidence of authority from the other. Each member in good standing is granted a single vote at general membership meetings.*

In an entirely different section of the bylaws outlining the rules governing the Actual **MANAGEMENT** of the Corporation (BOD) *Article III Section 5 states: Each member of the Board of Trustees shall possess one (1) vote in matters coming before the Board. All voting at meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be by each member in person and voting-by proxy shall not be allowed. A five majority of the members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum.*

The two Articles of the Bylaws are separate and unrelated. Furthermore, the Bylaws do not prohibit couples from serving on the Board together, and in fact Rainbow Springs has a precedential history of couples serving together on the board. Their contributions have been numerous including petitioning the county to bring county water into our community as the Barnharts' did serving as husband and wife. Their effort took many years to complete, but their impact was immeasurable.

It is in matters that come before the entire community at Membership Meetings, such as the Annual Business Meeting, and in mail-in ballots that married couples have only one vote. Often husband and wife have served due to lack of member participation, so we encourage all members to participate and help improve our community.

ASK RSCC – by RSCC Board of Directors – responses to actual questions asked

Q: Can we have election signs in our yards? The Rules and Regs state that we can't put up signs.

A: Yes, you may exercise your right to support the candidates of your choice during election seasons. The rule against signs refers to advertising or business signage. Of course Real Estate signs are permitted as well. Election signs and Garage Sale signs are permitted just so long as you remove them after the event.

Q: We just moved in and want to put up a fence. Do we have to ask the Architectural Committee for approval?

A: Actually there is no Architectural Committee, and there never has been. It was probably the plan to have one by the founding members of RS but that plan was never acted on. We simply require that you do your own due diligence and research the rules for fences as outlined at Snohomish County. Currently they allow up to a 6-foot-high fence to be installed without a permit, and if you want a higher fence you do need to obtain a permit and specify why you would need a higher fence. You may also erect a garden shed without a permit provided it is 12 x12 or less.

Q: I see the same loose dogs roaming our community and it makes it hard to walk my little dog. Can the board do anything?

A: No, the board has no jurisdiction over leash law violations. There is a leash law in this county. Every time you see the loose dogs note the day, time, and breed if you can, and report it to Animal Control at **425-388-3440**. If you can... take a picture of the animal but if an animal bites or attacks you should call **911**. A nuisance complaint can also be filed online at the county: <https://petlicense.snoco.org/petcomplaints> keep in mind that if you fear reprisals, you should request that your name be anonymous, since all complaints are part of public records.

Q: My neighbor has a lot of derelict cars parked on their property and it looks like a wrecking yard. It is adversely affecting all the property values in our neighborhood. Can the board do anything?

A: If the vehicles are parked on RSCC property or easements they can be towed, however we have no jurisdiction to go onto private property to tow vehicles. There is a county code that limits the number of vehicles per lot... This is an issue for Code Enforcement. You can go online and file a complaint and a Code Enforcement officer will respond. Violators will be contacted and given an opportunity to correct the infraction. If they do not correct the issue in the time prescribed, a citation will be levied against the property owner. The first citation for junkyard conditions is \$150.00, the second infraction the fine goes up to \$300.00, and for multiple repeat infractions the fine goes up to \$500.00. The county has a vested interest in keeping property values up for tax purposes. Report infractions at:

<http://snohomishcountywa.gov/FormCenter/PDSOnline-Code-Enforcement-Complaint-Inv-45/PDS-Complaint-Investigation-Request-237>

The law allows that all complaints become available for public disclosure. If you fear reprisals from the violator you must indicate that you wish to remain anonymous.

Q: I frequently find mail scattered on the ground around my mailbox. I have called the Post Office but it keeps happening.

A: It is likely the work of mail thieves. All unlocked mailboxes are at risk of mail theft. We suggest replacing your mailbox with a locking box. It is best to not leave mail in your box overnight, and for greater security you may want to mail your outgoing mail at the Post Office or a Postal drop box. There is one at the Mail Zone at HWY 92 and 84th, as well as in front of the Granite Falls Post Office.

ASK RSCC – by RSCC Board of Directors – continued

Q: We have noticed a huge increase in the presence of rabbits in the evenings when we come into RS at night. They are darting all over the roads, are they a problem?

A: The Rabbit population is in the peak of its 7-year cycle. They come out and graze at night. The main issue they create is that when their populations rise, the coyote population also spikes due to the ample food source. The problem with that is that small pets start to disappear due to the increased presence of coyotes. It's always a good idea to keep an eye on small pets. Cats are especially in danger if they are allowed outside. Pet food left outside can also attract numerous cranky critters like Raccoons, Possums, Foxes, Bobcats and unfortunately RATS!

Q: We have found used syringes at the parks. What should we do with them?

