



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

RSCC sent out the Paving Assessment Feb. of 2016, but to date we still have not received all of the funds from that special assessment. This is one reason the Assoc. decided to send overdue accounts to collections.

The Board of Directors voted last summer to go ahead and pave as much as funds would allow. The paving contractor however was not able to fit us into the schedule for 2017 and instructed that an additional seam must be avoided. An additional seam creates a weak point in the road, and seams are prone to leaking which will undermine the road bed. Due to these circumstances, paving was postponed to make the best use of community funds & achieve optimum results with the funds available.

The contractor will be coming out soon for another inspection of our roads, to verify costs, and to put us on the Spring Paving schedule. Once we are on their schedule, the lot owners will be notified, in the event that any lot owners would like to obtain quotes to pave their own driveways.

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Annual Shareholders

Business Meeting

Sat. April 21st – 1:00PM

Granite Falls Eagles

402 N. Granite Ave.

Mark your calendars! Only Association Members may attend. All Members in Good standing are invited to review and vote on the 2018-19 Annual Budget. All agenda items must be received by the BOD, in writing, by Saturday April 14th

Parking Pass Policy

This last summer fewer cars that parked at our River Park illegally, were towed than during previous summers. We are hoping that the word is getting out to the outsiders who think it is okay to trespass and use our beach. We still had had a number of violators, and a few angry confrontations. If you see a car parked without the required parking pass you can call **360-691-2683** and report it. Be aware that direct confrontation with the violator may led to violence. Even a Sheriff's Deputy has been assaulted by a violator in the past. If you live here and have guests who use the beach you **MUST** accompany them. It is never allowed to just invite outsiders to use our facilities when you are not present with them. A current valid parking pass must be displayed on all vehicles at our parks. Only lot owners in good standing are awarded parking passes. Vehicles moved to the top of the hill during flooding events are never towed, but should be removed as soon as the flood danger has subsided.

New Revised Financial Policy

The Board of Directors has changed its financial policy to include using a professional collections agency to collect debts that have been difficult to collect. This summer the Association entered into a contract with EACM. In the past, the Association's "debt to income" ratio has been far too high. Despite monthly invoicing, the addition of late fees, and filing liens. Far too many people have chosen to ignore paying their Annual Dues. From now on those debts will be sent directly to collections. EACM has at its disposal more effective means of collection, such as garnishing wages, reporting the credit bureaus, and court actions in the form of lawsuits. Once debts are sold to EACM we can no longer discuss that debt with the debtor.

It is noteworthy to state that each month all debts are reviewed by the entire Board of Directors. It is the Board of Directors which determines which accounts will be liened, and which accounts will be sent to collections. It is not the duty of the Business Operations manager to make those determinations. It is also noteworthy that according to state laws, accounts can be sent to collections without prior notice or warning. If you receive a warning notice, consider that to be the last step before your account gets sold to EACM. According to our Bylaws, accounts which are 90 days in arrears are eligible for liens and collection efforts.

If you are facing a genuine financial crisis and need extra time to pay your dues, you can request a payment plan. Those persons will have 6 months to pay off their account by making monthly payments. Keep in mind that if you miss a payment, the agreement becomes null and void, and you will be subject to collections. If you are unable to pay your dues on time, the worst thing you can do is ignore your monthly invoice. You should contact the Association immediately. Some members have chosen to pay their dues ahead of time by making smaller monthly payments of \$20.00 or more. Which may be easier than one large payment. To set up a payment plan or to ask further questions you can call the Hotline at **360-691-2683**.

Livestock & Chicken Ban

There is a misconception in RSCC that owning Chickens is allowed, and does not affect anyone. At the 2016 Annual Shareholders Meeting a vote was taken whether we should bring rule 22's Livestock Ban to vote, to allow residents to keep chickens. That vote was a tie. According to the Bylaws the Board of Directors establishes the rules and regulations. But since the vote was tied, the Board decided to take Rule 22 to a vote to find out just how many people wanted to raise chickens in RSCC. The rule was voted on in December 2016 and the ban was upheld by a significant majority of the shareholders. Almost two to one were against allowing chickens.

