



Rainbow Springs Community Club, Inc., P.O. Box 388, Granite Falls, WA. 98252 | Phone: 360.691.2683

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RSCC Accepting Annual Dues Payments

By RSCC Board of Trustees

Finally foreclosures are moving forward on properties whose the owners have ignored paying their dues.

No one wants their home values affected by empty and foreclosed homes in their neighborhood, but when all other attempts to collect have failed the association voted to move forward to collect the debts. We have a duty to protect the solvency of the association.

We all realize that we are living in challenging economic times. If you are having difficulty managing the lump sum payment that will be billed later this spring, you may want to consider beginning to pay your dues before the May 1st billing. We have several responsible property owners who have been paying their annual dues ahead of time. A few property owners have paid a couple of years in advance. You don't have to wait until the May 1st billing goes out, to begin to making payments. Any payments made prior to the due date will be credited to your account.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS AN OFFICIAL WEATHER REPORTING STATION RIGHT HERE IN RAINBOW SPRINGS?

FOR MORE INFORMATION TURN TO PAGE 3

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For more information – Look for our monthly meeting minutes posted

Winter Energy Savers

Change/ clean furnace air filters every two months during heating season

Chimneys need to be inspected and cleaned annually

Dressing warmer inside on colder days, is less expensive than turning up the heat.

Use energy saving compact fluorescent light bulbs or LEDs

Buy ENERGY STAR appliances, & get a PUD rebate of \$50 or \$100 dollars. Apply at: www.snopud.com/appliancerebates

Use cold water for washing clothes

Cook with smaller appliances. An electric fry pan or small toaster oven draws less electricity than an electric range

Keep your refrigerator at 38 degrees and freezer at 10 degrees

Surviving This Winter

By John Angell

We live in what I think is one of the most beautiful parts of the state and the country! No, we do not have hurricanes, huge tornados, or golf-ball sized hail. But, we do have winters here, and our winters do bring challenges. Wind, rain, snow, and all the effects this type of weather creates. We do not live in “the back woods” but we are rural enough that when weather brings its challenges, we must be prepared to face this on our own. So, let’s look at these winter conditions, the challenges they present, and how we can face it.

The first step here in any disaster is to get to know your neighbors and be willing to help each other out. Know what your neighbors have to offer, but also know their vulnerabilities so that you can help them out too when they need it. Standard survival kits would be to provide enough non-perishable food, water, and personal goods for three days and the means to prepare that food as well as provide warm & dry shelter. In early November 2006, our community members by the river were flooded out at record levels. Later that month, our community lost power with freezing temperatures for nearly six days. So the “three day rule” here for us might need to be longer. So let’s look at some basic survival rules.

1. Candles or flashlights? Candles may have their ambiance, but they are also dangerous. Many home fires start each year during power outages where candles are accidently knocked over
2. Generators – Need I say this? Be sure if you use a generator that it is outside! With exhausted pointed away from windows. If you connect into your homes power, be sure you use the proper transfer switch. Just connecting a generator to your power can cause severe injury to workers trying to restore power!
3. Fireplaces – If you use these for heat, be sure that your home is well ventilated with proper air flow
4. Cooking – If you use BBQ or camp stoves, be sure you are outside & well ventilated
5. Water – This is important in the event of an earthquake or other such event. Water lines can break and water can become un-drinkable.

Winter events we may face!

1) Snow! Yes, we get our fair share of snow here – and some times we got lots and it stays for days! When we get snow, the gate will be locked in the open position – but it takes one of us to do that! So, when show first hits, the gate may still be in operation. It does not take a lot of snow to make our hill near the gate to be impassable. Snow removal is not an easy job for us or the county. We have contracts in place to provide snow removal on Rainbow drive. But, that removal may not keep up with conditions You need to know your car and your abilities. In the past, many have tried to drive the hill after the gate only to end up in the ditch. It is strongly advised that you not attempt this hill unless you have four wheel drive, studded snow tires on all four wheels, or chains installed. Though Jordan Road is high on the list of roads for snow removal from the county, Chappel is not. So even if you get out of our community, be prepared for bad road conditions. Also, just a reminder that power outages happen often with snow. Snow laden tree limbs bend and break landing on power lines and taking out the power

2) Wind! When the wind whips up – trees come down! Last year, we had a tree come down across Rainbow drive near the lake taking out power for several hours. When you see lines down, you must assume it is a live power line in all cases. Also, do not try driving around down trees. Trees also come down on Jordan Road. A tree down in the wrong place can make for a long drive! Be sure you have everything tied down & secure around your home. Wind can take off siding & shingles as well as take away other lose items around your home. Again, with high winds comes power outages.

Surviving This Winter - *continued*

3) Rain! With heavy rain come the floods! The Stilly River is a very dynamic river with the level rising in only a few hours. Once the river overflows the levies by the river – it only takes minutes to fill up the area by the river. Flood stage here is at fourteen feet. But, the river needs to get to sixteen feet before we start having problems. If there is the possibility of impending floods, and you live by the river, please be sure that you have all valuables and other personally belongings removed from your ground level floor. Please remember to get all your pets to high ground. Move cars and other vehicles up above. Parking by the lake in these cases is acceptable. If the water does start to rise, open your garage and any ground level doors to allow the water to flow. You won't be able to keep water out, and if you do not open these doors, you are just asking for more damage. Also, depending on the design of your home, you should also turn off any propane tanks and any power to your home to avoid other damage.

