



Ranch News

MAYOR'S MEMO

A FEW WORDS FROM KATHY BUYERS

Hello, everyone. I certainly hope you are well and enjoying this beautiful winter season. There is a lot happening in Star Valley Ranch so let's get started.

On January 31st and February 14th, the Town Council held extremely productive planning sessions. We used the Town vision and mission to guide our decisions and set our priorities for the 2023-2024 budget and beyond. The first reading of the 2023/2024 fiscal budget will be at the April 11th Regular Town Council Meeting. The budget process will take three readings with the final reading on June 13th. The Town staff will begin drafting the actual budget on February 15th.

The Town Council has put together some Town goals and individual Councilman goals that we will share with you through the newsletter process and at the March Regular Town Council meeting.

We continue to improve our communications by implementing a new agenda item that gives citizens a public platform for addressing the Town Council. We are improving our social media presence, newsletters, emails, website, Coffee with the Mayor and text so we can keep you informed.

We are excited to start another water line replacement project on Vista for 2023 and complete the 2021 project. We have almost replaced every water line in our Town. We have the newest and most desirable water system in the state and we all should be very proud of what has been accomplished.

We are looking forward to updating our road plan and are excited to share it with you when completed.

As our population continues to grow, we will need to continually adjust our priorities to accommodate our increased population. Thank you.

Kathy Buyers

CALENDAR ITEMS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Water Utility Board

March 6th at 1pm

Finance Advisory Board

April 4th at 2pm

Town Council Meetings

March 14th at 7pm

April 11th at 7pm

Planning & Zoning Board

March 8th at 5pm

April 12th at 5pm

Natural Resources Board

March 23rd at 2pm

NUMBERS YOU NEED

CONTACTS

Town Hall

(307) 883-8696

clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org

Special Municipal Officer

(307) 880-2666

smo@starvalleyranchwy.org

GROWING SEASON 2023

CROP CIRCLES COMMUNITY GARDEN CALL FOR GARDENERS

Hello fellow SVR gardeners!

Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow last month and predicted six more weeks of winter. I guess this means we'll all be ready for spring and planting by the time the next newsletter comes out!

New news update. As many of you may know, our good friends and fellow gardeners, Shirley and Greg Greenhoe, have moved. I have taken over the job of community garden coordinator. I'm looking forward to meeting gardeners and getting to know all of you.

As you may know we have a total of 24 garden circles. Due to a communication mix-up the usual announcement about application was omitted in the January/February town newsletter. Accordingly, and for this year only, 19 of the tanks have been assigned to those who gave their names to Shirley last fall. This leaves 5 tanks open for interested gardeners. If you are interested in one of the remaining tanks, please contact me ASAP by email at: svrcommunitygarden@gmail.com

All gardeners will need to complete our written application with name, address, email, and most importantly a phone number. Finally, the Natural Resource Board (NRB) recently approved a \$10.00 fee from each gardener/tank to assist with the water fees the NRB pays to the Town during each garden season. As usual the tanks are, otherwise, free.

I'll be collecting the applications and fee for water sometime toward the end of March. Emails will be sent to gardeners to confirm the time and place.

There are lots of interesting and affordable one-day classes from Western Wyoming Community College in their spring offerings. Topics such as herb growing in SVR and canning are available online and in paper. The latter are available at the Thayne Branch of the Lincoln County Library and the Thayne Senior Center. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email me at: svrcommunitygarden@gmail.com

I look forward to growing with you!

Deb Johnson



STAR VALLEY WEATHER

A Blog About Weather Forecasting And Observing As It Relates To Star Valley, Wyoming In Particular

Check out the Star Valley Weather Blog to see the latest snow totals and weather updates for our Town!

Click on the graphic immediately above or use this link: <http://blog.starvalleyweather.com>



COUNCIL CORNER

A FEW WORDS FROM COUNCILWOMAN KIRSTEN MERRILL

At the beginning of the year the Town Council members were assigned board liaison roles. I was previously a member of the Economic Development Board (EDB), and I have now taken over the position of Liaison for the EDB.

