



# The Ranch News

## FIREWISE PROGRAM CLARIFICATION & PICKUP

NOW IS THE TIME TO BE PREPARED FOR WILDFIRE

In the June newsletter we erroneously reported that residents needed to register in order to participate in the Firewise program and annual brush pile pickup. That information was incorrect. **The Town of Star Valley Ranch will pick-up brush piles from all residents regardless of formal Firewise program registration or certification.** The Town will begin brush pile pickups on July 17<sup>th</sup> and continue through the 20<sup>th</sup>.



All brush should be cut in lengths of not over 8 feet and placed along the side of the roadway by your home after July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please remember that nothing may be placed on the road right of way prior to July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Residents are still encouraged to obtain a fire safety inspection of their property from Lincoln County Firewise Program Director, Patty Pringle. You can reach her at (307) 679-8574.

Visit [Firewise.org](https://www.firewise.org) for more information.

## INAUGURAL TSVR FARMER'S MARKET

SATURDAY, JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 8AM TO 11AM - DON'T MISS IT!



On Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> the Town of Star Valley Ranch will hold its first Farmers Market from 8am to 11am on Vista Drive next to the First Response Center (across from Town Hall). You can expect local produce and products as well as food and live music.

A few vendors you can expect to see include: Blue Ribbon Barn, Shumway Farms, Franceschi Farms, and others. Lucky's Place will also participate. Watch for more details posted around town as the inaugural SVR Farmer's Market date approaches!

## CALENDAR ITEMS

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### Water Utility Board

July 10<sup>th</sup> at 1pm

#### Finance Advisory Board

July 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

#### Town Council Workshop

July 11<sup>th</sup> at 2pm

#### Town Council Meeting

July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

#### Natural Resources Board

July 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm

#### Planning & Zoning Board

July 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

## NUMBERS YOU NEED

### CONTACTS

#### Town Hall

(307) 883-8696

[clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org](mailto:clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org)

#### Special Municipal Officer

(307) 880-2666

[smo@starvalleyranchwy.org](mailto:smo@starvalleyranchwy.org)

## MAYOR'S MEMO

A FEW WORDS FROM KATHY BUYERS

Dear friends and neighbors,

As the Town begins its 2023/2024 fiscal year, we look forward to many new projects that were approved as part of the budget process.

The Public Works Department will be focusing on road maintenance grading, dust guard, trimming, mowing, and removing trees on the road right of way. They will be adding culverts in compliance with the Surface Water Study and completing small paving projects at the Town Hall parking lot, at the corners of Butte/Hardman, and at Butte/Ponderosa. Public Works will also be working on some road striping projects in Town. We have Capital projects that are still under the design stage and should be completed this fiscal year.

Water Improvement Project 21 started at West Elkhorn Circle at the end of June and will continue to complete connections on the remaining cull de sacs. After completion all road damage that was created during the project will be repaired.

Water Improvement Project 23 (WIP 23) will replace water lines on Vista from Vista West to Vista East, up Vista East to Green Canyon. Please understand that a portion of Vista Drive will go back to dirt until the completion of WIP 23. At this writing we do not have a specific timeline completed.

We are currently recruiting volunteers to serve on our Town Boards. Please email the Town Clerk at [clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org](mailto:clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org) if you are interested in helping your community. We could really use volunteers with water utility, public safety, civil engineering, and construction background.

Fireworks watching is available all over Star Valley. As a reminder Fireworks are not allowed in the Town of Star Valley Ranch (please refer to Ordinance section §92.03 DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS).

*Have a Happy and Safe Fourth of July. Thank you.*

*Kathleen Buyers, Mayor*



*Thanks to resident Willard Ceccarelli for sharing this photo for the newsletter!*

## SAFETY DAY ARTICLE

SATURDAY, JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>

The Town of Star Valley Ranch Safety Day will be held at the First Response Center (across from Town Hall on Vista Drive) on Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12 noon.

Representatives from Star Valley Emergency Management Services (EMS), Mid-Valley Fire District, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Dry Creek Septic, Simplot, and others will be on hand to share valuable safety and preparedness information with residents. Live music and activities for kids will also be part of the event. Please stop by. We'll look forward to seeing you!