Floods can also occur even if we do not have heavy rain down here, because what really affects the river is what happens up the Loop!

But – the best of all advice here is to work with your neighbors. Team up and work together to survive that which mother nature throws at us!

Here are a few important web sites:

Rainbow Springs current weather conditions

http://www.wunderground.com/swf/Rapid_Fire.swf?station=KWAGRANI3&units=both

Stilly River Level

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv?12161000>

Snohomish Emergency Road Closures

<http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/PWApp/roads/emclosure/index.html>

REPORT POWER OUTAGES 24 hours / 7days a week

425-783-1001 or toll free **1-877-783-1001**

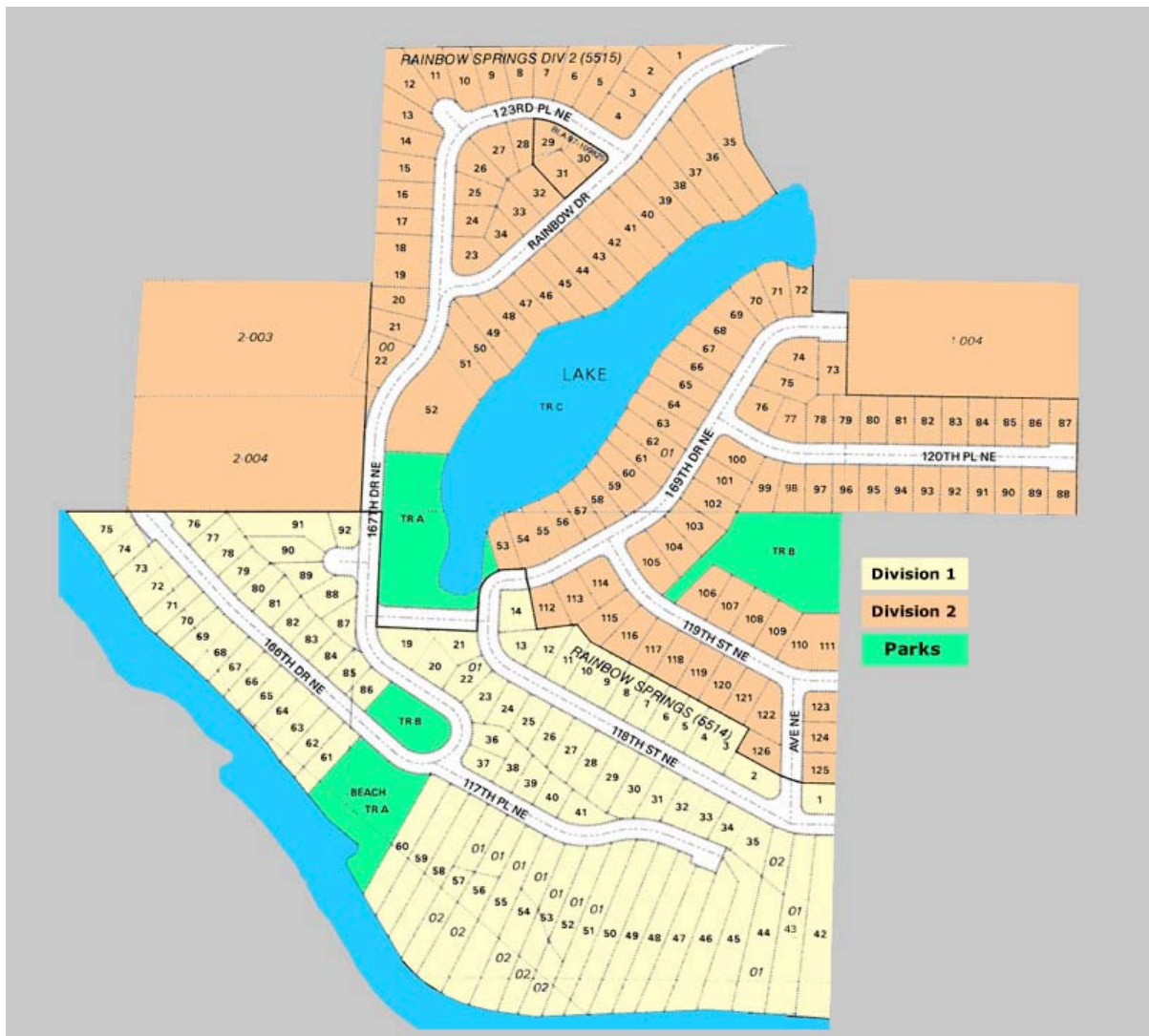
Rules for Driving in Traffic Circles

1. SLOW DOWN ON YOUR APPROACH!
2. ALWAYS YIELD TO VEHICLES ALREADY IN THE CIRCLE, WAIT FOR A SAFE GAP TO MERGE IN, YIELD TO THE VEHICLE ON YOUR LEFT
3. WATCH OUT FOR PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLES
4. IF AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE, OR LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE IS **APPROACHING** THE CIRCLE, OR IN THE CIRCLE, WAIT FOR THEM TO COMPLETELY NEGOCIATE THE CIRCLE BEFORE MERGING IN
5. KEEP IN MIND THAT THE RESPONSE TIME FOR LARGE TRUCKS AND BUSES IS LONGER, DON'T CUT IN FRONT OF THEM CAUSING THEM TO BRAKE SUDDENLY. BE PATIENT AND COURTEOUS.

