



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

<http://www.rscconline.org> [info@rscconline.org](mailto:info@rscconline.org)

## EMS Levy for Snohomish Country Fire District 17 – Granite Falls Fire

By Kevin R. Hayes  
Fire Commissioner  
SCFPD 17 - Granite Falls Fire Department

The Board of Commissioners, administration, and the firefighters of Granite Falls Fire would like to thank those who voted in the August 18th, Primary Election. We would especially like to say thank you for the resounding vote of confidence in our fire department’s EMS services and saying “yes” to a new levy. If you did not see the final results tally, here they are:

### Fire District 17 EMS Levy

Vote	Count	Percent
YES	1,547	71.00%
NO	632	29.00%
Total	2,179	100.00%

The EMS level will pay for an advanced life support contract with Lake Steven Fire for paramedic services, first aid supplies, public First Aid/CPR programs and on-duty staffing of the fire stations with a ready response crew on a 24/7 basis.

The maximum amount allowed under state law that can be collected with this level renewal is \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation as part of your property tax. If your home is valued at \$250,000, it will cost you no more than \$10.42 per a month to continue to receive the same level of highly skilled and professional care in our community.

The Board of Commissioners has yet to set the levy rate. We anticipate that the rate will be around \$0.40 per a \$1000. This will keep us with-

## Welcome to Our 2nd Edition Online

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in the EMS budget, without collecting any reserves. In other words, we plan to break even for the EMS Budget for 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [kevin.hayes@gffd17.org](mailto:kevin.hayes@gffd17.org).

Again...Thank You!

### The Centers for Disease Control suggest the following precautionary measures during Flu Season:

- 1) Cover nose and mouth w/a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- 2) Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective. Use a sanitizing wet wipe before handling grocery cart handles, public door handles, public phones and cashier debit/credit card key pads
- 3) Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- 4) Try to avoid close contact with sick people and isolate those with flu-like symptoms from others.
- 5) If you get sick, **stay home** from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them. Avoid other normal activities like travel, shopping, and social events.

## New RSCC Storage Shed Constructed

By Floyd Smith RSCC BOD Trustee

November of 2007, the RSCC Storage Shed at the Lake Park was destroyed when a large Hemlock tree sliced through it during a wind storm.



Last spring the board budgeted to replace the shed. The new RSCC storage shed has finally been built, with the help of Board Members Floyd Smith, Kevin Hayes, Susie Martin, and Hal Newell. Also helping on the project was community member Curt Swiger. Board Member Warren Rainville was indispensable with his project planning and building knowledge. We would also like to thank Melissa and Stacy for donating the paint & painting the shed after it was built. This storage shed should give our community many years of service. Thank you to all who volunteered on the project. A special thanks to community members who stored RSCC items at their homes until the new shed was completed.



## RSCC Business Etiquette

By RSCC BOD

The Business for Rainbow Springs is handled by a Volunteer Board. These individuals have families, homes, jobs and lives like everyone else. There is a perception that Board Members are supposed to make themselves available 24/7. This is not the case.

The RSCC Board meets once a month on the last Wednesday of every month. *ALL* business is conducted at these monthly meetings. If you have urgent or emergency business with the Rainbow Springs Community Club that cannot wait for the monthly meeting, you can call our **HOTLINE at 360-691-2683**, or reach the board through the Mail at: P.O. Box 388, Granite Falls, WA 98252

This board already donates much of their personal time serving this community, without having their private lives interrupted. Please be considerate and use the meetings, **HOTLINE**, mail, or email to conduct business. All inquiries are responded to in a timely manner.

Also if you have complaints or criticisms, please bring them to the monthly meeting, and be sure to also bring helpful suggestions and solutions.



## County Increases Fee for Filing Liens

By RSCC BOD

Snohomish County Officials have recently increased the filing fees for placing liens from \$40 to \$62. This increase in cost will automatically be rolled over into the debt incurred by delinquent homeowners, who have not paid their dues and assessments, and for whom liens have been placed.

At this time there is \$25,000 in outstanding debt owed to this Association for unpaid dues and assessments. If you have a debt, the worst thing you can do is be silent. The Board does everything in its power to work with property owners to set up manageable payment plans. Only property owners who refuse to make arrangements, or those who have failed to comply with the arrangements that have been made, have had liens placed against them. To contact our Treasurer to make arrangements please submit a payment plan via email to [info@rsconline.org](mailto:info@rsconline.org). Your email will be printed and put into your account file. Please keep in mind that all debt must be paid in full prior to April 30<sup>th</sup> 2009. Interest may be added once a full month has passed and payment has not been received.

