



TSVR Newsletter – August 2020

Garage Sale for Trails & Parks

The Natural Resource Board will be hosting our 4th Annual Garage Sale for Trails & Parks on **Saturday, August 8th from 8 am to 3 pm** at the First Response Center (next to the Mail Center). All proceeds go to the Town's Trails and Parks fund. If you have items you would like to donate to the garage sale give us a call at 307-883-9520.



Attention Voters!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretary of State has issued directives to the counties to consolidate polling locations as well as designate polling places that have sufficient floor space to accommodate social distancing protocols. Therefore, the county clerk has designated the polling location for the Star Valley Ranch precinct (District 2, Precinct 10) to the Star Valley Community Complex in Etna (107736 N. US 89) for the 2020 elections.

The election dates are as follows:

Primary Election Day: August 18th
General Election Day: November 3rd

Absentee ballots can be requested by contacting the Lincoln County Clerk at 307-877-2027

Scheduled Meetings

Town Council Meeting
August 19th at 6 pm

Planning & Zoning Board
Aug. 12th & 25th at 5 pm

Natural Resource Board
August 4th at 2 pm

Coffee with the Mayor
Cancelled until
further notice

Contacts

Town Hall
307-883-8696
clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org
Public Works
307-880-5325
Special Municipal Officer
307-880-2666



Mayor's Corner

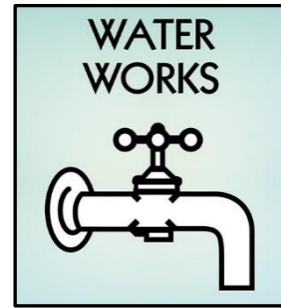
Water:

Town Council has started the process of determining water rates for 2021. We have a group of citizen volunteers with a great deal of experience that have begun the research portion of developing water rates and our second meeting will be in August. This process involves a great deal of research and time to determine the correct rates for our community.

Water Improvement Project 2019 which is a 6-million-dollar project is well on its way to be completed. This project will add 42 more fire hydrants to our Town, numerous feet of new correctly sized water lines and several new pressure relief valves. We realize the water construction has damaged several of the roads in Town. As part of the contract with Knife River they will grade and cap all the roads that they have damaged at the end of the project.

Water Improvement Project 2021 will go out to bid this fall and should begin in spring of 2021. This is a smaller project at 2-million-dollars which puts us closer to completing the upgrades that we so desperately need to complete.

We have recently had an increase in water meter tampering. This is a \$250.00 fine. If you need your water turned on or off at the meter you must contact the Town at 307-883-8696.



Volunteer:

Get Involved with Your Community! Are you looking to get involved? Are you interested in community service and would like to participate on the Planning and Zoning Board and Natural Resource Board? Please send an email to billing@starvalleyranchwy.org stating your area of interest.

Public Safety:



Mid-valley Fire District will be on the ballot in November for unincorporated County residents. If it passes Thayne and Star Valley Ranch will petition to be part of the new Fire District. Please ask your friends and family to vote for the Fire District.

Address Plates are still available:

First Responders need your help to find your home in an emergency. Please make sure that a reflectorized address numbers are visible from the street.

The blue reflectorized home address plates are still available from Town Hall for a cost of \$20 each. Stop by and sign up for one today and our Special Municipal Officer will see that it is delivered to your home.



Bear and Wildlife Issues



Recently a subadult black bear has been getting into several garbage cans and pet food dishes around the Town of Star Valley Ranch. When bears acquire human foods such as garbage, bird seed and pet food they can become habituated. This poses a human safety risk to both residents and their pets. To reduce this problem please:

1. Place garbage containers on the street the morning of pickup day and keep them in garages or sheds the rest of the time.
2. Take pet food indoors after feeding. Do not leave pet food out overnight.
3. Remove bird feeders **or** secure them so they cannot be reached by bears.

Firewise Program Finished for the Year

Thank you everyone who participated in the Firewise Program this year and removed hazardous fuels around your residence. Please any additional brush fuels cut must be transported to the Lincoln County Landfill on Highway 128A south of Thayne.



Leash Ordinance



Just a reminder that all dogs within the Town of Star Valley Ranch must be licensed and kept on a leash with the exception of a dog visiting Canine Commons at Fox Run Park or on your own property. Contact the Town Special Municipal Officer if you have questions.

Measuring Fire Danger

As we head into August we are also entering our peak fire season and most dangerous time for the spread of wildfire. Fire danger is measured by factors such as temperature, relative humidity, fuel type, fuel moisture (both live and dead fuels), wind speed, topography and atmospheric stability. The Teton Interagency Dispatch Center is responsible for collecting this data each day from remote automatic weather stations and calculating the resulting fire danger, Energy Release Component (ERC) and Burning Index (BI) for areas within northwest Wyoming. These numbers are used to determine the staffing level for wildland fire suppression resources and for land managers and local government to make decisions on fire restrictions and closures.



