

# RSCC NEWS

SPECIAL FLOODING & STORM ISSUE



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## Special Paving Assessment Coming Soon

As was discussed in the last Newsletter a Special Paving Assessment will be sent out soon.

At the last Annual Business meeting the members were notified of the deteriorating condition of Rainbow Drive. If you have ever walked the section of road between the first stop sign and the newly paved section of Rainbow Drive you know how cracked the pavement is. A new layer of paving is needed before the road begins to break up, and repairs become more costly. The board has been aware of the condition of Rainbow Drive for many years but now with the lowest oil prices since 2006 we must move forward.

Last year the Assoc. paid over \$33,000 to repair a large section of Rainbow Drive with a sink hole, as well as repairs to 6 other areas of the community, the addition of 4 speed bumps, and improving drainage. This was done at no additional cost to property owners. This year the section that will be re-paved will cost close to \$45,000.00 making a special assessment necessary. The area to be repaired will be 725' X 23' or 16675 sq. feet.

We have not levied a special assessment since 2009 when the culvert under 167<sup>th</sup> was replaced. That was 7 years ago. Many improvements to Rainbow Springs have been done since then at no additional charge to property owners. We are assessing property owners \$200.00 per lot for the needed paving. If you would like to begin making payments before the invoices go out, payments can be sent to: Rainbow Springs, P.O. Box 388, Granite Falls, WA 98252. Please include your name and lot number. The regular Annual Dues will be sent out May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

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## Secure Your Mail

Please be aware that there has recently been reports of mail theft in Rainbow Springs. Residents should consider Purchasing a locking mailbox to secure your information.



If you see suspicious activity or strange cars in your neighborhood try to get a description of the vehicle and a license plate number. Call **911** immediately to report all incidents. The Sherriff is aware of this ongoing issue and has been trying to catch the offenders.

## River Flooding – by John Angell, RSCC Vice President

Recently, we have had two flooding incidents down along the river. This flooding has been the worst since the record flood of 2006. People living down along the river need to take this seriously. I am a volunteer with the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Response, Auxiliary Communications Service. During the November 17th flood, I was down at the river warning home owners to get out, but these warnings fell on deaf ears. Snohomish Fire Department along with Snohomish Search and Rescue had to respond with hovercraft to "rescue" people from their homes. People who did not get out when they should have! This utilized many county resources and put many other lives at risk.

Flood stage for the Stillaguamish River is fourteen feet. We start having issues when the river reaches sixteen feet, and once it hits eighteen feet, the water starts covering the road and flooding many homes. Once this starts to occur, you only have minutes to evacuate or be trapped by the rising waters. So, when you see the river hit sixteen feet - it is time to get out! Also, you should secure any loose items to prevent them from flowing down river. If you have any propane tanks, the propane should be turned off at the tank. Open your garage door and any lower level doors to avoid further damage to your home. The water is going to get in - even if it has to break down your doors!

We are in a very strong El Nino year, and we are not done yet for the season. There remains a high potential for more flooding this season ●

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### More Flood Info:

Don't be caught by surprise, you can sign up to have an alert sent to your cell phone or email at:  
[http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert/subscribe2/index.html?site\\_no=12161000&parm=00060,00065](http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert/subscribe2/index.html?site_no=12161000&parm=00060,00065)

There is an app called "river data" in the App Store or other apps that allow quick & easy checks from mobile devices.

The county has resources available at:

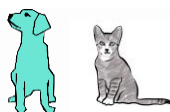
<http://snohomishcountywa.gov/796/Flood-Information-Center>

To assess your personal risk

To report flood damage, or

For tips before, during, and after a flood you can access the information at the county site.

Please also plan for the evacuation of your pets, especially if you may not be present when the river floods. In a floods years ago, several dogs which were left in the garage when their master went to work, sadly drowned. If you can't be there have a plan in place for your pets' evacuation.





