

RSCC NEWS



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

<http://www.rscconline.org> info@rscconline.org

Beautification Project

As most of you have noticed the fencing around the Lake and River Parks has been replaced with landscaping boulders. The old posts have been rotted for many years, and the cable was hazardous, and in need of removal. Rather than replace the fence with a costlier fencing options, and to avoid a special assessment, the board decided to use landscaping boulders instead as a natural and more economical means of bordering the parks.

Please note that motorized vehicles should never be driven inside the boundaries of the park. Only maintenance vehicles are permitted to breach the boundary.

Also please be aware that the berm around the Lake should NEVER be driven on period! That is a state Department of Ecology ruling since the berm is a state registered "man made dam". Only maintenance vehicles are permitted to drive on the berm/dam. If you see anyone with a vehicle on the berm please remind them that driving on the berm violates state regulations..

Please note that the Lake does not have a boat launch and boaters must portage their boats from below the berm manually, and they should not drive on the berm. The same applies to people fishing at the lake. Vehicles need to be parked in the parking lot and fisherman can walk the short distance to the lake.

Inside This Issue

Beautification Project	1
Parking Permits/ Annual Dues	1
Vandalism	2
Thank You Corner	2
Loose and Aggressive dogs	3
Moving? / Fire Commissioner Election	4
Crime in Rainbow Springs	4
River Safety	5
Local Non-native Invasive Animals	6
Guest Editorial	7
Signs/ Calendar of Upcoming Events	8

New 2013 – 2014 Parking Permits

The new parking permits have been issued to all residents who have paid their 2013-2014 Annual Dues. Vehicles not displaying the permits while parked at our common areas, Lake or River Parks are in jeopardy of being towed at the owner's expense.

Two permits are issued to each lot owner. If you need more permits for multiple vehicle families, please contact the board at 360-691-2683. The cost for additional permits is \$2.50 each.

Lot owners who are renting their property are responsible for getting their parking permits to their renters. Only lot owners in good standing are eligible for parking permits.

2013-2014 Annual Due\$

The 2013-2014 Annual Dues have been invoiced. If you are having a hard time financially, payment plans are available. The worst thing you can do is ignore your Annual Dues bill. If you are not able to pay your bill, call immediately to arrange for a payment plan. Ignoring your bill will cause costly liens, late fees and attorney fees to be added to your existing amount due. ***The board has kept the amount of dues the same for the last 7 years,*** even though operating costs have risen. Please call **360-691-2683** to make payment arrangements

Vandalism

Vandalism in Rainbow Springs costs each individual lot owner. Vandalism is a crime. This year vandals have pried the seating board off one of the benches at the Lake Park, and thrown it into the lake. Vandals have also destroyed the sign at the River Park. The lid boards on the old Ancillary Drain at the Lake Park have been pried off the concrete vault, and thrown into the lake. Signs are routinely knocked over and the drivers never alert the association of the damage. Posts and signs at the gate have been tagged. Last winter a thoughtless person breeched the fencing around the Lake Park and did donuts in the soft turf with a 4 x 4. The ruts they left were very deep and the area had to be reseeded. This board has been very frugal with stretching your dues by only providing the most necessary maintenance, in these challenging economic times. The damage also costs this board valuable time to repair. With so little lot owner participation, the repair of Rainbow Springs vandalism is done by a precious few. If you are the parent of a youth that is bored and has nothing to do, please have a talk with them about the cost of vandalism. If you see anyone vandalizing property please call the Sherriff Dept. immediately and report it. Please also notify the Association of the damage.

Thank You Corner

Genuine and heartfelt thanks to Board Members Kevin Hayes, John Angell, and resident Kenny Jans for keeping the gate operating smoothly. Also thank you Kevin for always re-installing knocked down road signs.

Twice over the last few months longtime resident John Yauger was seen cleaning up the entrance to Rainbow Springs. John removed garbage, and weed-wacked the area around the gate and sign.

Thank you John.

A special thank you to Brian Birdsall for always maintaining the entrance and easement to track B. It is always nicely mowed and looks great. Thanks Brian!

Thank you to Mike and Tennille Halsen for asking people to not drive on the Lake Park Berm around the lake.

Thank you to Casey Martin for maintaining the strainer at the Lake Park.

Thank you to Tracy Tra for picking up garbage as you go on walks around Rainbow Springs.

Thank you to all volunteers for taking initiative, and having pride in our community. If you see a resident doing a good deed please let us know so we can post a thank you. Please be aware that each lot owner is responsible for maintaining the easement along the front of their property. The area is to be kept clear and free of vegetation, junk and, vision restricting vehicles.

