



TSVR Newsletter – September 2022

Garage Sale for Trails & Parks a Big Success!



The 2022 Garage Sale for Trails and Parks was a huge success! Held on Friday and Saturday, August 19th and 20th, the sale raised more than \$11,100 for the Natural Resource Board's Parks & Landscaping Committee and the Trails Committee. Over 20 NRB

Volunteers worked the event, organizing the thousands of donations received over the past few weeks. Money raised will be used to maintain and improve our trail system with the Town and adjacent Bridger-Teton National Forest as well as recreation improvements at Fox Run Park and the TVSR Community Garden.

The Natural Resource Board wishes to thank you for your support and donations for this great event.

Prater Canyon Trailhead Completed

On Tuesday, August 30th the Star Valley Ranch Trail Crew completed the construction/upgrade of the Prater Canyon Trailhead. This has been a cooperative project between the Town of Star Valley Ranch, the Bridger-Teton National Forest and the Friends of the Bridger-Teton. Since beginning the project in June, the Trail Crew has accomplished the following:

- Relocated the first 250 feet of trail to a better grade and closed off and rehabilitated an unauthorized ATV trail
- Resurfaced the trailhead parking area with assistance of the TVSR Road Crew
- Installed 300+ feet of buck & pole fencing to define the parking area
- Installed a new trailhead sign and information kiosk

Scheduled Meetings

Economic Dev Board
September 6th at 2pm

Candidates Night
September 14th at 7pm

Planning & Zoning Board
Sept 14th & 28th at 5pm

Natural Resource Board
September 20th at 2pm

Town Council Meeting
September 21st at 6pm

Contacts

Town Hall
307-883-8696
clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org

Special Municipal Officer
307-880-2666

Prater Canyon Trailhead provides parking for hikers that are using the Prater-Murphy Trail. To access the trailhead, take Cedar Drive to the Forest Boundary then the Forest Service Road 1.3 miles to the trailhead. High clearance vehicles recommended.

From the NRB Parks & Landscaping Committee

First Lady Jennie Gordon, launched the Wyoming Hunger Initiative in late 2019. After she learned from a friend about the existence of several Sheridan County children struggling with food insecurity; this conversation sparked awareness and interest in the issue of child hunger in Wyoming that has remained with her as a pressing concern.



Our own Star Valley Ranch Community Garden has benefited from her Hunger Initiative in the form of grant money. We applied for a Wyoming Hunger Initiative Infrastructure Grant for the second year in a row and received money toward our garden's infrastructure! This year's grant paid for 4 additional oval 2' x 2' x 6' galvanized metal garden tanks.

These new tanks will be placed in the alley between Crop Circles and Canine Commons. The intention is to grow produce to share with our nearest food bank, Thayne Community Food Bank. The gardeners in Crop Circles also share any extra produce they grow beyond the needs of their family and friends. We grow a little extra.

If you are interested in growing food for your own table and grow a little extra, send your name to svrcommunitygarden@gmail.com and we will put you on the 2023 growing season list. In the event we have more requests for garden tanks than tanks available, we will draw names lottery style at the end of February.

Town of Star Valley Ranch Planning & Zoning Board Update

The Star Valley Ranch Planning and Zoning Board has been very busy thus far in 2022 with many single-family residential building permits submitted and approved. Michael D. Black currently serves as Chairman. The Planning and Zoning Board members are Dolores Albers, Brady Bitter, Kathy Daulton, Tyler Gomez, and Gordon Howe. Board members have volunteered numerous hours in permit review, blueprint review, site visits and Board Meetings. Since the first of the year, the P&Z Board has approved the following:

- 31 Single Family Residential Permits
- 4 Decks
- 2 Garages
- 4 Fences
- 1 Driveways
- 1 Accessory Buildings
- 4 Structural Building Modifications

Fire Danger now MODERATE



As of press time, following recent rainfall and cooler temperatures, the fire danger rating for the Bridger-Teton National Forest is considered MODERATE. Hopefully, moisture continues into the fall. A moderate fire danger rating does not mean that people should let their guard down regarding fire risk. The best way to prevent wildfires is to not build an outdoor fire. According to Teton Interagency Fire managers, so far this year there have been 77 illegal and abandoned campfires in the Teton Interagency Fire area. Every year, hundreds of campfires are left unattended, with all of them having the potential to start a large, extremely costly, life-threatening wildfire. Unattended or abandoned campfires can quickly escalate into wildfires and recreationists can be held liable for suppression costs if their campfire ignites a wildfire. Please be responsible with fire.

FIREWISE Success

This year more citizens signed up for Firewise than in years past. Creating defensible space around your home benefits everyone in the Town.



Thank you to citizens for following the guidelines for Firewise pickup and to the Town staff for all of their hard work. This was a very successful Firewise year. The Town will be reviewing the 2023 pickup dates, please email mayor@starvalleyranchwy.org with your feedback.

Slow Down!

One of the Town's resident fawns was killed on Vista Drive recently. And, last month a vehicle was clocked going 80 miles per hour on Cedar Creek Drive!