The Board has a unique role in researching and brainstorming ideas for long-term economic success. As the EDB continues to strategize ways to contribute to a sustainable, and thriving future for our community we also want to improve the quality of life for its citizens. The survey taken last year in January 2022 for our Town Vision and Mission Statement Committee made clear that our citizens value the rural lifestyle we have in Star Valley Ranch. To maintain this, the EDB needs men and women who understand the community, and who can be loyal to the community's wishes. The Board is currently in need of two new board members. If you would like to contribute your time and expertise to the healthy growth of our town, I encourage you to come to the next EDB meeting.

There are multiple boards and committees in our Town that allow citizens to get involved and make a positive impact on sustainable community development and the quality of life for all. Visit our town website (starvalleyranchwy.org), or stop by and visit with the administrative staff to find out where your volunteer capital can be best spent in our Town.

Kirsten Merrill

CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL

COUNCILMAN ELLIS

tellis@starvalleyranchwy.org

COUNCILMAN DENNEY

rdenney@starvalleyranchwy.org

COUNCILWOMEN MERRILL

kmerrill@starvalleyranchwy.org

COUNCILWOMEN ROK

rrok@starvalleyranchwy.org

TO READ EACH
COUNCILMAN'S
INDIVIDUAL GOALS &
OBJECTIVES FOR
2023 TURN TO PAGES
6 & 7 OF THIS
NEWSLETTER

ARBOR DAY 2023

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ARBOR DAY 2023!

The Town of Star Valley Ranch will be celebrating our 13th annual Arbor Day on Saturday, June 10th 2023 at Fox Run Park. We will be planting additional trees within the park. The Town of Star Valley Ranch will also be recognized as a Tree City for our 12th consecutive year!

The Town of Star Valley Ranch has established a fund for the purchase of trees and supplies for the 2023 Arbor Day and other natural resources work. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the TSVR Town Hall or you can make a donation online (see donation details below). The Natural Resource Board will add the names to our recognition plaque which is displayed at Town Hall. The minimum donation for displaying the names of donors or remembrances is \$50. Donations received after May 11th will be recorded on the plaque in 2024.



Natural Resource Board

Donation for Trees - Arbor Day 2023

Your \$50.00 donation will entitle you to have a name engraved on the plaque displayed in our Town Hall. Donations must be received by May 11th for Arbor Day June 10th 2023 (If not received by May 11th, donations will be applied to the 2024 celebration).



Donor's Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Donation Amount _____ Date _____

Do you want a name on the plaque? Yes _____ No _____

Is this donation in memory of an individual? Yes _____ No _____

If **Yes** to the above, please print the name you want engraved on the plaque:

Return this form to Town Hall or mail to:

Arbor Day and Natural Resource Donation
Town of Star Valley Ranch
171 Vista Drive #7007
Star Valley Ranch, WY 83127

[Click here](#) to provide an Arbor Day donation online via the Town's Online Bill Pay web page. After landing on this page click on the link that says "[Click HERE to donate to our Natural Resource Board/Arbor Day Fund](#)".

HELP BUILD & MAINTAIN TRAILS!

BECOME A STAR VALLEY RANCH TRAIL CREW VOLUNTEER!

The Town of Star Valley Ranch Trail Crew is starting our 9th year of VOLUNTEER efforts to build and maintain the TRAILS & TRAILHEADS on the Bridger-Teton National Forest (adjacent to the town) and in Fox Run Park. Work is scheduled on all five of the National Forest trails (Prater-Murphy, Vista-Prater, Valley View, Maple, Cedar Creek) and at Fox Run Park. Work begins on 5 May and continues through 10 August. Some projects may continue into October – weather permitting. Work days are usually Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays (8am - Noon). On occasion, a longer work session may be scheduled for work on the upper portions of Prater-Murphy and Cedar Creek trails.



