



TSVR Newsletter – May 2022

TVSR Firewise Program

July is Firewise and Public Safety Month and the Town of Star Valley Ranch has made a few changes to the Firewise Program. For the first time everyone in the Town of Star Valley Ranch is automatically enrolled in our Firewise Community Program and can take advantage of roadside pickup of hazardous natural fuels during the week of July 25th.

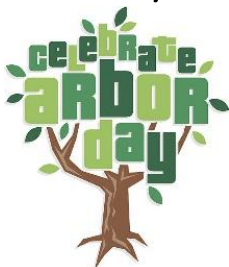


If you haven't had a Firewise Safety Evaluation in the past few years you can request one by calling Gina Campbell our Assistant Town Clerk at 307-883-8696. She will take your information and refer it to a certified Firewise inspector who will contact you to schedule an evaluation.

As you develop a plan to clean up your property and make it fire safe, refer to the TVSR Fuels Reduction/Defensible Space Guideline (copy attached at the back of this newsletter) or the home evaluation you received from the inspector. Woody natural materials may be placed at the roadside starting on July 1st. Natural fuels only, no trash or lumber, cut in lengths of 8 feet or less. All material should be at the roadside by the morning of July 25th.

And don't forget to attend the Town of Star Valley Ranch Firewise and Public Safety Day event on July 9th at the First Response Center across from Town Hall. Meet our local first responders and learn what to do in the event of a large wildfire or other emergency.

Arbor Day Donations 2022 – Deadline May 11th



Once again, the Town of Star Valley Ranch will be celebrating Arbor Day at 10 am on June 11th at Fox Run Park. The Natural Resource Board is collecting donations for trees and donations of \$50 or more will have the donors name or in memory of an individual on a plaque in Town Hall. Pick up a donation form at Town Hall or make a donation on the Town webpage at : https://www.starvalleyranchwy.org/community/online_bill_pay.php

Scheduled Meetings

Town Council Meeting

May 18th at 6 pm

Planning & Zoning Board

May 11th & 25th at 5 pm

Natural Resource Board

May 31st at 2 pm

Economic Dev. Board

May 17th at 2 pm

Coffee with the Mayor

May 16th at 10 am

Town Hall Hours

8 am to 6 pm

Monday thru Thursday

Contacts

Town Hall

307-883-8696

clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org

Special Municipal Officer

307-880-2666

Town of Star Valley Ranch Short Term Rental Ordinance

During the 16 March 2022 TSVR Council Meeting the third reading of Ordinance 2021-24, governing operation of Short-term Rental (STR) properties within the town limits, was approved by the Council. The STR Ordinance formally went into effect on 26 March 2022 and any homeowners currently operating STR properties on the Ranch now have 90 days to come into compliance with the ordinance provisions. Any homeowner who plans to open and operate a STR within the Town in future must also comply with the provisions of this ordinance.



The intent of the STR ordinance is to provide standards, guidelines, and procedures for STR property owners to ensure the essential character of the Town is maintained. Namely, STR owners, per the ordinance, have a responsibility to properly communicate to their guests applicable laws, standards, rules, and regulations that must be followed as established by the Town, the home-owners associations, Lincoln County, and the State of Wyoming. This will protect the residents of Star Valley Ranch while providing STR guests a safe and enjoyable experience during their visit.

Key provisions of the ordinance include notification by the STR property owner to all neighbors within 300 feet of the rental property. This notification includes STR property contact information that neighbors may use to address any concerns or issues as a result of the property being operated as a vacation rental. Additionally, STR property owners are required to obtain a STR permit from the Town (to be renewed annually), conduct an annual safety inspection of the property, collect applicable lodging taxes, and post information within the STR property that details local laws and regulations their guests should adhere to.

The STR Permit Application can be found on the TSVR website by selecting the “How Do I?” dropdown. For further questions on the STR Ordinance or the STR Permit Application process please contact the Town Office by phone at 307-883-8696 or by email at clerk@stravalleyranchwy.org.

Garage sale for Trails & Parks

Our annual Garage Sale for Trails & Parks will be on Friday and Saturday, 19 & 20 August. We will accept donations, primarily drop off, during the weeks of 1-5 August, 8-12 August, and 15-18 August - at the Trail Shed across from Town Hall (specific days and times to be announced in July).