Every road in the Town is residential and the speed limit is 25 miles per hour or less. Please abide by the speed limit. Most vehicles stopped by the LCSD are residents of the Town.

Most complaints the Town receives are related to speeding. Residents want speed bumps, more police, and more signs. Yet, most speeders live in Town. Please be responsible neighbors.

PLEASE SLOW DOWN AND HELP KEEP TOWN SAFE

Two Ways to Stay Informed of Things Happening in Town

1. Submit your email address at [Town of Star Valley Ranch, WY \(starvalleyranchwy.org\)](http://Town of Star Valley Ranch, WY (starvalleyranchwy.org)) and get the town newsletter and other email updates
2. Like "Town of Star Valley Ranch" on Facebook

Town Roads Update



Presently the Town staff is working on Hardman and Butte. These two sections of road will be paved after the road prep and water project are complete. This paving project was approved by the Town Council in partnership with the water improvement project because the existing asphalt could not be repaired.

The Town staff will continue to focus on the water drainage project on Redwood until the weather does not allow them to continue.

The Town has one grader, one water truck, and one roller which is moved throughout the Town as needed. If roads wash out because of rain, that road becomes a priority.

The Town Council approves the budget in three readings which takes place at Council Meeting in April, May, and June.

Citizen voices are important so get involved, run for office, and make sure your neighborhood is represented.

Upcoming Elections

Our Primary Election was held on August 16, 2022, next up is the **General Election** on **November 8, 2022**. The polling location for the General Election will be upstairs at Town Hall (an elevator is available for those who may need it).



Absentee ballots are available from the **County Clerk's Office** 45 days prior to the election. To request a **ballot**, you may call the **County Clerk's Office** at (307) 877-2027 or (307) 877-2021 or by e-mail to: jpainter@lcwy.org or abrunski@lcwy.org

Make sure you vote! The 2022 slate of TSVR candidates is as follows:

Candidates for Mayor: **Don Baillie & Kathleen Buyers**

Candidates for Council: (2 seats/4-year term) **Lee R. Hansen, Kirsten Merrill, & Ruzena Rok**

Reminder! Short-Term Rental Permits Required



Any homeowner who plans to open and operate a Short-Term Rental (STR) within the Town must comply with the provisions of Ordinance 2021-24 which requires obtaining a permit from the Town before commencing operations. 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 email at clerk@stravalleyranchwy.org or by phone at (307) 883-8696.

Water Utility Board Update & 2023 Rates

As the Council and Water Utility Board start the Rate cycle again, here are some of the factors that affect all of our rates, and why they increase each year.



Source of Funds:

The water utility, by state statute, is a self funding entity. We may receive funds from the Town, (which we don't) but cannot give money to the Town. The following fees are our primary sources of revenue to cover our loan payments and operating expenses.

53.07 BASE FEE.

Current Budget Revenue: \$868,644

The Base Fee is based on capital investment in the Town's water infrastructure, loan payments for such investments, payments as required by grantees and lenders, and other operational costs determined to be for the Town's Water System.

53.13 USAGE FEE.

Current Budget Revenue: \$242,669

The Fee will be based upon the annual water system maintenance cost as authorized by annual Water Utility's operating budget. The water meter readings determine the amount of water used. The meter readings will normally be made at approximately the same time each month so that the billing period approximates a month time frame.

53.11 SERVICE AVAILABILITY FEES.

Current Budget Revenue: \$258,912

A monthly Service Availability fee will be charged to all vacant lot owners that do not have a water meter on the lot, except those denied the right to water for non-payment. The service availability fee is based on a portion of the greater of the total loan repayments or depreciation expense. The loan repayment or depreciation expense is set annually based on the loan repayment schedule and associated infrastructure costs or the amount determined to collect for depreciation. The fee shall be placed into the Loan Repayment and System Reserves.

53.15 SERVICE CONNECTION FEE.

Current Budget Revenue: \$262,500

The fee for a new water service connection, including the connection to the water main line, meter and stop and waste valve is based on service size.

Total Planned Revenues from the above Fees: ~~Error: \$1,370,225~~ **Correction: \$1,632,725**

2022/2023 Water Utility – Operating Budget – Revenue **TOTAL: \$1,735,044**

The difference between revenue numbers is made up from a planned use of Reserve Funds and Fines, Interest, Miscellaneous Fees, etc. And, the need to review any increases in our rates.

Use of Funds:

Annual Loan Payments Current Budget Expense: \$678,684

Annual Operations Expenses Current Budget Expense: \$900,232

Total Anticipated Expenses of above two items: **TOTAL: \$1,578,916**

2022/2023 Water Utility – Operating Budget – Expenses **TOTAL: \$1,735,044**

The difference between expenses is for planned allocation to Reserve and Miscellaneous non-operational expenses. Again, and the need to review any increases in our rates.

We will be working over the next months modeling our next years fee/rate recommendations to the Town Council for their action. While we must have enough funds to meet our expenses and to replenish our reserves in maintaining the Financial Stability of our Utility, we also focus on the impact to our customer's finances by trying to minimize any increase or spread it over years.

Thoughtful, solution-oriented input is always welcomed!