**We are looking for additional VOLUNTEERS
to keep these trails in top condition and continue to add improvements.**

There is NO commitment – come when you can – all help is appreciated. If you hike, you can make a difference – we have light work up to heavy construction. The best way to get involved is to email your contact information (name, email, and cell phone number) to: SVRTRAILS@GMAIL.COM

We will add your name to our weekly email blast when we announce each weeks projects with times and meeting place. Work as many or as few days as you want! Training is accomplished during the first work day by the Crew Leader.

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 phone) or (513) 324-4197 (cell phone). For historical information on the Trail Crew visit our Facebook Page at: [Facebook.com/svrtrailcrew](https://www.facebook.com/svrtrailcrew)

TSVR FIREWISE PROGRAM

LIVING WITH WILDFIRE IN WYOMING



It's never too soon to start thinking about wildfire prevention and safety!

In just a few short months we will head into another Star Valley Ranch summer which also means we'll be entering into another wildfire season. Protecting yourself and your property from wildfire is important and the Town of Star Valley Ranch wants to work with you.

You can become a member of the TVSR Firewise program by filling out an application at Town Hall. We will then make arrangements for a residential wildland fire assessment to be conducted. This evaluation will give you an outline of the work to be completed to make your home firesafe.

A benefit of the Firewise Program is that brush or slash cut can be placed on the edge of the Town roadway and our Town crew will collect it. Look for additional information in the May Town newsletter for this year's Firewise Program brush and slash pile pick-up dates.

2023 COUNCILMAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES

HERE ARE INDIVIDUAL COUNCILMAN
GOALS & OBJECTIVES FOR 2023



COUNCILMAN ELLIS

GOALS FOR 2023

- Infrastructure:
 - Hardman Bridge
 - Electric problems in Airstrip pumphouse
 - Tank liner Green Canyon
- Communication:
 - Increase citizen input and engagement
 - Media communication person
 - Publicize goals of Council
- Recreation:
 - Playground Fox Run Park
 - Walking paths
 - Park land near EMS building
- Rural Lifestyle:
 - Align HOA and Town on building and other overlapping areas
 - Nuisance and Noise Ordinance update
 - Preservation of open areas
- Financial:
 - Revised budget monthly and yearly
 - Priority lists for roads and water
 - Process/person to seek outside funding
- Services:
 - Complete development of 10-year Town Master Plan
 - Resident education on town processes
 - Service training

- Personal Goals:
 - Get 10-year Master Plan going
 - Work with staff on permissions for IworkQ and Gov
 - Review backup plans for Town data system
- Work with FAB to:
 - Review and revise budget
 - Review relational database for town budget and fascial issues
 - Revise budget plan process
- Work with P&Z to:
 - Revise permit and deposit ordinance
 - Outdoor lighting added to permit process
 - Revise ordinance for solar energy generation
 - Clarify ordinance concerning parking of RVs around homes
 - Clarify what is meant by work on open excavations
 - Develop ordinance on temporary fencing
 - Work on improving inspection process and backup inspector



COUNCILWOMAN MERRILL

GOALS FOR 2023

- Become familiar in grant application writing for federal and private grants, and how to find the best ones to meet our Town's needs.
- Research the pros and cons of

having our own fire and EMS, funding and grants, or if there are other options that would help the valley in having our own fire program. This would include going to Mid-Valley Fire Board meetings and building a good relationship with our current fire and EMS service.

- As liaison to EDB I would like to direct the board into more community planning, such as parks, more outdoor recreation. Also, brainstorming more income for the town with events for residents.
- Establish a Road Board and be the Liaison. This board would help give a platform for residents and road workers to come together to have a better understanding of expectations from residents. Also, thoughts and brainstorming on how to improve our processes with road maintenance and plowing. The board would also assist in finding grants to help with road needs and bringing this to the Town Council and Mayor.
- Attend HOA meetings and keep up to date on their changes and rules. Find ways that we may be able to assist each other (not financially) to improve the rural lifestyle of our town.
- Look into starting a youth program (possibly with NRB) that will give TSVR youth an

COUNCILWOMAN MERRILL

GOALS FOR 2023 (continued)

- opportunity to volunteer with upkeep and maintenance in our town.
- Become more familiar with our budget and the processes we have.
- Start researching and begin steps towards having our Employee Handbook updated or rewritten.

