



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

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

Burn Bans

The association has recently received calls reporting neighbors who have been burning fires in their fireplace during burn bans.

Please be aware that it is not the responsibility of the association to report such violations. If you are certain that the person is illegally burning, and their fireplace is not their only source of heat, then you should report the burning yourself by calling **911**. Do not call the RSCC Hotline.

For up to date burn ban information please go to this site:

<http://waburnbans.net/recent-burn-bans/category/snohomish/>

During a Stage 1 burn ban: No burning is allowed in wood-burning fireplaces, uncertified wood stoves or fireplace inserts. Residents should rely instead on their home's other, cleaner source of heat (such as their furnace or electric baseboard heaters) for a few days until air quality improves, the public health risk diminishes and the ban is cancelled.

- The only exception is if the homeowner has a previously approved 'No Other Adequate Source of Heat' designation from the Clean Air Agency

- No outdoor fires are allowed. This includes recreational fires such as bonfires, campfires and the use of fire pits.

- **Burn ban violations are subject to a \$1,000 penalty.** It is OK to use natural gas and propane stoves or inserts during a Stage 1 burn ban.

Inside This Issue

| | |
|--|----|
| Burn Bans | 1 |
| Multiple lots means paying multiple dues | 2 |
| RSCC Map | 3 |
| Nextdoor.com | 4 |
| Snow removal policy | 4 |
| Mail Theft, House Numbers | 5 |
| Payment arrangements | 5 |
| Top Ten Cold Weather Pet Tips | 6 |
| Winter Driving, Lake Park Trees | 7 |
| Flood warnings, Trash Burning | 7 |
| Inexpensive Ways to Protect Your Home | 8 |
| Dumping, Local History | 9 |
| Calendar of upcoming events | 10 |

Burn Bans Continued...

During a Stage 2 burn ban: No burning is allowed in **any** wood-burning fireplaces, certified or uncertified wood stoves or fireplace inserts. Residents should rely instead on their home's other, cleaner source of heat (such as their furnace or electric baseboard heaters) for a few days until air quality improves, the public health risk diminishes and the ban is canceled.

- The only exception is if the homeowner has a previously approved "No Other Adequate Source of Heat" designation from the Clean Air Agency

- No outdoor fires are allowed. This includes recreational fires such as bonfires, campfires and the use of fire pits.

- **Burn ban violations are subject to a \$1,000 penalty.**

It is OK to use natural gas and propane stoves or inserts during a Stage 2 burn ban

Owning Multiple Lots Means paying Multiple due\$

In the last Newsletter we answered the following question:

Q: Why do I have to pay multiple dues for owning multiple lots?

A: Each lot is listed at the county as an individual parcel of land. The more parcels you purchase, the more dues you have to pay. You can have a boundary line adjustment done at the county, and merge the multiple lots together to make one big lot and are issued one tax ID number you will be charged for one dues payment. Your tax at the county will still be assessed by the value of the property. If your lots are separate you are charged for separate dues because you can sell the individual lots. If your home takes up 2 lots, you are responsible to pay 2 dues. The only way around that is to do a boundary line adjustment.

The answer created confusion for some. According to our Bylaws dues shall be paid for each individual lot. Out of 223 lots we currently have 27 property owners who own 2 or more lots. Four of those property owners own 3 lots, and one property owner owns 4 lots. These lot owners faithfully pay multiple dues. These lot owners have the right to sell off any one of their multiple lots. Some have homes that are built stretched across their multiple lots. According to the county having a home that stretches across two or more lots does not mean that they suddenly have one large lot. **UNLESS ABOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT IS DONE AND FILED AT THE COUNTY.** That includes hiring a surveyor; filling out the application; and hiring a lawyer to file the request at the county. Our Bylaws were challenged and our attorney had to make a ruling based on what our Bylaws state. **Having multiple lots means paying multiple dues.**

Furthermore in researching the issue, a recent court case set precedence. A local HOA had a resident who purchased 5 lots to build his giant dream home across, creating one large property. That property owner claimed he now had one large lot. He was sued by the other residents in the association, stating that it was an unfair for him to pay one dues payment for one large lot. Since their Bylaws stated that dues were required for each lot the court held up the legality of the Bylaws, and the multiple lot owner had to pay 5 dues.