Since then, several residents have chosen to ignore the outcome of that vote. Even the voting process has been criticized. The BOD followed the Bylaws to the letter, and only those shareholders who pay their dues, were allowed to vote. Shareholders who do not contribute to the community by paying their dues, do not have a voice or a vote. The very people who are now criticizing the voting process, are the very people who asked that we take the issue to a vote to begin with, and are now refusing to abide by the outcome of the vote, and of the will of the majority.

Please note that people on payment plans with an outstanding debt to the community were ineligible to vote. At the time of the vote the number of people on payment plans was not enough to have changed the outcome, had every one of them been allowed to vote.

Also, the Board of Directors delayed the vote until Dec. to allow even more people the opportunity to pay their dues, and become eligible to weigh in.

The subject is settled and the voice of the significant majority has been heard. The ban was upheld. Those who refuse to comply are in violation, and are now subject to legal actions.

It is also very important to state that the number of people calling, and writing in to complain about chickens, rat problems, noise and chicken smells, and even damage caused by rats gnawing on structures has increased greatly. These people are being directly impacted by their neighbors who are in violation of Rule 22. There is a reason there is a ban of chickens in both Rainbow Springs and Blue Spruce. It impacts neighbors and creates conflicts.



New Board Members

This year at our Annual Shareholders Meeting 4 new Board of Directors Trustees were voted onto the Board of Directors by shareholders in attendance. The appointments filled 4 vacancies created when former Board Members moved away, or retired. The new members include: Marty Shoos, Pete Weinert, Stephen Moore and Susie Martin. Since that vote Stephen Moore has stepped down and there is currently one opening on the Board.

The Board of Directors meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the IGA Café, at 6:30PM, The meetings are for the specific purpose of the Board of Directors conducting the Business of Rainbow Springs. Shareholders may attend, and may bring new business for Board's consideration. Only Property owners whose names appear on the property summary at the county, and spouses or legal partners are permitted to have a voice, at the Board meetings.

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

www.rscconline.org



Use caution when using our parks

Sadly, it is becoming more and more common to find used syringes in our parks. All persons walking in our parks should be aware of the danger in our own neighborhood. Should you find a used syringe, take care to place it inside a can or bottle and take it to Rite Aid where they will dispose of it properly in a Sharps container. DO NOT throw it in the trash. That only endangers those who dispose of our garbage. Parents, educate your children to not handle syringes when found. Find an adult to help safely remove it.

Parties & Family Reunions

Occasionally requests come in to the Association to reserve our River Park and overflow parking lot for family Reunions and Birthday Parties. For those special events the Association gives out One-Day-Only Provisional Parking Permits for guests attending those events. Call the Hotline to reserve your event. **360-691-2683**

Children playing in the road

Rule # 20 in our Rules and Regs state:

No blocking traffic on roadway.

In a neighborhood without park equipment or sidewalks, children playing in the roads is inevitable. Parents should supervise them closely, and remind them that the primary use of the roads is to move traffic. Children should always yield to traffic. Drivers should **slow down**, and always be alert and watch out for children and pets.

The speed limit is 15 MPH

Easements

Rule # 16 in our Rules and Regs state:

Each lot owner shall keep the 60 foot road right-of-way in front of their lot or lots clear of brush and trees.

Although the easements are corporately owned and are the property of the Assoc., each lot owner is required to keep the trees and brush in the easements in front of their lots cleared for visibility for drivers. The easements don't belong to each resident, but they must maintain them. Winter is a great time to clear brush and prune back vegetation.

VOLUNTEERS

This year's Volunteer Work Day was well publicized and yet out of 220 lots we only had a total of 7 adults and 2 children show up to work. We would like to recognize those who contributed to a better community this year. Thank you!

Kevin Hayes - Work Party volunteer – Board Trustee– weed whacking crew around dam spillway and area of old ancillary drain, cleared path from the shed to the lake, cleans the spillway on a regular basis, adjusts stop logs to regulate lake level, website administrator, gate administrator.