A: It is the sign of the Heroin epidemic in our county. We do not have sharps containers, so the safest thing to do is to carefully place it inside a can or bottle and take it to Rite Aid or any pharmacy, for them to safely dispose of. NEVER place a syringe in the garbage! If you are unable or unwilling to remove the syringe yourself, the only other thing you can do is call 911 and hope there is a Sherriff near enough to respond but understand they may not be able to. Take extra care! We cannot provide sharps containers due to the liability of training and handling issues involved.

Q: Do you know when we can fish the salmon run on the Stillaguamish River?

A: The rules are too numerous to cite here. You can go online to:
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01726/wdfw01726.pdf> to view the rules for sport fishing in Washington State.

Q: We noticed some downed trees at the river park. Is there clearing of trees going on along the river?

A: No, actually the trees and limbs that came down were from rotted Cottonwood trees that fell on their own.

Q: Why do we have to have a gate?

A: The gate was voted for by residents years ago. Everyone who moved to RSCC since has moved into a known "gated community". To change that could adversely affect home values as well as work against those who purposely chose to live in a gated community. The gate sends a signal to trespassers that this is a private community and is one more crime deterrent. We know it can be breached, but when theft crimes do occur inside Rainbow Springs we have the added option of requesting that the prosecuting attorney add "trespassing" to their charges. The gate is simply a deterrent and many residents have stated that they have moved in this community because of the gate.

Q: There is a leash law and it is against the law to have dogs off leash but how can I take my dog swimming without violating it?

A: Yes, there is a leash law and your dog should be on leash when walking around the community, but for swimming dogs, that just want to fetch a stick or cool off, we simply request that you keep your dog under control at all times.

Q: The Lake seems higher this summer. Part of our yard is under water. Why?

A: The lake level fluctuates, but because last year we had a drought that made the lake pretty hot and mucky, this year we are keeping the level higher so the lake temps won't get too hot for the fish. Also we had more rain this summer than last year.

Q: We just bought a lot on the lake, can we build a dock?

A: If there is an existing dock you may repair it as needed but new dock construction may no longer be allowed. Best to go to the county planning and development and ask them.

ASK RSCC – by RSCC Board of Directors – continued

Q: We saw some cars driving on the grass at the river park. What can be done?

A: First of all, driving on the turf at the parks is not allowed unless it is authorized maintenance vehicles. If you can get a photo of the culprit when that happens without endangering yourself, you can email it to our website. info@rscconline.org

Q: We bought a lot on the river. Can we clear it?

A: Again you should always contact the County Planning and Development for the correct setbacks. You can't do anything close to the waterline at all, and the setbacks are measured from the high water mark. You can of course clear blackberry bushes etc. but habitat below the high water mark is not to be disturbed. RS has no jurisdiction on regulations, please contact Snohomish County. Some of the older properties were already cleared many years ago when the environmental set-backs did not exist.

Q: My neighbor burns regularly. Is that allowed?

A: Small recreational fires may be permitted provided they are in an approved concrete, stone, or metal pit, not more than 3 feet across and 2 feet high. RSCC has no jurisdiction, please contact the proper authority such as the fire department for further information. It's a good idea to keep any fire at least 50 feet from structures and have a charged water hose nearby or a full 5-gallon bucket of water. **Burning garbage is always illegal.** Please be a good neighbor. If smoke from your fire bothers your neighbors, damages their property or otherwise causes a nuisance, you should immediately put it out

<http://www.pscleanair.org/contact/Pages/complaint.aspx>

To file an online complaint, go to the above site. Or you can call: **1-800-552-3565.**

You should always check to see if there is a burn ban in affect before any burning. If you have a smart phone you can download an app to keep you updated. If you don't have a smart phone you can arrange to have an email sent to you to be reminded of the current burn ban status;

<http://www.pscleanair.org/contact/Pages/connect.aspx>

When you burn, please follow these regulations:

- **Keep it small.** Fires must not exceed three feet in diameter or two feet in height.
- **Fuel it right.** Only charcoal, dried firewood or manufactured fire logs may be used. It is illegal to burn anything else.
- **Stay clear of structures.** Check with your local fire department regarding setback requirements.
- **Stand guard and extinguish.** A person capable of extinguishing the fire must attend it at all times, and the fire must be extinguished before leaving it.
- **Ask first.** Permission from a landowner, or owner's designated representative, must be obtained before starting a recreational fire.
- **Mind the ban.** Recreational fires are always prohibited during air-quality burn bans. They may also be prohibited during a fire-safety burn ban (check with your local fire district.)

Q: There was a huge explosion around 10:00PM on Sat. July 23rd. Many car alarms went off, what happened?