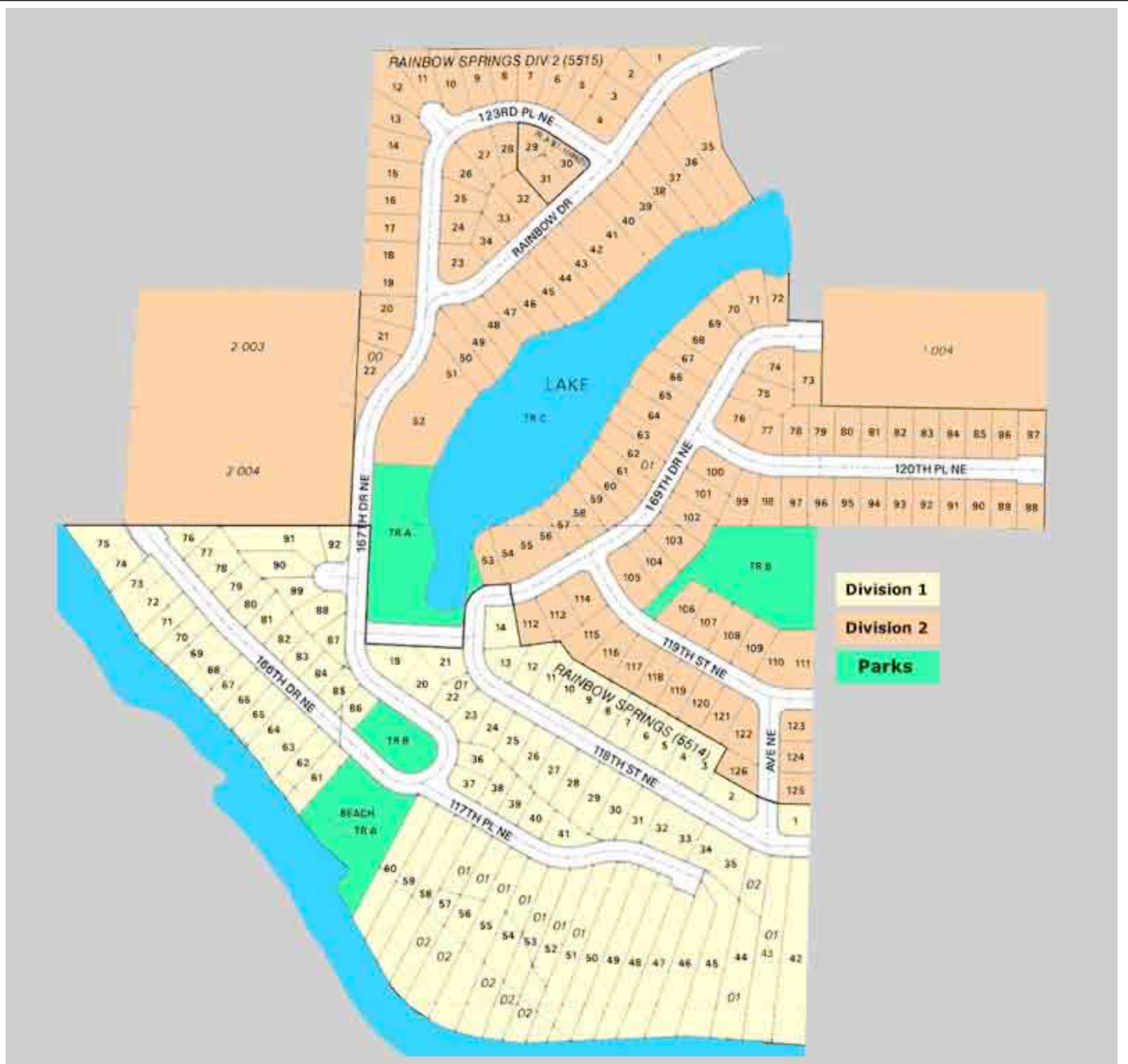
This brings up the matter of the 4 large lots that seem to be inside Rainbow Springs. There is a large lot with a long home on 167th across from the Lake Park. There is a large lot set back in the woods near the Lake culvert. And another large lot at the end of 169th in the cul-de-sac. None of those lots are part of Rainbow Springs, but are only accessible through Rainbow Springs. They are all outside the boundaries of what is legally Rainbow Springs. Those lot owners have chosen to be part of our community and do pay Annual dues, since their properties are only accessible using our roads. They also have the right to enjoy the parks and use of the security gate.