Trees and Trespassing

Many residents are familiar with the Lake and River Park areas, but did you know that Lots 50, 51 and 52 are private property? These lots border the lake at the base of our main road where Rainbow Drive becomes 167th. They contain the first big stand of trees along the lake. Those lots continue on past the culvert and the old ancillary drain. Last year a RSCC resident helped themselves to 3 tall trees in lot 51. Again recently a large tree went down in a storm, immediately chainsaws were buzzing and residents were helping themselves to the fallen timber. The owners of that property were understandably upset.

Imagine if you will, that you have a tree go down on your lot, and when you were not present, your neighbors just helped themselves to *your* fallen trees for *their* firewood supply. That is called STEALING. If you are unsure of where the property lines are, you should not be removing any fallen timber. Fallen trees that go down in the known common areas are of course "first come, first serve." Just make sure you are not illegally removing your neighbor's timber.



Remembering Skiing on Mt. Pilchuck

By Annette Blandino



Mt. Pilchuck had the steepest vertical drop of any ski area in the state. The ski area operated from 1963 to May 1980



The lodge stood where the current trailhead parking is located



Mt. Pilchuck was the only ski area leased from the state on park lands – in 1979 Governor Dixy Lee Ray refused to renew the lease and it closed in May of 1980.

Many look up at majestic Mt. Pilchuck daily, but few realize it was once the home of one of the most challenging recreational ski areas in the state. In 1966 I moved here from North Hollywood and traded my surfboard for a pair of wooden skis. Yes, they were wood in those days. As a pre-teen I learned how to ski on Mt. Pilchuck. It is one of my fondest memories of living in the Pacific Northwest. The ski area was located on the north face of the Mountain and it had a couple of chair lifts and rope tows. The 4,000 foot double chair rose from the parking lot. You could ski all day for \$3.50. The steep and more challenging upper run went up the mountain from the midpoint parking lot. A large, wider, gentler slope extended down below the parking lot. The lower slope was lit for night skiing in 1967. You could literally ride to the top, ski down, ski across the parking lot and continue on to the lower slope. It was a kick! I have many memories of warm spring skiing in the sunshine wearing sunglasses, jeans and tee shirts. The snow quality was usually wet and slow due to lower elevations. But the top would ice up and provide a faster more exciting run, except where small creeks would traverse the run. There was an area known as “the funnel” midway on the upper run. A large headwall cliff and ravine separated the top from the bottom half of the run. The most accomplished skiers in the state were part of the Mt. Pilchuck Ski Patrol. They were the team to beat each year in state-wide competitions. A couple of years 76 and 77 low snow falls caused financial problems. The business was owned by two avid Bellingham skiers, Dick Mahlberg, a 10th Mountain Division veteran, and Franz X. Gable, former Austrian Olympic silver medalist. They wanted to expand the ski area and extend the 30 year lease but the forest service was against the expansion. Governor Ray refused to renew the lease. Low snow falls eventually did them in, and the ski area closed.

I am tied to the mountain. My son-in-law’s family who owns Miller Shingle, was the first to log and create the very first logging road up the Mt. in the 50’s. It would later become the paved road. My great uncle Harold Weiss was one of the first fire lookouts assigned to Mt. Pilchuck in the 20s and 30s. Today his descendants live in the shadow of it’s peak. Today you can hike the Mt. with a \$10 one day trail pass. Tall timber now stands where skiers once traversed the slopes. Only the concrete bases from the original ski lifts remain. On a clear day, the vistas from the lookout are the best in the state. The first fire lookout cabin burned many years ago and was replaced with the current lookout. I try to return each year. They say you can make the round trip nearly 6 mile hike in 3.5 hours. I have never been able to do it in less than 5 hours, but then I like to linger on the top. Bring binoculars, really good insect repellent, and water, and make your own Mt. Pilchuck memories.



Mt. Pilchuck in Winter - Elevation 5,340 feet
The name means "red water" after a nearby creek

Calendar of Upcoming Events

MARCH 2012

- Wed. March 21st – @ 6:30 PM; Monthly BOD Meeting @ Granite Falls Fire Station 86 – Getchell Station

APRIL 2012

- Wed. April 18th – @ 6:30 PM; Monthly BOD Meeting @ Granite Falls Fire Station 86 – Getchell Station

MAY 2012

- Tues. May 1st – Annual Dues Billing
- Wed. May 16th @ 6:30 PM; Monthly BOD Meeting @ Granite Falls Fire Station 86 – Getchell Station

Check out our community website

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**Special Weather
 Report Edition**

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