**COUNCILWOMAN ROK**

GOALS FOR 2023

- Review and become familiar with Town Ordinances
- Review and provide input on engineering assessments for TSVR infrastructure projects
- Work to further the process of obtaining a discrete zip code for TSVR
- Improve tracking and permitting of Short-Term Rentals
- Improve distribution and readership of Town newsletter
- As liaison to the Natural Resource Board:

- Facilitate communication between NRB and TSVR to enable decision-making
- Work with NRB to implement winter parking solution(s) at trailheads

**COUNCILMAN DENNEY**

GOALS FOR 2023

- Water Utility Board
 - As the Water Board Liaison, ensure consistent, thorough and accurate representation of the Council's desires to the Board as well as the Board's recommendations to the Council.
 - Oversee negotiations for an accurate, representative and conservative 2023/2024 Water Utility's Budget (Operating & Capital).
 - Update the Water Utility Rate Objectives Document
 - Oversee the ongoing water projects
 - Become more aware of routine water utility operations and maintenance

- Public Safety
 - Help ensure successful update of our Town Firewise Assessment & Plan
 - Support update and integration of TSVR Emergency Operations Manual with other relevant documents
 - Assist with coordination of Safety Day with all agencies and volunteers
- Town Council
 - Attend TSVR workshops and meetings
 - Support development of ordinances as necessary
 - Support budget development and management
 - Support development of a public recreation plan

**LETTERS**

FROM OUR TOWN RESIDENTS

We're still looking forward to hearing from you, Town of Star Valley Ranch residents, in future newsletters! Please write!

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

Please email the Ranch News editor at 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!

SMO'S REPORT

AKA - THE RANCH BLOTTER

From 1 January through 31 January 2023 the TSVR Special Municipal Officer issued 11 verbal warnings, 9 written warnings, and 0 citations. To follow is a summary of the calls and complaints responded to during this same time period:

Animal Complaint	2	Water Shut-Off	0
Building & Zoning	0	Meter Pit Tampering	0
Road Right-of-Way	11	LCSD Assist	1
Snow Complaint	6	Fire Prevention\Open Fire	0
Nuisance Complaint	0	Stop Work Order	0
Road Damage	0	Animal Impound	0

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office provided the following report for TSVR from 1 January through 31 January 2023:

Citations	0
Warnings	0
CFS/Law Incidents	36
Special Patrol	16

Animal Problem	1	Auto Accident	2
Citizen Assist	1	Domestic Violence	2
Civil Standby	0	Game & Fish	2
e911	12	Patient Transfer	0
Fraud	0	Medical	2
Information	2	Security Check	0
Repossession	1	Smoke/Fire Investigation	0
Traffic	3	Suspicious	3
Trespassing	2	VIN inspection	3

With winter now in full swing on the Ranch, the TSVR SMO would like to remind residents of the following items: 1. Trash Containers - do not leave containers out after pick-up day; 2. Owners shall not place trash containers on roadways; 3. Snow machines must stay off private property and please stay off roadside berms.

The SMO appreciates your cooperation. Thank you!

P&Z 2022 END OF YEAR REPORT

ANOTHER BIG YEAR FOR BUILDING ON THE RANCH!

The TSVR Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Board reported during the February 2023 Town Council Meeting the following permits and reviews were approved during the time period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022:

- Single Family Resident Permits approved 35
- Single Family Resident Permits Revoked 2
- Single Family Residence Extension 1
- Single Family Resident Permit Transferred 1
- Permits Extensions issued after original permit expired 4
- Structural modifications (Decks over 30" and attached) 6
- Garages 1
- Fences 6
- Driveways (New, Extension or Expansions) 1
- Retaining walls 0
- Roof Replacements (In - Kind) 4
- Ancillary Building permits 1
- Demolitions 2

A combined total of 60 new permits were issued for the 2022 calendar year. These permits generated \$42,500 in permit fees (after the refunds of the 2 revoked permits).