A: A resident lit off a home-made sparkler bomb during a birthday party. Several people were not amused however and complained about it to RSCC. In any emergency, please contact law enforcement or dial 911.

Rainbow Springs Collection Efforts

If you owe the community any past-due funds and you are having difficulty paying, please call the hotline and make payment plan arrangements. The first round of liens has just been filed. You can avoid costly lien fees and attorney fees from being added to your account by making payment arrangements... *and sticking to the pre-arraigned monthly payment!* We are anxious to work with you. **Call 360-691-2683.** The board of directors reviews the past due accounts monthly and they collectively decide when liens are to be placed on properties. That is only done after all other collection efforts have been exhausted.

Voting on Three Initiatives Coming soon:

A mailing will go out soon to all lot owners in good standing (those whose accounts are paid up). There will be three initiatives on the ballot. A statement for and against each initiative may also be included as was requested from some homeowners. **Initiative 1 – The addition of playground equipment at the Lake Park** will have some costs involved and will include several choices. **Initiative 2** – is a usage issue, the addition of **tournament style horseshoe pits** at the river park, which will not involve any cost to the membership as a community member has offered to donate time and materials. **Initiative 3** is whether to modify **Rule 22 Livestock ban** and allow residents to have chickens. Please watch for the special mailing and be sure to respond within the time allotted to have your vote count and your voice heard.

PUD Billing Changes Coming Soon

The first of October the PUD of Snohomish County will be doing actual monthly meter readings, instead of estimating your bills every other month. The only exception to this will be that they will do an estimate in case they cannot get a reading from your meter due to; locked gates, dogs that prevent entry into yards, or severe weather occurrences. Remember that power outages can still occur in the summer. If you have an outage please call in and report it to **425-783- 1001**. You can call the outage line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For radio weather updates follow **KOMO-AM 1000/97.7, KIRO-FM 97.3, KSER-FM 90.7 or KRKO-AM 138**



New Gate Remote Controls Coming Soon

Once we are able to locate new remotes at a reasonable cost new remotes will be purchased. The new remote controls will provide an additional layer of security and each will have a different unique passcode which is unique to each remote. This will allow us to decommission any remotes that are not turned in when lot owners move out of the community. Currently you can still enter by using your 4-digit entry code at the new keypad, or use your old system remote. Remember that you only need to enter the 4-digit code and do not need to add a pound sign or anything else. Please be sure to not try to “beat the gate” when it is closing. The gate can damage your vehicle if you make contact with it when it is closing. It is designed to retract immediately and open when contact is made. Take your time and stay safe.

Local HOA Dues Comparison Chart

At the last Annual Business Meeting the following chart was presented to give lot owners a more realistic view of why we needed to do a paving assessment to repair our failing roads. Our Annual dues are the lowest dues around for a community that has privately maintained roads.

| Community | Dues | Comment |
|-------------------|-------|--|
| RSCC | \$240 | Two parks, gate, privately maintained roads. |
| Kazillion Trails | \$456 | Two gates, privately maintained roads |
| Pilchuck Ridge | \$612 | Gate, privately maintained roads |
| Pilchuck East | \$300 | Gate, privately maintained roads |
| Canyon Falls Park | \$396 | TBD |
| Pasadera Heights | \$456 | Kids Park |
| Pinnacle Ridge | \$612 | Gate, privately maintained roads |
| Jordan Trails | \$300 | Chip sealed roads, gravel, playground, pool |
| Blue Spruce | \$192 | Pool, county maintained roads |

County Wide Burning Ban in place until the end of September

Only small recreational fires allowed in approved fire pits.



STOP STILL MEANS STOP

Residents of the cul-de-sac at the end of 169th have continued to express their frustration with persons turning to and from 120th without stopping at the stop sign on 120th. Vehicles have repeatedly blown through the stop sign and created numerous near collisions at that intersection. The drivers in question, don't even look when turning from, or onto 120th. Please remember to slow down and stop at all intersections and stop signs. Remember that the drivers coming to and from the 169th cul de sac have the right of way, and do not stop.



Back to school

The start date will be September 7th
For grades 1-6 & 9
September 8th for grades 7, 8 and 10-12



Check out our community website

<http://www.rscconline.org>

Calendar of Upcoming Events**OCT 2016**

- Mon. Oct. 31st – Halloween – the Gate Closed.

NOV 2016

- Wed. Nov. 16th –@ 6:30 PM - BOD Meeting – IGA Café – *provided we have a quorum*
- Thurs. Nov. 24th – Thanksgiving.

DEC 2016

- Wed. Dec 21st -@6:30 PM – BOD Meeting – IGA Café – *provided we have a quorum.*

PLEASE SLOW DOWN – *The speed limit is 15 MPH*

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