As an example, when the ERC exceeds the average numeric value of 60 for a period of three consecutive days, recreational fires are no longer permitted as described in the Town of Star Valley Ordinance Section 8.01.040.

You can view the daily fire danger readings by going to the Teton Interagency Fire webpage: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/dispatch/wy-tdc/home/> As of press time the Fire Danger for our area was rated as HIGH and the ERC had a value of 39. Please be careful with fire!

Star Valley Ranch Town Council Candidates Statements

The Town of Star Valley Ranch will need to fill two vacancies in the Town Council. Below are the statements of the three candidates who will appear on the ballot.

Ronald D. Denney

I am running for the position of councilman of the Town of Star Valley Ranch. My wife and I have owned property on Star Valley Ranch since 1990, We moved to Star Valley Ranch in 2011 following retirement. I have been active with the town as a member of the Natural Resource Board and on the Star Valley Ranch Association Board, including the position of Chairman for several years. I have continued to maintain cognizance of town council activities by often attending the council meetings. I believe the Town of Star Valley Ranch has served our citizens in an exemplary manner since it was formed in 2005. The established focus on enhancing the culinary water system, improving the roads, and ensuring public safety for all citizens, property owners, and visitors is still appropriate.



I have degrees in Chemical Engineering and have over 35 years' experience in spent nuclear fuel storage facilities management and in project/program management for constructing nuclear material facilities. I can bring this education and experience to the town council and help ensure the town continues its mission as a fiscally responsible municipality within the State of Wyoming. I believe the town can also continue to grow responsibly and provide an attractive place to reside.

Martin T Occhi

Councilman, Town of Star Valley Ranch, Jan 2017 to present
President, Wyoming Works LLC, June 2015 present
US Naval Academy Blue and Gold Officer Oct 2017 to present
Manager, Maritime Systems Operation, Leidos Jan 2013 to Feb 2015
Program manager, SAIC-Leidos Aug 1998 to Jan 2013
US Navy, Submarine Officer Aug 1978-Oct 1998



During the past four years as councilman for our town, I accomplished the following;

1. Significant re-write of Title 4 water ordinance, restructured the reserves ensuring the town has adequate reserves to meet its obligations, restructured our rates to make it fair across all water users and lot owner will pay the same into loans payment reserve.
2. Restructured the town water projects, the current project was schedule to be two projects, but we seized on opportunity to combine them while money was available from the state to complete a major portion of the remaining projects.
3. This restructuring also fixed a long-term issue of low water pressure on plates 4 & 5. This low pressure would hamper firefighting efforts in that area of the Town.
4. While initially blocking the titles 6 code changes, I then did the necessary research to review every IPC code change from 2006 to 2018 to ensure the Town did not adopt something we could not live with.
5. One of the driving forces behind the design, negotiations and purchase of the new Town Hall building.

6. Established new methods to develop and brief the annual budget which allows greater transparency and understanding at all levels

If re-elected I will continue to do what is right for the residents of our great Town, continue to push for even better budgetary processes, complete a new Town Master plan, restructure Town rates and fees to cost driven structure tied to the budget process, streamline current ordinances and resist the constant push on new and/or new regulation for regulation sake.

Taylor Ellis

Serving on the Star Valley Ranch Town Council is important to me because: The town of Star Valley Ranch is facing a future that will have to address a decreasing budget with a resultant need to make critical budget planning and allocation decisions. This is due to several significant reasons; state funding cuts, increased growth, the need for better management of natural resources, and ongoing development. It is my belief that my background uniquely qualifies me to effectively respond to these issues in a manner that will be beneficial to all current and future residents and to the future of the town. I want to prioritize my desire to meet with residents to learn, more specifically, the concerns, current and future needs, and goals of the residents in Star Valley Ranch.



My Past Work Experiences: I have served as the Chief Operating officer for the second largest Business School in the United States. My duties in this position included; curriculum planning for all academic disciplines, building growth from 4,000 to 10,000 students over 18 years, addressing all student issues, administering the technology infrastructure and addressing related issues, facilities scheduling and serving on 32 university committees. I was also responsible for the data analytics necessary to determine future trends and issues.

I am an experienced researcher and presenter on the subject of customer service, assessment, data management, and decision making. I have published three books and over 40 articles on a variety of topics including use of economic models for pricing decisions, service recovery, and consumer satisfaction.

In the natural resources area, I have worked closely with the Utah State Parks, as both a State Ranger and in providing planning information for a number of facilities. These positions have provided me with experience in both law enforcement, and the layout, design and construction of large-scale facilities. I have also conducted public meetings for both the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to obtain input on proposed plans and policies. I have used these skills to develop commercial feasibility studies and design for commercial resort developments.

I have a strong background in database design and development. I have been able to implemented innovations such as the creation of a 350-computer testing center, a time scheduling system, the automation of numerous internal data related processes, the use of touch screens for providing directions and activities, and dashboards for accessing critical functions and engagement.

I hope to put my experience and skills to use serving the residents of Star Valley Ranch as we all face new budgetary challenges.