Conversely, we also have two Rainbow Springs property owners whose lots are only accessible through Blue Spruce Grove but are within the official boundaries of Rainbow Springs. These lot owners pay dues in both Rainbow Springs AND Blue Spruce Grove. Both of those property owners own 2 lots so they are paying 4 dues!

If you own multiple lots the county may issue you one tax I.D. number, but that does not mean you own one lot. It is done only for the convenience of billing property taxes. If you should sell off one of those lots, another tax I.D. number will be issued for the lot which was sold, and it will be unbundled from your tax billing.

We hope that this explanation ends any confusion.

Refer to the following map (on page 3) for clarification....



Parcels 2-003, 2-004 and 1-004 are outside the legal boundaries of Rainbow Springs. Also Div. 1 lots 41 and 42 and Div. 2 lots 110 and 111 are only accessible through Blue Spruce Grove. Yet all of these property owners faithfully pay dues to Rainbow Springs, they use our roads, and are entitled to have access to our parks.

Not all of the double lots along the river on 117th are owned by the same property owners who own the street frontage lots. These river lots should not be used by the non-owners who live along the street frontage. This continues to be a problematic issue for those river lot owners.

Also keep in mind that Div. 2 lots 51 and 52 on the lake are private property and commonly thought of as part of the Lake Park. Lot 52 stretches all the way to the park bench, and includes the old decommissioned ancillary drain.

Join nextdoor.com website for important Neighborhood Updates

You can track all kinds of neighborhood updates for Rainbow Springs by joining Nextdoor.com. Find out important items such as crime updates, lost and found, items for sale, and neighbor communication. You can even download an app to get updates on your cell phone.

To join go to:

www.nextdoor.com/!UJL6FK



If you have not signed up for Nextdoor.com yet, you may be missing out on valuable neighborhood information. Some of the recent postings have highlighted missing pets, stolen mail, and also a cougar sighting. Don't miss out on what is happening in Rainbow Springs ...sign up now. Join the conversation. You can also communicate privately with other listed neighbors.

RSCC Snow Policy

The RSCC has dodged a bullet so far this winter with only the brief Thanksgiving snowfall. Please be advised that it is your responsibility to be able to handle snowfalls. We are currently searching for a new snow removal company, with the recent retirement of our former snow removal person. While we have budgeted only for major snowfall removal from our hills, it is not the responsibility of the association to make sure you can get to work or school. Many times residents have made it out of Rainbow Springs, only to find that the hill leading from the Stilly Bridge has been closed due to icy or snowy conditions.

Have a plan in place. Carpool with neighbors who have 4x4s. Or take vacation snow days. But have your own plan. Don't rely on the association. Always have enough food and water and prescription medications in storage to avoid having to make supply runs in case of incimate weather.

In case of a large snowfall residents are responsible for keeping their own driveways cleared. Note that if snow removal vehicles create a snow berm along your driveway, it will be up to you to keep that cleared. If anyone knows a person who does snow removal please contact the board with that information. Thank you!

360-691-2683



Mail Theft Continues to Plague Residents of Rainbow Springs

Piles of discarded junk mail on the ground, and mailbox doors hanging open, both are tell tale signs of mail theft. Several residents found their mailbox doors open as recently as Tues. Dec. 30th. The discarded junk mail has been returned to the rightful owner, and the Sherriff was notified. If you have security cameras that pick up information that could lead to the capture of the mail thieves please call the Sherriff department.

If you receive billing mail at your unsecured mailbox you may want to invest in a locking mailbox. Stolen mail is a major contributor to identity theft.

Lowes and Ace Hardware carry locking mailboxes. An investment of a hundred dollars can save you the misery of thousands lost to Identity theft. Always check your bank statements for unusual activity. If you pay your bills online, only use trusted secured sites. Also shred all mail including those credit card offers that come as junk mail.



Is Your Home Clearly Marked?