## ROADS 101

### DUST CONTROL ON OUR TOWN ROADS

Now that the summer season is upon us at the Ranch, our Town Public Works Department will begin treating our gravel roads with a road stabilizer. This stabilizer keeps gravel and other road materials in place, makes the road surfaces smoother, and controls dust. Interestingly, stabilizer application is more effective on highly traveled roads as the vehicle traffic helps beat in the product.

The road stabilizer our Public Works crews will be using is a naturally occurring mineral called magnesium chloride, a nontoxic mineral that is gathered from the Great Salt Lake in Utah. DustGard® is applied as a liquid solution on freshly-bladed roads, and stabilizes roads and controls dust because of its hygroscopic properties. This means the product naturally attracts moisture from the air, keeping the ground slightly damp and preventing dust and dirt from blowing in the wind.

Dust control is beneficial for many reasons. It improves road safety by offering drivers greater traction and controlling dust that make visibility difficult. It also protects vehicles by keeping loose gravel and dust to a minimum, reducing chipped windshields, congested filters and clogged bearings. Controlling dust also improves the environment for human and animal health.

Public Works began blading roads and applying DustGard® during the last week of June. Dust control on Town roads will continue into the fall. Application usually occurs during the mornings when dampness aids in the process which begins by pulling up 4 to 6 inches of road surface, applying water, and then applying the DustGard®. Following this initial phase of the application process, the road is bladed and then DustGard® is applied again and compacted (with a roller). Water may also be applied again as needed during the compaction phase of the process. As a result, please note that roads will be wet and muddy for several days after application as the stabilizer soaks in and hardens.

Have questions? Please contact the Town Clerk by email at [clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org](mailto:clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org) or give Town Hall a call at (307) 883-8696.

### CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL

#### COUNCILMAN ELLIS

[tellis@starvalleyranchwy.org](mailto:tellis@starvalleyranchwy.org)

#### COUNCILMAN DENNEY

[rdenney@starvalleyranchwy.org](mailto:rdenney@starvalleyranchwy.org)

#### COUNCILWOMEN MERRILL

[kmerrill@starvalleyranchwy.org](mailto:kmerrill@starvalleyranchwy.org)

#### COUNCILWOMEN ROK

[rrok@starvalleyranchwy.org](mailto:rrok@starvalleyranchwy.org)

### "COUNCIL CORNER"

*will return in the August issue of the newsletter!*



*In the meantime we hope you'll find our new*

### "ROADS 101"

*series of articles, debuting on this page, to be informative and useful!*

## NEWS & NOTES FROM THE PLANNING & ZONING BOARD (P&Z)

### ALL ABOUT P&Z

PLANS, PERMITS, AND MORE...

There are new and exciting things happening with TSVR Planning and Zoning. The Town's Planning and Zoning Department consists of five board members, two Building Inspectors, and one Planning and Zoning Clerk. Currently the only full-time employee is the Planning and Zoning Clerk. Board members are citizens who volunteer their time and expertise. Currently, the Planning and Zoning Board is looking for new members. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to the Town Clerk at [clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org](mailto:clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org).

One of the main duties of the Planning and Zoning Board is the approval of permits. Over the last three years the Town has issued an average of 70 permits per year. Many of these permits are for new homes, about 25-30 per year. It has been exciting to see the growth in our Town, however, managing so many permits has proved challenging. To help with this challenge and make the permit application process more convenient for our citizens, we have implemented a new online system.

This system includes the ability for citizens and contractors to go to the Town website and apply directly online for many of the different types of permits the Town issues. The online application process is now available for new residential homes, new garages, and other accessory buildings/sheds (over 350 square feet), structural modifications (such as additions), new decks or deck repairs, and additional driveway or driveway resurfacing permits. Other types of permits such as fence, smaller accessory buildings/sheds, or right-of-way permits will still need to fill out a paper application. A complete list of permits and paper applications to print are available on our website at this link: [https://www.starvalleyranchwy.org/community/forms\\_permits.php#outer-103sub-104](https://www.starvalleyranchwy.org/community/forms_permits.php#outer-103sub-104)

In addition to applying for permits online the new system allows for Permit Application Fees and Building Deposits to be paid online. We are excited about the new system and hope citizens find it to be a useful tool.