Loose and Aggressive Dogs are still a problem in Rainbow Springs

By far the number one complaint that comes in to the RSCC hotline, and email is: **“loose and aggressive dogs roaming around Rainbow Springs”**. It has become impossible for responsible dog owners to walk their dogs on leash in certain areas of Rainbow Springs. Please be aware that Rainbow Springs lies within the jurisdiction of Snohomish County laws, and the leash law is enforceable in our private home owners association. There have been repeated complaints about a younger black lab mix and a cattle dog running loose throughout Rainbow Springs. The areas that seem to have the most problems and reports are the roads along the river, 117th and 166th. Also, the end of 118th and 119th seems to have a variety of loose dogs roaming.

Don't be a thoughtless dog owner. Be a responsible dog owner! You may think that your pet is a loving and non-aggressive dog, but in the presence of other dogs, or people walking their dogs, all bets are off. You can never be certain how your pet will react in every situation.

If you see a loose dog you should report it to Snohomish County Animal Control as soon as possible. They will want to know breed type, color, nearest location address, time and date. You can also report the owner if you know who it is. You can remain anonymous if you prefer.

If you are a dog owner that lets your pet roam free please note that you will receive a nice fine for violating the leash law. You may also be fined if your pet does not have a current valid dog license when the Animal Control Officer comes. If your dog attacks another dog or bites a person, it will be quarantined by Animal Control, and you will be fined and possibly sued by the victim. You may also be at risk of having your dog euthanized if it is found to be aggressive. Recently a dog owner in Everett was jailed because her dog attacked 4 people over a period of time. Don't let that happen to you. For more information you can access a pamphlet at the following site:

<http://sheriff.snoco.org/Documents/JulAug10.pdf>

An online complaint can be filed at the following site:

http://web5.co.snohomish.wa.us/AuditorApps/AudComp_PublicEntry/AudComp-05-EnterCompData.asp

Call the Animal Control Services Hotline **(425) 388-3440**– For barking dogs, nuisance dogs, suspected animal neglect, leash law violations, livestock at large or situations not requiring immediate assistance call the hotline. For more serious situations such as a dog attack in progress, or dog bites please call the Snohomish County Sherriff immediately at **911**

Go to our Website at <http://www.rscconline.org> for a copy of the 2013-2014 Annual Budget

MOVING?

If you are a property owner who has decided to move out of Rainbow Springs, and instead rent your property, please notify the HOA of your decision, and please provide an alternate mailing address where you can be contacted. Thank you!



Vote for Our Fire Commissioner Kevin Hayes

Rainbow Springs own Kevin Hayes is running for Fire Commissioner. Kevin is running as our incumbent Fire Commissioner. His expertise and experience is needed now more than ever. Kevin has worked tirelessly on the new Fire Station Project. He would appreciate your vote so he can finish the work he has begun. Kevin has many years of experience as a first responder in Fire and in Law Enforcement. Kevin has worked as a volunteer Board Member of RSCC for many years. **Re-elect Incumbent Kevin Hayes for Granite Falls Fire Commissioner.**

Reports of Crime in Rainbow Springs

There have been several reports of theft in Rainbow Springs over the last few months. A Board Member witnessed a package being stolen from his property immediately after it was delivered by Federal Express. A small white vehicle was spotted and reported to law enforcement. If you are expecting a package to be delivered while you are at work, you may want to re-think that. Please be aware that thieves follow Fed Ex, and UPS trucks into Rainbow Springs and remove packages that are left on porches. Have your package delivered to an address or to your place of employment where it can be signed for, and the delivery can be tracked. Also note that several people have had mail missing from non-locking mailboxes.

Also there have been home break-ins during broad daylight. If you have recently moved into a home in Rainbow Springs please *change all your locks!* You have no idea what extra keys may be floating around. Be sure to secure all your doors and windows. Install CCV cameras if you can. Many security companies are available to monitor your property while you are not home. Be especially vigilant about open windows during the summer months. Secure all your vehicles as well. Car prowls are an ongoing problem. Use your garage to park in, if you can. If not, be sure and lock all your car doors and windows. A car alarm can help thwart a prowler. Never leave anything visible in your car that would tempt a car prowler. Please be vigilant and report any suspicious behavior to law enforcement immediately – call 911. Know which cars belong to your neighbors. Use lighting at night and motion detecting spotlights. The best security is alert and vigilant neighbors.