Marianne Romona – Work Party Volunteer – weed wacked entrance, painted speed bumps, pressure washed picnic tables, Bulletin Board

Jacob Bruce – Work Party Volunteer, Weed Wacked dam, took trash load to the dump

Amanda, Caleb and Anna Bruce – Work Party, roadside & parks trash pick up, Amanda is also a Board Trustee

John Yauger – Work Party Volunteer - Weed wacked entrance, resurfaced lid on decommissioned Ancillary Drain, road repair of pot holes

Annette Blandino – Work Party Volunteer, trash pick-up at entrance, Washed all traffic signs, keyboard, and entrance posts, Weed wacked entrance, road repair of pot holes, limbed the trees approaching the first stop sign

John Angel – Work Party Volunteer, Board V.P.

Pete Wienert – Work Party Volunteer – Board Trustee, cleaned beach, took a load to the dump,

Stephen Moore – Work Party Volunteer, Board Trustee -provided a truck and generator

Bob Carmody – Repaired broken post and hardware at River overflow parking lot, dug drainage on entrance hill.

Kenny Jans – Board Trustee, constructed new lid for Ancillary Drain, cleans spillway and adjust stop logs

Jason Hollinger, & Zeke Kingsley – mowed tall grass on easement along 167th

Matt Gaylor – Cut brush in easement on 167

Susie & Casey Martin – Susie is a Board Trustee and Casey cleans the spillway regularly and mows the easement

Marty Schoos – Board Trustee – regularly salts icy roads

Alex Rice – Filled a large pot hole near the bus stop.

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

Q: My neighbor's property is a junkyard. It impacts my homes value and there are rats everywhere. Can the board do anything?

A: Unfortunately, the board has no jurisdiction on how residents maintain their property. Our Bylaws and rules do not address that issue. If you believe they are in violation of county codes 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. You can go online to the county site and report infractions at:

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

Be persistent. It can difficult to get the county to enforce their codes. As for the rats, try calling the Snohomish County Health District and ask them to assist you. Or speak to the county Ombudsman.

Q: We voted to have horse shoe pits installed, what ever happened to that?

A: The Association was approached by a RSCC member who volunteered to install horse shoe pits at his own cost. We had to take it to a community vote since it was a common- area usage issue. The vote came back overwhelmingly for accepting the offer that was made. Since then, the Board has reached out to that individual several times with no response from him. So, now unless someone else wants to volunteer and step forward to donate the horse shoe pits it is not currently a budgeted item.

Q: I tried to join the Nextdoor RSCC site but they would not let me join. I have owned a lot here for over 40 years! They say it is uncensored but I could not join.

A: You must be referring to the Nextdoor or RSCC Uncensored Facebook page which by no means are official site for Rainbow Springs. The Administrator has no affiliation with Rainbow Springs and the views expressed there are not the official views of Rainbow Springs Board of Directors.

Q: My neighbor cleared all the vegetation from the Protected Natural Wildlife area along the lake. What can be done?

A: Again, the Association has no recourse for County violations. You can go online and file a complaint, if you believe they are in violation.

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

Q: On Sun. Oct. 22nd a neighbor fired over 40 shots from his deck. We called the sheriff and they did nothing because he denied it. There were many witnesses. Can anything be done?

A: The Rules and Regulations for the HOA do not allow the discharge of firearms. RSCC is not part of the county wide restricted shooting area, so unless there is endangerment to others, reckless disregard for others safety or the person handling the firearm is intoxicated – there isn't anything the Sheriff can do.

ASK RSCC – by RSCC Board of Directors – continued.

Q: My neighbor burns garbage fires regularly with thick black acrid chemical smelling smoke. I called the fire department but by the time they came out he had put it out. I know it's not legal to burn trash, what can be done?

A: Burning garbage is always illegal! Next time grab your camera before you call the Fire Department to report it. If you can prove it they can probably do something about it. The smoke is usually dark black when plastic is being burned. You can also file an online complaint.

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

Q: Last week two of my neighbors had recreational fires in the evening. Both of them went inside and left them burning without any supervision. Isn't that illegal?

A: While a small recreational fire is allowed in a 3 foot metal or block pit it must be supervised. They should be extinguished if they decide to go inside.