## Washington state fish biologists say the *biggest* Pink Salmon run since the 1960s will roll into Puget Sound, and up many rivers, during the late Summer– Fall of 2009

The Pink Salmon run on the Stillaguamish River will be enormous with 392,000 pinks expected! Pink salmon are easy to catch, hard-fighting, tasty fish, but anglers should not dawdle when the runs arrive in Puget Sound in late July. After all these fish only arrive every other year! They are only good to fish in August and September. ***But even if you are not an angler the Salmon run is a sight to behold. Salmon can be seen swimming upstream through swallow areas of the river. After the fish lay their eggs they will begin to die off, the river banks will be littered with thousands of carcasses. These decaying fish bring a variety of wildlife to our shores including large numbers of Bald Eagles, raccoons, and bear. Even numbers of seagulls from the sound have been seen this far inland to feast along the riverbanks in October and November.***

Puget Sound anglers wallowed in great fishing for pink salmon during the late summer of 2007, when an estimated 3.3 million fish returned to bays and rivers, such as the Puyallup, Green, Snohomish and Skagit, Stillaguamish. Pinks - which average about 3 to 5 pounds - also crammed into rivers that hadn't seen the small salmon for decades. The 2009 run, at 5 million pinks, promises lights-out fishing - if the fish return as predicted. Biology Puget Sound Pinks return to Puget sound after spending two years in the Pacific Ocean before returning to fresh water to spawn, so the offspring of the massive 2007 run are expected to start prowling Puget Sound beaches in late July of 2009. Puget Sound pink salmon runs are growing in size, said Kyle Adicks, Washington Fish and Wildlife salmon biologist. Pink salmon are the smallest and most abundant of Pacific salmon species. Pink salmon spawn in rivers very close to saltwater, and the young pinks immediately head for saltwater for their two-year round trip to the North Pacific Ocean and back.

### **Pinks in Puget Sound Saltwater**

Pink salmon migrate close to the surface, and big schools of fish prowl South Puget Sound beaches - particularly spots in and near Commencement Bay near Tacoma. Beachfront parks, such as Dash Point State Park and Browns Point Lighthouse Park, are good spots to wade into Puget Sound and cast a fly or lure to huge schools of snappy pink salmon. Pink salmon are very aggressive, and they are chrome bright, hard-fighting fish. Fly anglers cast small pink flies, such as Clouser Minnows, and slowly retrieve them in areas with schools of pink salmon. A strike usually comes quickly. Just about any pink fly, including Woolly Buggers and Comets, will work. Sometimes the fish prefer green or chartreuse shades. Lure anglers cast small, pink spoons and retrieve them very slowly. Anglers can catch and release up to 40 fish a day. One or two fish are often cleaned right after they are caught and then put on ice in a cooler. Pinks are tasty fare if they are kept cool before cooking.

### **Pink Salmon Fishing in Rivers**

Fishing a river while 1 million or more pinks are rumbling upstream is a wild sight. The fish, which begin changing into spawning body shape soon after hitting fresh water, sometimes fill the river and even bump into the legs of wading anglers. Male pink salmon are often called "Humpies" - for the large hump that develops on their backs. Anglers usually use drift tackle and fish Corkie and Yarn rigs for pink salmon in freshwater. Fly anglers try to find slower sections of the river, and they then cast pink flies, such as Woolly Buggers and let them swing downstream through the schools of fish. Fly anglers may need to use a sink-tip line to get down bottom-hugging pinks in fast water. Once the pinks get toward the end of their journey they do not feed at all.

## Out of Sight – Out of Mind – How to Maintain a Healthy Septic System

**If you are living in Rainbow Springs you have a Septic System.** Because most of us don't see it on a daily basis we usually don't think about what we are putting into our septic system. If you make an effort to think about what goes down your drains, your septic system will stay healthy, and you'll avoid a costly system failure. Since the soil in Granite Falls has high levels of rock and clay we must do more to help our systems function properly.

Everything that goes down your drains from your toilet, showers, sinks, dishwasher, washing machine either ends up in your septic system, or makes its way into your soil. Here are some steps to keeping your system healthy and functioning.

Avoid using Garbage Disposals if you are on septic. Instead, compost or bag up food waste for trash removal. If a garbage disposal is used you will need to have your septic system cleaned out every other year. Food Grease that goes down the drain will not only coat the linings of your pipes but will end up in your septic tank and can cause system failure. The best way to avoid huge plumbing bills is to heat the grease until it is liquid, pour into a jar or container, seal and dispose of in the trash. To clean grease from pots or pans, heat the pan and wipe out with paper towels and bag up the paper towels in the trash. **DO NOT** pour grease down the drain. Grease can plug up your system and your drain field.

Avoid using chlorine bleach. Bleach destroys the bacteria needed to break down waste in your septic system. Using Bio-degradable soaps will lengthen the life of your system. Hazardous chemicals and harsh household cleaners also inhibit your systems ability to break down waste and will eventually end up in your soil. Instead of ammonia, use vinegar and water to wash windows and counters. Never dispose of solvents, acetone, oil or paint thinners down your drains. These contaminants can leach into your drain field and soil.

Avoid overloading your system with large amounts of rinse water by spreading out your laundry loads throughout the week. Only run your dishwasher when you have a full load. Space out showers. Take shorter showers and use eco-friendly soap.

If entertaining a large crowd in a short period of time, rent a chemical toilet instead of overwhelming your system. It is recommended that an average family of four, with a 1000 gallon septic tank should have their septic system pumped every 3 years, minimum.

Do not flush diapers, baby wipes, plastic, or sanitary items down your toilet. These items do not break down and can clog your system, and lead to a costly septic tank cleaning.