2023 is on track as another busy year! I would like to take this opportunity to remind citizens to please check if a permit is required by the Town, and possibly Star Valley Ranch Association, prior to building or making improvements to their properties. Lots of information is available via our website, including Town Ordinances which include what actions require a permit and general building requirements [use this link <https://www.starvalleyranchwy.org/government/ordinances.php>].

You can also reach out to us at Town Hall anytime. We know it can be confusing, but we are happy to help!

**Gina Campbell**

Assistant Clerk/Court Clerk

Town of Star Valley Ranch

307-883-8696

[planning@starvalleyranchwy.org](mailto:planning@starvalleyranchwy.org)



## NEWS & NOTES FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD (NRB)

### GARAGE SALE FOR TRAILS AND PARKS

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY AND PLANT SOME TREES AT FOX RUN PARK!

The Natural Resource Board / Town of Star Valley Ranch will again have a two-day “**Garage Sale for Trails & Parks**” on August 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 2023. Due to limited storage capacity after modifications to the First Response Center we will gather all donations during the week of the event (August 14<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>) in a tent across from Town Hall. As always, the NRB will work with you on larger items and/or higher value items you wish to donate as we may be able to market these items prior to the actual sale date. Please call Craig Adler at (513) 324-4197 to coordinate. Have other questions? Send an email to: [svrtrails@gmail.com](mailto:svrtrails@gmail.com)

The NRB will need volunteers for the setup, sales, and cleanup from 8am to 4pm on both August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Please email/call Craig Adler if you would like to help. This is the NRB's largest fundraiser of the year so, we look forward to seeing you. And, thanks in advance to all of the volunteers who help make the sale a success and to the dedicated patrons who support our event!!



### COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

UPDATES FROM OUR CROP CIRCLES COMMUNITY GARDEN

Hello again fellow SVR gardeners!

Rain and more rain lately but hopefully we're due for some sunshiny days. I've been monitoring all our tanks and literally June is busting out all over to coin a phrase Carousel or is it Oklahoma? I don't know for sure but plants and seeds are poking their heads up in every tank. Even the potatoes in the food bank tanks decided to show themselves finally. Now I hope we get them in abundance to share with the Thayne Food Bank.

Lots of interesting news to share. TSVR is having its first but not its last Farmers Market! The inaugural date is July 15<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 11am in the parking lot across from Town Hall. I'm informed by the organizer, Councilwoman Kirsten Merrill, there will be vendors selling produce and other items. So, if you're free come one come all and check it out! I'm looking forward to it. Have questions, please email me ([svrcommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:svrcommunitygarden@gmail.com)). I suspect there will be homemade jams and many other goodies.

On the SVRA annual July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, the NRB is planning to have an information station in Cedar Creek Park. Flag raising at sunrise, military commendation for each branch of the service, pancake and sausage breakfast, golf cart parade, lots of games and fun for kids and grownups alike and hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch.

Finally, many of our gardeners hide their light under a bushel (*hee hee, no pun intended*) and are experts in many different ways. One is a very experienced grower of tomatoes. Several have expressed interest in having short information sessions on growing in Wyoming. If you are interested in tomatoes, square foot gardening, growing organically, or other topics please let me know and I'll see what can be arranged. Time is short so these little talks will not consume much of our precious summer weather.

From Alfred Austin, “*The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body but the soul.*” Happy digging and tending!

**Deb Johnson**

## WAR ON WEEDS DAY 2023

THURSDAY, JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 9AM TO 1PM

Are you seeing any of these on your property? If so, you'll want to stop by the Ranch's War on Weeds event on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Lincoln County Weed & Pest will have their noxious weed control crews here at the First Response Center (corner of Vista Drive and Vista West Drive) from 9am-1pm on Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

These crews will: help residents identify noxious weeds on their property; assist in developing a strategy for control, including manual techniques; assist in treating weeds on your property; help calibrate sprayers; recommend an herbicide and assist in proper mixing; provide instruction on proper application of product for best results; provide crews to work on projects on public property; and, have herbicide available to residents for purchase at a discounted price!

This is a tremendous opportunity to control weeds on your property for a very low cost! Come on out and get after those weeds!