Q: My neighbor's dog barks all day when they are not home. It wakes my infant up from her nap. do we have a rule against that?

A: Sadly no, there is no rule that RSCC can enforce dealing with barking or nuisance dogs. Best to call animal control at: **425-338-3440** or you can file an online complaint: <https://petlicense.snoco.org/petcomplaints> you might want to make an audio file or a video if you can. Animal control often asks for photo/video evidence.

Q: Weekly I get misdirected mail and I have called the Post Office but it keeps happening.

A: We all feel your pain. We have all been there. When the Post Office is called they often say it is the work of mail thieves. Recently a board member took the misdirected mail into the Arlington Post Office and when they said it was the work of mail thieves mixing up the mail, she proved them wrong because the mail in question was from different people from different streets all of whom had locking mail boxes, and she also has a locking mailbox, so it was impossible that it was the work of thieves, and it was misdirected. Be persistent and complain to the manager.

Q: We are brand new to the river community. Is there anything we should know?

A: Since your house is not raised up, make sure you have enough flood insurance. Have a plan, make you plan now before floods occur, Watch the River levels. Watch the weather. Add the app to your phone that warns of sudden flooding. Know your neighbors. You may need them in an emergency. Have a plan for your dogs and cats should sudden flooding occur while you are away at work. Give a key to family member or trusted neighbor in case your pets need rescuing. Move vehicles up to the upper park when flooding is eminent. Know how to turn off the power. Have copies of vital documents and contact info stored on a thumb drive or hard copies offsite. Store family photos where they can't be harmed. Flood stage is 14 feet but the river has been at 23 feet where your home is. Keep a bug-out bag packed and ready. Have everything you need should you have to re-locate temporarily. Line up an emergency place to stay with friends or family well ahead of time, keeping your pets in mind. Store valuables and electronics high out of the reach of water. Remember that anything you have outside may be taken away by the river. Stacks of firewood, lawn furniture, everything. Sign up to have a flood alert sent to your cellphone.

http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert/subscribe2/index.html?site_no=12161000&parm=00060,00065

Senior Citizen/Disabled Persons Property Tax Programs

Are you suffering from sticker shock brought on by recent increases in your property tax bill? If you are a senior with no children in public schools and are on a low, fixed pension, or are disabled, there are programs that can help you. You might be able to get your tax burden decreased or exempted depending upon your income.

For a Detailed Explanation of the Programs Please Consult the State Brochures Listed Below, go to the county assessors site and view these publications.

Exemption - <http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/documentcenter/view/1387>

Deferral - <http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/documentcenter/view/1385>

Prohibition Comes to Granite Falls – Strange Local History

– From the book Monte Cristo by Philip R. Woodhouse

The following excerpt highlights just one of the challenges facing the building of the Monte Cristo Railroad in September of 1882.

To keep the construction camps free of the usual problems caused by liquor, the Snohomish County Commissioners banned the sale of alcohol along the railroad and posted signs which warned of the penalties awaiting those caught in this act. However, the prohibition was not always strictly enforced, and that fact caused the local people on one occasion to assert their indignation at the flaunting of the law by taking matters into their own hands. A man named Monnohan operated a saloon and dance hall of ill repute just north of Granite Falls near the railroad right-of-way. One September day, having lost all patience with him, a large group of residents, many of them armed, descended upon his establishment, forcibly ejected him and his help, and warned him to seek employment elsewhere. The mob then demolished everything breakable in sight: windows, mirrors, chairs, and tables. After venting their rage in this manner, they attached a large charge of dynamite and destroyed the building. Having thus settled one problem, the crowd marched to another local business which catered to the same trade, and advised the proprietor to be gone within 24 hours or suffer the same fate. He left.

Drivers: Remember to watch for children walking to school or near the bus stops.



Check out our community website

<http://www.rscconline.org>

Calendar of Upcoming Events

MARCH 2018

- Wed March. 21st – @ 5:30 PM - Board of Directors Annual Budget Workshop

APRIL 2018

- Sat. April. 21st – ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING – 1:00 PM – G.F. Eagles

MAY 2018

- Wed May 16th – @ 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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