### River Flooding Map

The river bank is much higher along 117<sup>th</sup> than it is on the far North West end of 166<sup>th</sup>. When the flood waters breach the river bank, it first comes over the bank downstream at the far end of the 166<sup>th</sup> cul de sac, then secondly it comes over the river bank at the river park. The flood water works its way down 117<sup>th</sup> South East from there, against the direction of the river. You can be at the South East end of 117<sup>th</sup> and think you still have time to evacuate. This is a false assumption, you do not! When you are warned to evacuate you must not tarry. Things can be replaced, people and pets cannot. Don't endanger the lives of the rescuers by failing to evacuate when warned. Always carefully monitor the water levels during high water events. Flood stage is 14 feet. Get out before it is too late.

### Free Dump Vouchers

If you experienced flood damage and have an address along the river you qualify for FREE DUMP Vouchers to dispose of water damaged items. You can obtain those Vouchers at the local Granite Falls Police/ Sheriff substation on Granite Ave. The vouchers have been extended for use until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

Damaged appliances, or TV sets cannot be taken to the dump.

The best policy is to have all items secured if you live along the river. Either place items above the flood water level, upstairs or remove them from the property. Even propane tanks can break free and float away during a flood. Unsecured items can turn into missiles, and become the reason your neighbor's homes are damaged. Move or secure all firewood. Vehicles can be *temporarily* parked at the Lake Park during flood instances, without fear of towing. Also, a few residents have offered their extra parking spaces to River dwellers for temporary parking, during flooding events. For a list of those residents call the **Hotline at 360-691-2683**, or to offer up your extra space for parking during flooding events please call the Hotline.

**ASK RSCC – by RSCC Board of Directors – responses to actual questions asked****Q: What is wrong with the Gate and why is it always open now?**

**A:** This is the number one question asked. The gate itself and its motor are completely functional. The power to the gate has been turned off to keep the gate in the open position. While the gate still works for all who have a remote control, the keypad was fried in the power outage that occurred during the Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> wind storm, and is not functioning for all those who do *not* have a remote control. It took over a month for the gate company to be able come out and trouble shoot the problem. An insurance claim has been filed and a new upgraded system is being researched. Until then the gate needs to remain in the open position. This is also the reason the Utility light at the entrance is off. The power has been shut off. Residents should be extra vigilant for suspicious activity in Rainbow Springs while the gate is down.

**Q: I saw residents at the Lake Park cutting a downed tree and taking the wood out. Can residents take wood from trees that fall after a windstorm?**

**A:** Actually the two trees that fell were on private property. Lots 51 and 52 extend all the way to the North West bench at the lake park. Everything north of that bench is private property, not park property. The wood was mistakenly taken, and then returned to the property owner. If Community owned trees fall, they are not free to be taken, and should be sold to benefit the entire community. Also it is against Dept. of Ecology rules to drive any vehicles on the berm. Damage was done by driving on the berm during the wood removal. The earthen dam was later repaired. Only DOE sanctioned maintenance vehicles are permitted on the earthen dam.

**Q: I see the same loose dogs roaming our community and it makes it hard to walk my dog. Can the board send a letter to the owners?**

**A:** There is a leash law in this county. The board has no jurisdiction over leash law violations. Every time you see the loose dogs, note the day, time and breed if you can, and report it to Animal Control at **425-388-3440**. If you can... take a picture of the animal. But if an animal bites or attacks you should call **911**. Or you can fill out a nuisance complaint online at the county at: <https://petlicense.snoco.org/petcomplaints> keep in mind that if you fear reprisals, you should request that your name be anonymous, since all complaints are part of public records.

**Q: It seems like there are a lot of power outages in Rainbow Springs. Should we call the PUD for each outage?**

**A:** Yes, you should call if you can. Sometimes it is just one loose wire that has worn out and blown off your pole and it may only affect you and your neighbor. You can **Call 425-783-1001** 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Stay away from all downed power lines. The live power can arc to you, and cause electrocution. During power outages keep your freezer and refrigerator doors shut to save food, never use a gas or charcoal grill inside, try to avoid using candles but use battery operated lanterns, lamps and candles only. And if you don't have a generator, stay in one small room to keep warm. Always have at least 3 to 5 days of non-perishable food on hand. Don't forget pet food. Keep cell phones charged, vehicle gas tank topped off, and backup flashlights and batteries ready. Have a battery operated radio to keep updated. When you hear of winter weather storms approaching check your supplies. Always be prepared. Don't be caught off guard. Don't forget to check on your elderly or handicapped neighbors during power outages.