Large Items - we are willing to help with pick-up but would like to wait till 16-18 August due to lack of storage space - call 307-883-9520 to coordinate.

Look for a Flyer to come out at the Mail Center by 1 July and the July Newsletter with all of the information on the sale - - dates & times.

We are always looking for donations and volunteers to help sort and sell!!

Mayor and Two Town Council positions on the ballot in November

Are you interested in helping your community grow? Do you have passion to serve your community? Two Town Council positions and Mayor are up for election this year. You may pick up a filing form at either Town Hall or the County Clerk's office at Lincoln County Court House.



The candidate filing period is May 12th through May 27th. The primary election is August 16th and the general election is November 8th.

Candidates for municipal office must be a registered voter and a resident of the municipality which he or she seeks to represent (W.S. 22-23-301) and will have resided in said municipality for at least one (1) year next preceding his or her election if so elected. (W.S. 22-23-103(b))

Star Valley Ranch Volunteer Trail Crew

The Town of Star Valley Ranch will continue to maintain the trails and trailheads on the Bridger-Teton National Forest (adjacent to the town) and the trails within Fox Run Park. We have two major construction projects this year: 1) A new trailhead at the Prater "turn-around" and 2) New Buck and Pole fencing for Fox Run Park. Work is scheduled to start on Thursday, 5 May and most maintenance is usually complete by the middle of August. Some projects may be completed in the Fall - weather permitting.



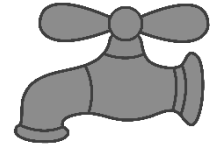
Work days are usually Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings (8am-Noon). We are looking for additional volunteers to keep these trails in top condition. There is no commitment - come when you can; All help is appreciated! For more information on the trail crew and how you can get involved give Trails Committee Chair, Craig Adler a call at 307.883.9520 (home), 513-324-4197 (cell), or send an e-mail to: svrtrails@gmail.com **(Send us your name, email, and cell # and we will add your name to our blast email list for the summer)**

Natural Resource Events & Volunteer Activities 2022

Thursday, May 5 th	Green Canyon Trailhead Maintenance
Thursday, May 12 th	Cedar Creek Trailhead Maintenance
Monday May 9 th thru Friday May 20 th	Community Garden Construction
Saturday, May 28 th	Town Entrance Cleanup
Saturday, June 4 th	Fox Run Park Cleanup
Saturday, June 11 th	Arbor Day
Thursday, June 16 th	War-on-Weeds Day
Saturday, July 9 th	Firewise and Public Safety Day*
Monday July 25 th to Friday, July 29 th	Firewise Pickup
Friday & Saturday, August 19 th & 20 th	Garage Sale for Trails & Parks
Saturday, October 22 nd	Town Entrance Fall Cleanup
Trail Crew Trail Maintenance:	
Thursday, May 27 th thru Sat., Aug 6 th	Trail Maintenance (Thurs, Fri, Sat)



Water Utility Board Water Conservation Ideas



As we prepare for our beautiful Star Valley Ranch summer days and contemplate our alternatives of how and when to water our yards, remember:

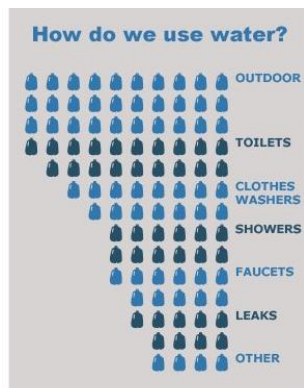
Water Conservation does NOT mean NOT USING water.

Conservation does mean: “*a planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect*”.

The Town of Star Valley Ranch, with good conservation practices, has adequate water supply for now and the foreseeable future.

However, that does NOT mean it is free! Our water rate (Usage Fee) for our citizens has been at \$.0022/gallon for many years, primarily because for the most part, our usage was within the volume of our natural Spring. As our total usage continues to go up (more homes) our reliance on our wells, to fill the gap between the demand and the Spring’s flow, the cost per gallon will need to be covered by Usage Fee increases.

For the majority of our citizens a green yard, grass and shrubs is worth the additional costs for the 3-4 months we must water. However, everyone can benefit through water conservation steps.



The annual average water usage per meter in Star Valley Ranch households is approximately 7,250 gallons per month, with as low as 2,500 gal/month in the winter and 20,000+ gal/month in the summer.