In the event of an emergency, could first responders find your home? For your family's' safety, you should make sure your house has clearly marked house numbers which are also visible at night. If you have a home that is set far back from the street you might consider having your house numbers listed at your driveway entrance. In an emergency every second can count.



Payment Arrangements

Did you know that the Rainbow Springs Association is willing to work with property owners who owe a debt for unpaid dues? If you are having difficulty catching up, we are eager to work with you by setting up monthly payments. The worst thing you can do is "nothing". To avoid costly liens, or attorney fees, you can call the Rainbow Springs Hotline and make payment arrangements. Advance payments are welcome and accepted. If making a single Annual dues payment is difficult, keep in mind that many property owners choose to make payments **prior** to the invoicing of the Annual dues. All those credits are carried over on our books and the property owners are only billed for the balances due after the credit is applied. Some find this a less painful remedy, than paying one large lump sum.

To request a payment plan call 360-691-2683

Top 10 Cold-Weather Pet Tips

1) There's no place like home

The best strategy, of course, is to keep your pets indoors during inclement weather. Outdoor cats are especially susceptible to hazards like frostbite, getting lost, or being exposed to diseases. If you don't want to be outside, your pet probably doesn't want to be, either.

2) Keep close

When you do venture outdoors with your dog, keep them on-leash. Snow and rain can wipe away familiar scents, causing your dog to become lost or disoriented. If you live in a very cold area, unsupervised dogs also run the risk of falling through thin ice near ponds or other frozen bodies of water.

3) Bundle up!

A fur coat isn't all the protection your pet needs from the cold, especially if she is short-coated, a puppy, or a senior. She might be much more comfortable in some warm winter-wear, such as a sweater, jacket, or booties. Look for coats or sweaters that cover from neck to tail and aren't restrictive or uncomfortable. When indoors, be sure she has a warm, draft-free spot to rest in with lots of bedding. And to keep her skin and coat in tip-top shape from the dry winter air, brush her more frequently than usual, and never shave a long-coated dog during the winter.

4) Warm as toast

Wrapping your pet up in an electric blanket all day might sound like a good idea, but leaving an animal unattended with an electric item is a recipe for disaster. SnuggleSafe Pet Heating Pads can be warmed in the microwave and retain heat for 12 hours. They are excellent for tucking in your pet's bedding at night, giving her an extra bit of snuggly warmth as she nods off to dreamland.

5) Potty problems

When it's cold or rainy out, pets might resist going to the bathroom outside. (And really - wouldn't you?) Work with them to try to keep them comfortable while they do their business - a jacket or rain slicker might help, as would holding an umbrella over them to keep them dry.

6) Check for cat cargo

When the temperature drops, chilly kitties will look for any warm place to curl up. This includes under the hoods of cars where they can be seriously injured or killed when the car starts. A trick to evict stowaways is to bang on the hood of your car loudly a few times before you enter. Any slumbering felines will be frightened by the noise and escape before you start your car.

7) (Don't) chill out

You should never leave your pet unattended in a car on a cold day. The winter weather turns your car into a rolling refrigerator - great for keeping your groceries chilled, but terrible for keeping your pet safe. If it's cold outside, leave your animals warm and safe at home.

8) Dry them off

When coming in from a winter walk or play session, dry your pet off thoroughly and take extra care to wipe her legs, paws, and stomach. Pets in snowy climates can pick up salt, antifreeze, or other dangerous chemicals on their pads and lick them off, making them sick. Ice and salt can also cause their pads to crack and bleed, so look them over thoroughly after all outside adventures.

9) Gimme shelter

Pets should not be kept outside during the cold months. However, if you absolutely must leave them outdoors for a limited amount of time, create a shelter for them to retreat to. It should be dry, clean, and well-insulated (straw works well to trap heat), and protect them from the wind and elements. And be sure to frequently check their water bowl to be sure they have plenty of fresh (not frozen) H₂O.

10) Stay healthy

Animals with fragile immune systems - including kittens, puppies, and senior pets - might be more susceptible to illness during the change of seasons. If you suspect your animal has a cold weather-related illness, take them to see the vet right away.