For radio weather updates follow **KOMO-AM 1000/97.7, KIRO-FM 97.3, KSER-FM 90.7 or KRKO-AM 138**

**ASK RSCC – by RSCC Board of Directors – continued**

**Q: My neighbor makes a lot of noise working in his garage late at night sometimes until 2:00 AM and he sometimes starts early in the morning on the weekends. Does Rainbow Springs have a noise rule?**

**A:** No! We have no jurisdiction over noise issues. The county has a noise ordinance in place. No one should be making bothersome noise between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays, and between 10:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekends. Civil infractions can be fined. You can call the Sherriff to report noise issues.

**Q: My neighbor has a lot of derelict cars parked on their property and it looks like a wrecking junkyard. It is adversely affecting all the property values in our neighborhood. Can the board do anything?**

**A:** If the vehicles are parked on Community property or easements they can be towed. However we have no jurisdiction to go onto private property to tow vehicles. There is a county code that only allows 5 vehicles per lot... period. No matter how many drivers live at the address. This is an issue for Code Enforcement. 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>

The law allows that all complaints become available for public disclosure. If you fear reprisals from the violator you must indicate that you wish to remain anonymous.

**Q: Why are there white paint splatters down the middle of some of the streets? It is especially bad on 123<sup>rd</sup>.**

**A:** The first Recycle day in November someone put a 5 gallon bucket of Latex paint in their recycle bin. The Recycle Truck inadvertently spread the spilled paint throughout the entire route. The Route Manager at Waste Management contacted Rainbow Springs to let us know that the truck bins are not waterproof and have holes in the bottom for drainage. It is not legal to throw out buckets of paint or any chemicals that may seep into the environment. If you don't take your unused paint to the Hazardous Waste site, you must thoroughly allow the entire can of paint to dry until the paint is completely solid. Then you can dispose of it in your regular garbage (not recycle) can. Also there is no additional charge for putting out extra recyclable items. While we are on the topic of "Recycling" please remember to save your aluminum cans for the Boy Scouts fundraiser to collect "when posted" Sunday afternoons between 2:00 and 4:00 pm.

For the safety of your garbage collector, please bag your regular garbage, Double bag pet litter, packing pellets, and cold ashes. Never put CFL Bulbs, batteries, chemicals, florescent tube lights, fuel tanks, TV or computer monitors, or electronics, in the garbage. Call **1-800-592-9995** for bulky item collections such as mattresses, or appliances.

Sharps should be disposed of in a sharps container, and can be dropped off at most pharmacies.

To find the location of the nearest electronics drop off call **1-800-RECYCLE** or go to: **EcycleWashington.org** online.

**Q: My neighbor has chickens, I thought livestock was against the Rules and Regulations.**

**A:** You are right it is against the rules to have livestock of any kind within the boundaries of Rainbow Springs. Call the **Hotline 360-691-2683** and report the address. The board can take action and levy fines against the violator.

**ASK RSCC – by RSCC Board of Directors – continued**

**Q: There is a drug house on our street and cars are coming and going all hours of the night and day. There has been drug transactions witnessed being done in the open. What can be done to stop the illegal activity?**

**A:** First of all contact the Sherriff and let them know of the illegal activity. Call every time you see suspicious activity. Take down license plate numbers and car descriptions. Keep a log but don't approach the violators yourself. Stay safe and be persistent in contacting the Sherriff. We don't need that kind of element inside our community bringing other kinds of crimes with them, so report all instances.

**Q: My neighbor burns fires in his fireplace even when there are burn bans.**

**A:** Many people are unaware when there is a burn ban in affect, but if neighbor to neighbor reminding does not work, you can call the non-emergency number at the fire dept. and ask them to come out and educate them of the burn ban **360-691-5553**. Keep in mind that takes them away from their emergency duties. It's a pretty large fine for a citation. They would much rather you contact the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency at:

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

To file an online complaint, go to the above site. Or you can call: **1-800-552-3565**.