River Park Etiquette – When using the River Park beach please pack out any garbage with you. Bottle, cans, and glass are a hazard to people, pets, and the environment – Thank You!

River Safety – Beautiful But Deadly - Every year, several people drown in Snohomish County rivers, lakes and creeks. The Snohomish County Sheriff's Technical Water Rescue team responds to an average 18-20 calls per year. Snohomish County Search and Rescue and Technical Water Rescue team require their members to wear life jackets and river helmets when near *moving* water. Snohomish County Search and Rescue is staffed by volunteers who train constantly to respond to water and mountain emergencies. The Technical Water Rescue team is staffed by 10 full time deputy sheriffs who train 24 days per year in diving search and rescue and recovery skills.



Snohomish County

is home to some of the most beautiful rivers and mountains in the Pacific Northwest. The Sauk, Stillaguamish, Pilchuck, Skykomish, Sultan, and Sno-homish rivers have created canyons and flatlands. They present vast recreational opportunities – fishing, kayak-ing, rafting, and other activities. Rivers can be dangerous. With each high water, flood, or summer melt, trees, branches, and debris are moved around in the river, creating snags and strainers. A person caught in a snag (single tree or root ball) or strainer (multiple trees and branches) will be pinned by the force of the river current. River channels may change with the season, becoming more powerful in some areas. Each year people drown in Snohomish County rivers. Many do not realize they are in a

Knowing River Danger

- ☒ **Moving water** presents many dangers, some hidden.
- ☒ **Currents** – even a mild current is extremely powerful. The force of moving water can pin a person's leg against a rock in mid stream, leaving them stranded.
- ☒ **Snags** – these are single trees or root balls in the river.
- ☒ **Strainers** – a strainer is just that – trees, branches, and debris that has current moving through them. The water can pass through, but large objects, people, cannot. A raft, kayak, or person will be pinned against the strainer and stay there.

Dangerous Waters

- ☒ Some sections of Snohomish County rivers are so dangerous they should be avoided. Boulder

Safety at the Rivers

- ☒ **Always wear a life jacket** on the river. Never go near moving water without one.
- ☒ **Wear a river helmet.** River banks and rocks are usually slippery. A fall can knock you unconscious and prevent you from being able to save yourself from a one way trip downstream. *(You can buy the above safety items at your local sporting goods stores.)*
- ☒ **Consider bringing a whistle.** If you are in trouble, it could help alert nearby people.
- ☒ **Snohomish County Code Requires life jackets and helmets on any watercraft on the Stillaguamish, and Skykomish from the area of Big Eddy to the river's source. You can be cited for violating this code. (SCC 10.32)**
- ☒ Don't go into a river without training and



Washington State Invasive Animals of Top Concern

The following local animals are not indigenous to Washington State and are a danger to our ecosystem;

The American Bullfrog – They're believed to have been introduced to the Western U.S. by people who wanted to eat them. Now these frogs, measuring up to 9 inches long, are chowing on smaller critters. "The problem is they eat just about anything else, including ducklings and small mice – even other bullfrogs," said Dave Pehling, a zoologist with Washington State University Extension. They're so widespread, experts see little chance of eliminating them. The frogs are considered game, so you're welcome to snack on them, if you're inclined. "And they are delicious," Pehling said. They are very large and have been seen many times in Rainbow Springs.

Nutria - Why it matters: Nutria are medium-sized rodents from South America that colonized Western Washington lakes and ponds after being brought to fur farms here in the 1930s. Their voracious appetite for roots and plant stems can destroy marshes that serve as natural flood control as well as habitat for birds and fish. They somewhat resemble beavers but have more prominent whiskers. It's largely up to landowners to trap them. "We're very concerned about Nutria, because they have them in Skagit County and they have them in King County," said Dave Pehling of WSU Extension. They have been spotted and reported in Rainbow Springs. They look like a small Beaver but have bushy whiskers and have a long rat-like tail.

Invasive Crayfish - Why it matters: The red swamp crayfish, a lobster relative, can alter the ecosystem in local lakes and streams. They out-compete the native signal crayfish. They also can harm fish populations by feeding on them and competing for food. The rusty crayfish (pictured), which has been documented in Oregon, is often used in school science kits, said Wendy Brown, executive coordinator for the Washington Invasive Species Council. Both the rusty and red swamp crayfish are from the southeastern United States. People can help prevent their spread by not using non-native crayfish as fish bait. If caught for food, invasive crayfish should be killed before being transported.