## PHOTOS SUBMISSIONS FROM RANCH RESIDENTS



*Thanks to resident Diane Hillman for the breathtaking photo submission above and also to Diane Clark for the photos to the right (taken from her backyard)!*

*Please keep sharing those photos for future Ranch News issues!*





## TSVR 2023-2024 BUDGET APPROVED

### TOWN MISSION DRIVES GOAL-ORIENTED BUDGET PROCESS

At the June 13<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting the Council approved the 2023-2024 Budget Appropriation for the Town of Star Valley Ranch. The Town's new fiscal year begins on July 1st, 2023 and concludes on June 30th, 2024.

This year's budget was created via a top-down, mission-driven planning process. Specifically, annual-goals were created to align with our Town's mission statement to ensure the Town Council drives the Town toward fulfillment of that mission. These annual goals will now be cascaded down to every member of our Town staff to ensure our people and financial resources are aligned with the overall priorities and work plan set down by the Town Council.

Highlights from the newly approved annual goals and budget are shown in the graphic below and can also be found posted at Town Hall and in the Town Mail Center. Additional details on the 2023-2024 budget goals will be posted to the Town website with a link made available in a future newsletter issue.



### **Town of Star Valley Ranch**

### **2023-2024 Budget Goals**

[1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024]

<b>WATER</b> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Green Canyon Tank Liner Installation <input type="checkbox"/> Complete 2021 Water Project <input type="checkbox"/> Start Vista Drive Water Project
<b>ROADS</b> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Replace Middle Branch Crossing <input type="checkbox"/> Pave Brambleberry Drive <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Road Study & Road Prioritization <input type="checkbox"/> Establish Road Maintenance Resource Plan
<b>COMMUNICATION</b> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve Town Newsletter Readership <input type="checkbox"/> Town \$ Goals & Tracking Visible to Citizens
<b>RURAL LIFESTYLE</b> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Update/Improve Nuisance Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Organize a Town Community Event
<b>RECREATION</b> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve Trails Parking & All-Season Access <input type="checkbox"/> Improve Trails Signage
<b>FINANCIAL</b> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Revised/Improved Monthly Reporting <input type="checkbox"/> Set Minimum Reserve Levels
<b>QUALITY SERVICES</b> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Update Town Master Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Implement Short-Term-Rental Software <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Service Training for All Town Staff

In the next issue of

*Ranch News*



*We're always looking for your photos!*

*Our current photo call is for images that depict*

*"Summer on the Ranch"*

*for use in the August newsletter issue.*

*Don't be shy – send us your best!*



*Please email photos to*

*[newsletter@starvalleyranchwy.org](mailto:newsletter@starvalleyranchwy.org)*

*and we'll publish them next time around!*



*"Meet Your Town Employees"*

*will be returning in a future newsletter issue!*

*Stay Tuned!*

## LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF DISPATCH REPORT

AKA - THE RANCH BLOTTER

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office provided the following TSVR dispatch report for 1 - 31 May 2023:

Citations	2
Warnings	1
CFS/Law Incidents	53
Special Patrol	18

Animal Problem		Abandoned Vehicle		Agency Assist	
Alarm		Assault		Auto Accident	1
Burglary		Citizen Assist	2	Citizen Dispute	
Civil Standby	2	Controlled Burn	2	Child Abuse	1
Alcohol Problem		Controlled Substance		Disturbance	1
Court		Domestic Violence		Drugs	
Elderly Abuse		e911	13	Harassing	
Intoxication		Fire / Fireworks		Fraud	1
Littering		Information	2	Lost/Found Property	
Juvenile Problem		Motorist Assist		Lost/Found Animal	1
Livestock	1	Protection Order		Medical	4
Reckless Driving	1	Security Check	10	Transfer Patient	
Smoke/Fire Investigation	1	Suspicious	1	Theft	1
Threatening	1	Traffic	2	VIN Inspection	5
Welfare Check		Trespassing		Vandalism	

*Have questions, comments or just thoughts to share about our Town?*

*Please email the Ranch News editor at [newsletter@starvalleyranchwy.org](mailto:newsletter@starvalleyranchwy.org) and we'll do our best to answer your query, publish your letter, or pass along your comments in a future newsletter. Thank you!*



## ORDINANCE UPDATES & OTHER PUBLIC NOTICES

### LETTERS

FROM OUR TOWN RESIDENTS

Town Newsletter Editor,

Just a few comments about our newsletter in the Town. The format of the letter has changed, and new columns have been added. The newsletter has improved greatly that way, but more information would be welcomed in areas of concern to more people.