If you are a resident and you use a woodstove or fireplace it is incumbent on you to *always* be informed of the current air quality and burn ban status before using your woodstove or fireplace. If you have a smart phone you can download an app to keep you updated. If your don't have a smart phone you can arrange to have an email sent to you to be reminded of the current burn ban status;

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

**Q: When are the dues supposed to be paid?**

**A:** The Annual Dues will be billed on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 and due 30 days later. Keep in mind that we accept payments prior to the dues invoice being sent. Your account will be credited if you want to pay early. Some folks pay a bit all year so that they can be ahead of the due date. Also the coming \$200.00 paving assessment will be send out next month. People who pay their dues late will be assessed a 12% per annum late fee. The operations budget will be reviewed and voted on at the Annual Shareholders Meeting in April prior to the dues being levied.

**Q: Someone dumped yard waste in the field between 119<sup>th</sup> and 120<sup>th</sup>. Is that allowed?**

**A:** The board of directors and a team of volunteers made a pile of tree limbs and debris in that area when the Lake Park trees were cut down. The board has obtained a burn permit and will burn those limbs when the weather permits. But no... dumping is not permitted that field or anywhere else in Rainbow Springs. There is also some downed tree debris at the River Park which are slowly being burned a bit at a time. Legal Burn Permits were issued by the Fire Marshall for the proper disposal of the tree limbs.

**Q: A few years ago there was talk of cleaning up the overgrowth of aquatic vegetation in the lake. When will that take place?**

**A:** Hopefully this year. We are currently looking for a fish biologist to aid us with the extensive permitting process to add a few Grass Carp to the lake, Grass Carp are great for eating down the overgrowth of vegetation in the lake.

## Rainbow Springs Bylaws

The Bylaws for Rainbow Springs are woefully outdated. The Board of Directors has been working on a complete update of the Bylaws for several years now. The new Bylaws will be sent to our attorney for legal review this year and will be presented to the entire membership for input and approval before being implemented.

## The Following Is An Actual Letter from Longtime Rainbow Springs Residents:

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

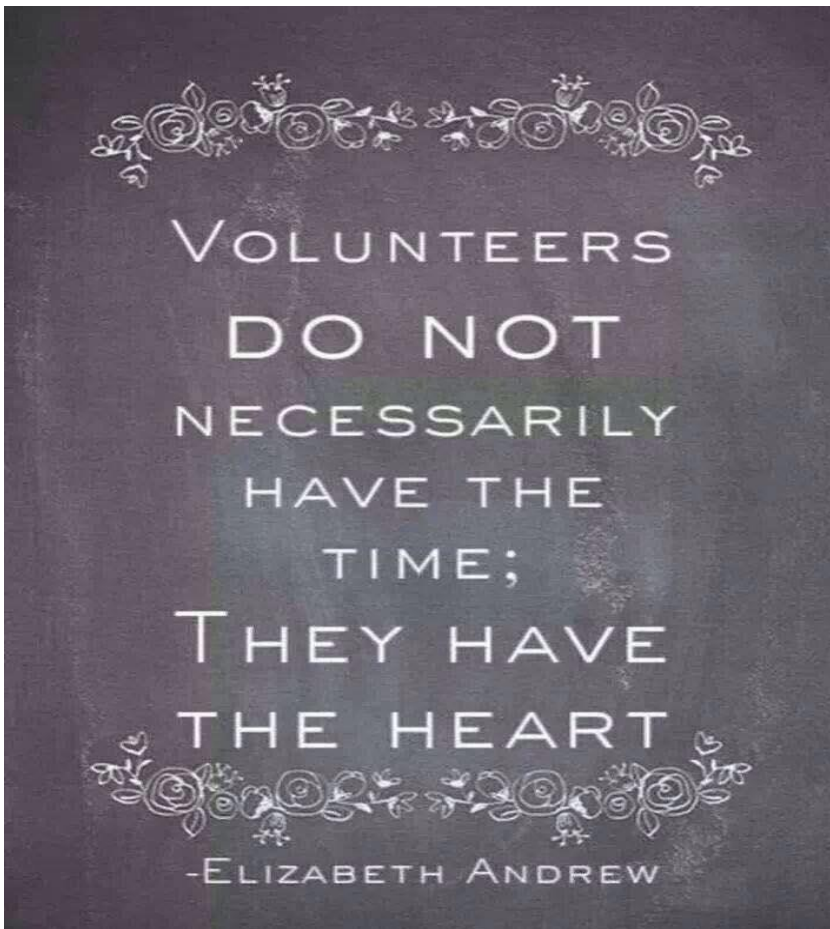
My partner and I have lived at Talotam (the large A-Framed Lodge at the end of 117<sup>th</sup> PL NE) for eight years now and have enjoyed the property tremendously. We have terrific neighbors and are blessed to be surrounded by good people. Every once in a while we find strangers wandering through our property. – Curiosity seekers, people who think it's a park or playground. Or just others looking to cut through our land, to get from one neighborhood to another. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, a woman and her five kids were wandering around our property. She claimed she was under the impression that the house was still vacant. The week prior to that, I caught two teenaged boys on skateboards trespassing through our property; both claimed they heard from their friends that no one was living at Talotam. We have been battling this since we moved back in 2007. Matthew and I both value our privacy and ask that our neighbors please respect our privacy by not cutting through our land. We have found all kinds of trash left behind by people who pass through here. If you have a chance to talk to your kids, please explain to them that Talotam is private property now, regardless of what they have heard from their friends. We would be grateful if you could help get the word out. We have already posted the same message to our neighbors in Blue Spruce Grove. Thank you all, and have a wonderful year.