Driving in Snow and Ice

On ice and snow, take it slow! Drive for conditions. On ice and snow cars have slower steering, braking, and slower acceleration. Use your headlights. Don't use cruise control. Always leave extra room between your vehicle, and the vehicle in front of you. Slow down when approaching intersections, off and on ramps, bridges and also shady spots. Stay at least 15 car lengths behind snow plows, which have a limited field of vision. Do not pass unless it is safe, or the plow has pulled over. Slow down and be extra cautious near "chain-up" areas where people are often out of their vehicles. Keep your gas tank topped off. Don't let it fall below half a tank on winter trips. Carry chains when traveling mountainous areas. Remember 4x4 vehicles do not allow you to drive at a faster speed. You can lose control in a 4x4 on ice and snow as well as in a rear or front drive vehicle.

Keep a basic winter survival kit in your car:

Flashlight, batteries, blanket, high energy snacks, water, gloves, boots, warm hat, and first aid kit.

Load your car with winter travel gear: Tire chains, Ice scraper, snowbrush, shovel, jumper cables, road flares, For more winter preparedness tips see:

www.takewinterbystorm.org.

Trees at the Lake Park

As many have noticed several trees at the Lake Park have been removed. They were tagged by two different arborists for being in danger of falling and causing a liability. The trees were either leaning and/or not healthy. Some had rotten cores. No one wanted to cut down the trees but what we learned in the process is that the kind of trees we had, had a lifespan that was nearing their end. The trees were downed by a tree service and the wood hauled away in exchange for the work. Several calls came into the Hotline asking for the downed timber. There are still many trees at the Lake Park that need to be thinned out in the future, since they are growing too close to be healthy. If you see downed trees on association common areas do not remove the wood. The downed timber may be payment for the tree removal service. In the past fallen timber was fair game for whoever wanted the wood. If free wood is ever available, and not part of the payment, a sign will be posted on the fallen timber. That was not the case this time. Also the board is looking at suitable replacement trees that will be planted in the future.



Flood Warning System

If you live along the river, it is important to always check the river height during the wet months. Flood stage on the Stillaguamish River is 14 feet. We reached just over 13 feet twice this winter. Don't be caught off guard. The river rises very quickly. Have a plan in place. Make a plan for pets as well, if you must evacuate quickly.

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

Trash Burning is Illegal!

In the last newsletter we reminded residents that burning trash is illegal everywhere within the state of Washington. Evidently some residents are still ignoring that warning. If you have not signed up for garbage pick-up, please be aware that you are not allowed to burn your trash instead. If you haul your own garbage to the dump, be aware that stockpiling garbage in between dump runs, attracts rats, raccoons, and other vermin, and is a health and safety hazard. If you are reported for illegally burning trash you will be fined. Residents noticing illegal burning should call 911.

Inexpensive Ways to Protect Your Home – By Hope Larson, BOD Trustee

1. Security cameras placed on your home in view with signage saying 24 hr video surveillance. (you can get fake ones at Harbor Freight for less than 20 bucks) Burglars won't test this, If they think they will be caught!
2. Post "**Beware of Dog**" signs around your home even if you don't have a dog! They won't test this either, They want to get in and get out quickly, dogs will prevent this so they may pass your house up.
3. Keep view of your home clear for your neighbors. If your neighbor is home they will be able to keep an eye out. Burglars will also not attempt to break in if they think a neighbor will see them and alert authorities.
4. Introduce yourself and talk to your neighbors and develop a relationship with them so that when your out of town or expecting a delivery they may be able to keep their eyes open and watch your home for you.
5. Become part of a block watch in the community. This will get the Sherriff's office involved with crime prevention, and it does help to get a quicker respond time when they are called on in the event of an active theft in progress.
6. Post signage at the beginning of your street warning people coming onto your street that there are video cameras recording them. They will go to the next street.
7. You can also put motion detectors around your home that sounds alarms in your home to alert activity on the premises. (you can purchase them at Harbor Freight also)
8. Install a locking mailbox. They are about \$30 at hardware stores.
9. Keep your house well lit at night with porch and garage lights.
10. Look into having PUD install an area light on a power pole near your house.

Let's make 2015 the year that we as a community take back our neighborhood and make it a safe place to live and for our kids to run and play without fear of them being victimized!