The Mayor's Corner is always of interest. How about a comment from the various Boards and maybe even mention the Town Council Workshop every now and then as to what is discussed. An update on the Mid-Valley fire district would be nice. Do we have a fire truck in the building yet? Are there any ideas or plans yet for that surrounding property where the Response Center is located?

The roads do interest everyone - grading, filling pot holes, chip seal of the streets, and winter snow plowing are all ongoing topics.

I'm sending these comments because I feel that a newsletter becomes less informative when there's unnecessary repetition that dulls your interest in reading it. I hope my comments will be taken in a constructive manner, and they are offered as such.

*Sandy Willis*

[Note, the full content of this letter was abbreviated for publication.]

*Thank you Sandy! We really appreciate your feedback and are taking it to heart. You'll already see a new item or two in this issue motivated by your input and we will work to keep improving our town newsletter content into the future. Thanks again!*  
~Ru Rok, TSVR Newsletter Editor



### ORDINANCES

PENDING ORDINANCES OR UPDATES

The following ordinance update was approved as a third reading during the June 13<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting. Ordinance updates become effective 10 days after the third reading.

### ORDINANCE 2023-06 [THIRD READING]

APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

Ordinance to codify the TSVR budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.



The following ordinance was approved as a first reading at the June 13<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting.

### ORDINANCE 2023-05 [FIRST READING]

TITLE III ADMINISTRATION CHAPTER 33 TOWN ORGANIZATIONS

This Ordinance is an update to board organization to have consistency of form and language and to dissolve the Economic Development Board and reserve the subsection for future use.

SECOND READING PLANNED FOR 11 JULY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.

The complete text of all ordinance updates can be found on the Town website under Government > Ordinances > and then by using the "Current Proposed Ordinance up for Reading" drop-down. Or [click here](#).

Questions or comments on proposed ordinances or ordinance updates can be emailed to: [clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org](mailto:clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org)



### NOTICE

CEDAR DRIVE REMAINS CLOSED DUE TO ROAD DAMAGE

Cedar Drive remains closed due to spring runoff from Prater Canyon.



The Town Public Works Department has received the new culvert that will be installed as part of the repair process. Currently, repair is planned to be

completed by the end of July. Thank you for your patience.

## NOTICE

### NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

The Town of Star Valley Ranch is a participating community in the National Flood Insurance Program. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), enables homeowners, business owners and renters in participating communities to purchase federally backed flood insurance. You can obtain additional information at the following link: <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>



## NOTICE

### FROM OUR USPS MAIL CENTER CONTRACT HOLDER

Here at Star Valley Ranch mail center, we have over 800 occupied mailboxes. We have 70 parcel lockers and a volume of packages ranging from 250-500 packages daily making it so every locker is used every day. We start our day in Thayne sorting packages/mail, and we can only bring as many with us from Thayne to fill the lockers that we have available. If the lockers don't have keys hanging out of them that means that the locker is occupied by a package waiting for someone to pick it up. Unfortunately, some packages get left behind due to size, lack of lockers, and need for a signature. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation!

*Krista Bodily*



## MORE NEWS IN BRIEF

### QUICK NOTES ON TOWN OPERATIONS AS OF 30 JUNE

- Water Installation Project 2021 (WIP 21) resumed the week of 26 June on West Elkhorn. The project will continue through the summer.
- Town Hall landscaping has been completed for the year. There are now steps from the upper portion of the parking lot down to the lower portion.
- Leveling of Town property next to the old mail center is nearly complete.
- Culverts ordered for repairs on Spruce Drive and Cedar Drive following spring run-off have been received. Installation is planned for the month of July.
- The Town's road grader has been returned and the road grader that had been on loan was picked up by Caterpillar, Inc. (CAT).
- The Town's compactor/roller (purchased used about 4 years ago) continues to malfunction. The Town is working with CAT mechanics to troubleshoot issues. The roller is a necessary piece of heavy equipment that works in concert with the road grader to repair our Town roads.
- After waiting 6-months our elevator/lift at Town Hall has been repaired and certified as ADA compliant.



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