### Strange.... But True Facts

- The first owner of Marlboro company died of lung cancer
- Barbie's full name is Millicent Roberts
- Marilyn Monroe had six toes
- Walt Disney was afraid of mice
- Pearls melt in vinegar
- The voice of ET was Debra Winger
- The sound of ET walking was made by someone squishing their hands in jelly
- It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL w/ leather for a year's supply of footballs

## Thank You Volunteers, You Made A Huge Difference This Last Year



By volunteering your time, talents, and tools and expertise this last year, you saved the community a lot of expense. A grateful association thanks you, and we enjoyed working alongside neighbors like you! Special thanks goes out to Jeff Baus, Molly & Brandon Ronne, John Angell, Marianne Ramona, Vicki & Kenny Jans, Kevin Hayes, Warren Rainville, John Yauger, Matt & Christina Gaylor, Annette Blandino, Zeke Kingsley & Butch, Jon Harris, Jared & Rachel Haynes & Malia, Tyler Mann, Nichole Ball & Brooke, Melissa Pentz & Lilly, Jason Hollinger, Amanda Gwin, Wesley Farmer, Pat George, Joe & Katie McCaffrey & children, Kerry Cole, Elizabeth Weinert, Vincent Eldridge, Casey Martin, Yohn Johnson, Tom Bollen, Heidi Hutchins, James Kennedy, Justin Martin, Krista Tappe, Ian Armstrong and Steve Nitch. Thank you all!

### **PLEASE ...Don't Cut Corners!**

Drivers have been cutting across the corner of 167<sup>th</sup> and 169<sup>th</sup> at the corner of the Lake Park. Driving off the pavement onto the shoulder of the road has left a deep pothole which fills with muddy water. This is degrading the condition of the road edge and will lead to another costly repair. An area nearby has already been patched. The road is much wider in this area than most of our roads. Cutting corners is not necessary. Repairs to fill the pothole at the road edge cannot be made until the area dries out. The road is nice and wide at that spot. Please avoid driving across the corner onto the road shoulder. Hitting that deep pothole can also damage your vehicle and throw off the alignment of your tires.





### Did you know?

Most drivers blow right through the stop signs in Rainbow Springs? They do, and there have been several near misses reported. The same rules of the road apply within Rainbow Springs as elsewhere



Check out our community website

<http://www.rscconline.org>

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

#### FEBRUARY 2016

- Wed. Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> –@ 6:30 PM - BOD Meeting – IGA Café – *provided we have a quorum*
- SPECIAL PAVING ASSESSMENT

#### MARCH 2016

- Wed. March 17<sup>th</sup> –@ 6:30 PM - BOD Meeting – IGA Café – *provided we have a quorum*

#### APRIL 2016

- ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS BUSINESS MEETING  
Watch for the mailing with day, time and place

#### MAY 2016

- ANNUAL DUES ARE INVOICED

**PLEASE SLOW DOWN – *It's dark & pedestrians are difficult to see***

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