Become part of our own Rainbow Springs Community Block Watch; which doesn't mean anything other than being connected with your fellow blockwatch neighbors, and having a direct link to the Sherriff's Dept. and attending meetings once or twice a year. All other communications will be done through emails. You will also get a link to the Sherriff's Dept crime website. It reports all crimes called on in the area you choose.

If you are interested in joining our Block Watch please e-mail Hope @ jeepergurl67@gmail.com with the following info:

Name:

Cell Number: (Specify if text is NOT ok otherwise I will text you)

Street you live on:

Hope will notify you when there is an initial meeting set up. If there is NO response from interested members of our community there will be NO block watch committee. So please get involved to help squeeze out the crime!



REALLY???

Come on people.... Do we have to spell out every single common sense piece of etiquette for living in our community? On Tues. Jan. 6th residents woke up to the sight of a pile of discarded junk which was left at our Lake Park parking lot. A renter thought they would leave their junk for others to sift through. Our tree service person said they left the junk and said it was FREE. Just imagine what our parks would look like if everyone thought it was a good idea to leave their junk by the side of the road. This is not okay. It is illegal dumping, it is littering. In no way should anyone leave any items anywhere off their own property. If this person wanted to get rid of these items they should have donated them to any number of charitable organizations. Goodwill, Value Village... or how about making a dump run? The items could have been given away by listing them at Nextdoor.com, Craigslist or even ask to have them posted on our bulletin board. In case anyone is wondering. It is not ever okay to dump unwanted items anywhere in the entire state. It's illegal. It is unsightly, and it is pure laziness to try and get rid of your items by just leaving them at the park. What next?.....

Did you know?.....

Chappel Road was named after the very first Doctor in the town of Granite Falls. Dr. Frank Chappell. He also owned a pharmacy and served as the town treasurer. His brother owned and operated the Chappell Shingle Mill. Brother Burt Chappell was the first Mayor

Did you know the first name of the Granite Falls township was "Portage" named after the plateau of land that the native tribes used to portage their canoes between fishing the South Fork of the Stillaguamish and the Pilchuck River. And the original town was 15 to 20 feet lower than the current town. The downtown was raised and built on fill dirt. The original town's ground elevation is the ground level behind the City Hall.

Arlington is also the second name for that township. In 1890 the first town was built right at the forks of the Stillaguamish river after settlers from Marysville created a road to the site. Loggers built a timber mill at the site and the White House Hotel and housing for mill workers followed. It was named Haller City after a wealthy real estate speculator Morris Haller. But another group of entrepreneurs beat them to city creation by one month. They platted a new town a half mile to the east and began to sell lots. They called it Arlington. It was thought to be a better location since it was a higher elevation, and would be away from river flooding. There was an intense rivalry for the railroad and Arlington won out. The two towns were referred to as the Twin Cities. In 1903 Arlington was created when the two towns became one and incorporated.

In 1934 the Civil Works Administration (CWA). An early Depression era relief program, provided funding for the construction of new airports throughout the United States. Workers cleared and graded a 4,000-foot by 400-foot strip and surfaced it with asphalt. Two years later the WPA approved funding for a cross-runway to be located near the southern end of the original runway. The airstrip took on importance when the Navy leased the airstrip from the City to supplement training facilities in Seattle in 1940. During WW II, the airport became a U.S. Naval Auxiliary Air Station. Two Navy Squadrons were stationed there. After the war, it reverted back to civilian control. It is technically an international airport serving flights to and from Canada.

To report a Power outage
Call 425-783-1001



Check out our community website

<http://www.rscconline.org>

Calendar of Upcoming Events

JANUARY 2015

- Wed. Jan.. 21st - @ 6:30 PM; Monthly BOD Meeting - Location posted

FEBRUARY 2015

- Wed. Feb.. 18th – @ 6:30 PM; Monthly BOD Meeting - Location posted

MARCH 2015

- Wed. Mar. 18th - @ 6:30 PM; Monthly BOD Meeting - Location posted

April – Annual Shareholders Business Meeting - date to be determined.

May 1st, 2015 – Annual Dues invoices go out

Rainbow Springs Community Club
P.O. Box 388
Granite Falls, WA 98252