ON AVERAGE, where does the average person use water?

≈30% of water is used OUTSIDE, potential conservation areas:

- ★ Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.
- ★ Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants.
- ★ Water your lawn only when it needs it and deep-soak your lawn.
- ★ Water during the cool of the day.
- ★ Don't water driveway and roadways.
- ★ Don't run the hose while washing your car.
- ★ Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks and steps.

≈70% of water is used INSIDE, (Rank by use– see chart) potential conservation areas:

- ≈19% ★ Check your toilet for leaks. ★ Stop using your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. Put a plastic bottle in your toilet tank.
- ≈15% ★ Use your washing machine for full loads.
- ★ Use your automatic dishwasher for full loads only. ★ If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing.
- ≈12% ★ Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors. Take shorter showers. ★ Take baths.
- ≈11% ★ Don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables.
- ≈9% ★ Check faucets and pipes for leaks.
- ≈4% ★ Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. ★ Turn off the water while shaving. ★ Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator.

Our water is not free, but we believe we have the best tasting and safest water in the State.

Have a happy Star Valley Ranch summer!

Town of Star Valley Ranch Fuels Reduction/Defensible Space Guidelines

Modifying the amount of vegetation near a home is important to reduce fire behavior in the event of a wildfire. We encourage landowners to:

- 1) **Reduce vegetation, brush and limbs within 30 feet of their home and then move outward,**
- 2) **Create safe evacuation routes for yourself and emergency vehicles, and**
- 3) **Remove understory vegetation to improve forest health.**

Landowner created safe evacuation route and clear path for emergency vehicles.



Defensible space is created by modifying vegetation around structures out to a minimum of 30 feet.

Landowner removed small trees and brush to reduce fire risk and improve forest health. Excess material was chipped and scattered on site to return vital nutrients to the soil.



Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Guidelines

The home ignition zone is broken up into three different zones and help reduce the chance of fire reaching your home, see below. You may want to get a home evaluation by a Firewise home inspector. This evaluation will help you see where your home and property stand in the event of a wildfire. When receiving this evaluation, the evaluator will talk to you about how to harden your home as well as create a defensible space. Once your evaluation is completed you will be given a list of what work should be accomplished in each zone. The following is a breakdown of the zones and the recommendations in each.

1. Immediate zone: 0-5ft

- a. Use hard scape such as concrete or noncombustible rock mulch around your home.
- b. Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles.
- c. Store firewood and other combustible materials away from your home, garage or attached deck.
- d. Prune away touching or over-hanging branches from the roof to a distance of at least 10 feet.
- e. Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.

- f. Rake and remove flammable vegetation, such as leaves and needles or wood mulch, from underneath your deck and away from your home.
- g. Use non-wood, low-growing herbaceous vegetation. Succulents, or other fire-resistant plants, are recommended choices.

2. Intermediate zone: 5-30 ft or property line

- a. Create vegetation groups or islands to break up continuous fuels around your home.
- b. Remove ladder fuels to create a separation between low-level vegetation and tree canopies and keep fire from climbing into trees.
- c. Remove leaf and needle debris from the yard.
- d. Keep lawns, native grasses, and wildflowers less than four inches in height.
- e. Store firewood and other combustible materials away from outbuildings, such as a shed or barn.
- f. Move trailers, recreational vehicles, storage sheds and other combustible structures out of this zone and into zone 3. If unable to move, create defensible space around them as if they were a part of your home.

3. Extended zone: 30-100ft or property line

- a. Create and maintain a minimum of 10 feet between the tops of trees.
- b. Safely remove ladder fuels up to a height of 10 feet, while retaining at least 75% of the foliage to create separation between the ground and tree branches. This keeps fire from climbing into the canopies of the trees.
- c. Store firewood in this area, keeping a safe distance from your property.
- d. Create space between shrubs and trees to eliminate a continuous fuel bed at the ground level.
- e. Remove dead trees, shrubs and all other dead or dry vegetation.
- f. Create separation between your property and neighbors. Consider your trees may pose a greater risk to your neighbor than to your home.

After July 1st pile woody limbs, branches and logs along the road right-of-way for pickup. All material should be in lengths not greater than 8 feet. Natural wildland fuels only! No trash, lumber or construction waste! For 2022 all material should be on the edge of the road by 7 am on July 25th.