Divert roof drains and storm water runoff away from the drain field area. Excess water reduces the capacity of the drain field to absorb effluent. Do not park vehicles on your drain field, this will compact the soil and reduce its absorbency.

Don't cover the surface of the drain field with decks, buildings, concrete or other impermeable materials. Such coverings reduce the supply of oxygen to the soil and the soil's evaporation capacity, which will in turn cause improper functioning of the drain field.

Avoid flushing the toilet (until absolutely necessary) during power outages. Without power, pumps cannot pump fluids from septic tank to your drain field. The junction box valves can become flooded and cause a system failure and a costly repair.

Don't rapidly drain a pool or hot tub water into septic systems, or drain fields. They are not designed to handle large volumes of chlorinated water in a short period of time. Before draining, allow chlorine level to drop to .5 or lower and the water temperature to fall to 70°F. Drain slowly over a period of three to four days, to avoid overwhelming your drain field.

Thousands of common household products contain toxic ingredients. Drain cleaners, oven cleaners, motor oil, anti-freeze, ammonia, bleach, paints, paint removers, solvents, and pesticides. Improperly used or disposed of, these chemicals will reach our creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, Puget Sound and even underground aquifers that provide our drinking water. It's up to us to stem the flow of these toxins into our waters. These toxins can pass through our septic systems and go unchanged into our soil and water. They eventually will make their way into Puget Sound, and next thing you know shellfish and marine life is affected. These toxins end up on our dinner-plates in shell fish and fish, with high levels of carcinogens. We end up ingesting these carcinogens. We all need to do our part to be responsible for maintaining healthy septic systems and water tables.

For information about disposal of hazardous waste collection days, or permanent collection sites near you, call **1-800-RECYCLE**

## Culvert Replacement STILL Awaiting Final Approval by County – By Floyd Smith

The Culvert Replacement Project has been stalled repeatedly. Our engineer met all the environmental studies and requirements in the design process, submitted plans, and filed permits in a timely manner. We were given construction bids by several different construction firms. The final bid was accepted. Our Engineer met with the Planning Commission on July 15<sup>th</sup> and we have been waiting ever since to move forward with the Culvert Replacement Project. The road culvert permit application and the outlet decommissioning application have been reviewed and first comments have been sent back to our engineer for amendments. This information will then be sent back to the county for further evaluation. Bureaucracy takes time.

## Ancillary Drain Decommissioning Postponed

By Annette Blandino BOD Trustee

Two years ago the State Dam Commission mandated that we either fix, replace, or decommission the Ancillary Drain on our lake. At the Annual meeting 2 years ago, it was decided that the best route would be to decommission it. In the 2 ensuing years we have been bogged down in a never ending series of prerequisites set by the State Department of Ecology. We were given until September of 2009 to complete this mandated project.

We were required to hire an engineer to draw up the plans according to Department of Ecology specifications. Our engineer had to apply for numerous permits and studies. A number of ecology water, plant and wildlife studies that had to be completed. JARPA permits had to be applied for. The amount of time that each permit has taken to be processed has extended the project beyond the original deadline set by the state. We are currently waiting to hear from the County on the status of our permit. Once we do, we will file for an extension for the project completion.

December of 2007 we collected the first of two needed assessments to complete this mandated project. We are currently accepting construction bids, and will be expecting the second special assessment will need to be collected next year.

At this time the Association has utilized the first part of the special assessment collected for this project, on required Department of Ecology studies, permits, and engineering plans.

## Holiday Lights Contest Returns this December

Judging for the Holiday Lights Contest will take place on Wed. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> and will include three categories.

**“MOST LIGHTS”, “MOST CREATIVE”, & “BEST THEME”**



**Gate Remote Controls  
are available at our  
monthly meetings  
for \$15 each  
Smaller keychain  
sized remotes  
NOW available!**

**Gate will remain  
CLOSED on  
Halloween  
Drive safely and  
watch for Trick or  
Treaters**



**BE PREPARED**

Be ready for Fall and Winter storms. NOW is the time to make sure that you are prepared for weather related emergencies. Have enough food and water stored for your family to survive several days if stranded. Have a stock of new batteries, flashlights and warm blankets on hand. Don't forget to have a supply of any needed prescriptions. A Battery operated radio will keep you connected to weather updates. And don't forget the pet food!

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**Check out our community website**

<http://www.rscconline.org>

**Calendar of Upcoming Events****October 2009**

- Wed. Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM; Monthly BOD Meeting @ Granite Falls Fire Station #17
- Sat. Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> - Halloween - GATE CLOSED

**November 2009**

- Wed. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM; Monthly BOD Meeting @ Granite Falls Fire Station #17 - one week early due to the Thanksgiving Holiday

**DECEMBER 2009**

- Wed. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Lights Contest Judging
- Wed. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 PM - Monthly BOD Meeting @ Granite Falls Fire Station # 17
- Friday December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day

**January 2010**

- Friday Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> - New Years Day
- Wed. Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM; Monthly BOD Meeting @ Granite Falls Fire Station #17

**URGENT: Important Information Inside**

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