Starlings - Why it matters: Starlings out compete native species and they are a major agricultural pest. They are medium sized black birds with yellow beaks and tend to travel in huge noisy flocks. They can strip deciduous trees of all foliage.

Possoms – Believe it or not, they are not indigenous to Washington State. Why it matters: Virginia opossums, also called "possums," first arrived in Washington in the early 1900s as pets and novelties, according to the state Department of Fish and Wildlife. They later escaped and multiplied. Possums prey on native animals and eat the eggs of ground nesting birds. They are nocturnal and will hiss when cornered.

Brook Trout - Why it matters: Brook trout will eat up native and insects and amphibians. They have been reported in local streams and rivers

* Source is the Everett Herald – for a listing of more non-native species search "Invasive Animals" at the Everett Herald at www.heraldnet.com

“Are you stealing from your neighbors?” – A Guest Editorial

Name withheld at the advice of RSCC BOD

I recently asked a community member this very question. His shocked response was, “Of course not!”, and with a concerned look on his face, he added, “What makes you say that?”

I paused for a few seconds, as I reflected on his recent complaining about various things that he didn't like about the Rainbow Springs community. This primarily involved his bitching about how nothing gets done in the community, and that he didn't feel that the RSCC Board did a good job of utilizing the association dues that it collected. Knowing that there was more to this than what he had been telling me at this particular conversation, I decided to prove my point, so I started in on the following line of questioning...

“So when was that last time that you went to a board meeting?” His response was, “Never, it's a total waste of time!”

“When was the last time that you attended the RSCC Annual Shareholder's Meeting?” Like with the previous question it was, “Never, it's a total waste of my time!”

“When was the last time that you volunteered to do anything in this community?” Again, his response was, “Never!”, while adding, “The board should be paying someone else to do all of this work. My time is valuable, and I don't think that they are spending our association money wisely!”

“Have you brought up any of these concerns when you send in your annual dues payment?” “Dues!”, he shouted, “I don't pay any dues!”.

I composed myself, and firmly replied, “So let me get this straight... you live here, you don't participate in the community, and you don't pay dues?” “This means that people like me are paying for you to live in this community, while you are freeloading on both our efforts and our wallets!” “So tell me, how is that is not stealing?” He stammered, and repeated, “I am not a thief!”

Finally, in exasperation I said, “You are a thief, and you are stealing from both our community, and from me personally, and I don't want someone like you as a neighbor!” With that, he huffed and puffed and stomped off...

In Summary... Unless you are dead, there is absolutely no excuse that anyone who lives in this community should not be paying their association dues. This is especially true since the association offers payment plans. At \$220 a year, this is far less that what the average person pays for garbage collection every year. If you still think that this is expensive, some home owners associations pay this much (or more) per month!

Disclaimer

The RSCC Board (BOD) encourages honest and open dialogue from community members. When appropriate and in the best interest of the community, we will share them in that spirit, and only with your permission. Comments are shown without edits and as received. The opinions expressed by RSCC community members are theirs alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the RSCC, Inc. RSCC Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any of the information supplied by community members. RSCC Inc. is not responsible for any offense caused inadvertently through interpretation of grammar, punctuation or language. – The RSCC Board of Directors

Signs!

RSCC has been very tolerant of signs posted throughout our community. Garage Sale signs, party and event postings, and missing pet notices have become commonplace, and can become an eyesore if left up indefinitely. If you have posted a sign *PLEASE* remove your signs when your sale or event is over. Leftover signs are unsightly and can become roadside garbage.

Thank you!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 2013

- Mon. Sept. 2nd – Labor Day
- Wed. Sept. 18th – @ 6:30 PM; Monthly BOD Meeting @ Granite Falls Fire Station 86 – Getchell Station

OCTOBER 2013

- Wed. Sept. 16th – @ 6:30 PM; Monthly BOD Meeting @ Granite Falls Fire Station 86 – Getchell Station
- Thurs. Oct. 31st – Halloween the gate will remain closed

NOVEMBER 2013

- Tues. Nov. 5th – **Election Day** – Vote for **KEVIN HAYES Fire Commissioner** for Granite Falls
- Wed. Nov. 20th - @ 6:30 PM; Monthly BOD Meeting @ Granite Falls Fire Station 86 – Getchell Station
- Thurs. Nov. 28th - Thanksgiving

Rainbow Springs Community Club

P.O. Box 388

Granite Falls, WA 98252

Granite Falls, WA 98252

P.O. Box 388

Rainbow Springs Community Club