Submitted by
Michael D. Black
Chairman, TSVR P&Z

In the next issue of

Ranch News

We got a little behind the power curve in compiling this issue, however, we still plan to bring you a semi-recurring article titled "MEET YOUR TOWN EMPLOYEES" in an upcoming newsletter issue.



For the May 2023 newsletter edition we want to see your best "Finally! It's Spring!" photos.



Please email photos to newsletter@starvalleyranchwy.org and we'll publish them next time around!

LINCOLN COUNTY CodeRED

HOW TO SIGN UP

Lincoln County Emergency Management is encouraging area residents to take advantage of its **CodeRED** notification system. With this program, emergency messages can be sent out geographically within moments. The **CodeRED** system allows for public notification by phone, email, and text message. All landline information is automatically updated annually. However, if you would like notifications by cell phone, text, or email, you must fill out this [online form](#) located at the county website. For more information on the **CodeRED** system please visit the Emergency Management page of the Lincoln County Website: www.lincolncountywy.gov

STAR VALLEY RANCH POWDER HOUNDS OF 2023

Coco & Byron



Mr. Coffee
& Emma



Meeko



Moose



Shelley



Brandy



Lucy



Thank you to all of the
residents who submitted
photos for this page!

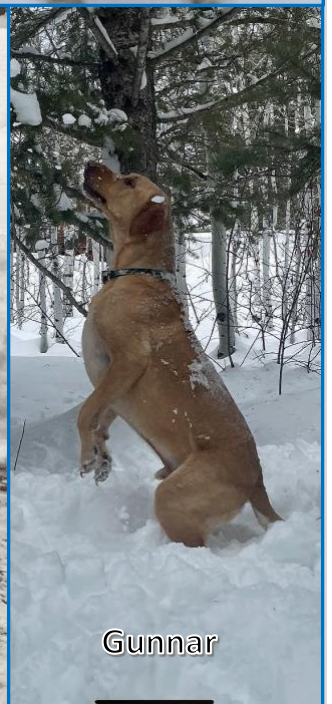
Merlin & Nallie



Trixie



Gunnar



ORDINANCE UPDATES & OTHER PUBLIC NOTICES

ORDINANCES

PENDING ORDINANCES OR UPDATES

The following ordinance updates were approved as first readings during the February 14th Town Council meeting.

ORDINANCE 2023-01

TITLE III ADMINISTRATION CHAPTER 33 TOWN ORGANIZATIONS

Update to existing language to add an ex-officio member to the Planning & Zoning Board.
SECOND READING PLANNED FOR 14 MARCH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.

ORDINANCE 2023-02

TITLE IX GENERAL REGULATIONS CHAPTER 90 ANIMALS

Administrative update to add a definition for the word "leash".
SECOND READING PLANNED FOR 14 MARCH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.

ORDINANCE 2023-03

TITLE VII TRAFFIC CODE CHAPTER 72 SNOW REMOVAL

Clarification of wording regarding snow removal on Town roads and the obstruction of fire hydrants with snow.
SECOND READING PLANNED FOR 14 MARCH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.

ORDINANCE 2023-04

TITLE XV LAND USAGE CHAPTER 154 ZONING

Update to eliminate exceptions for political signs and property-for-sale signs posted in the public right of way.
SECOND READING PLANNED FOR 14 MARCH 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



SNOW-MACHINE SAFETY REMINDER

SNOW-MACHINE USE ON TOWN ROADS

Tragically, last month one of our Town residents lost his life while operating a snow-machine on Town roads. This incident serves as a reminder with regard to safe operation of snow-machines on our roadways, namely:

- Snow-machines may only be driven on Town roads by licensed operators 16 years or older.
- When operating snow-machines on Town roads, drivers must adhere to all traffic signs and obey the TSVR posted speed limit of 25mph.
- Lastly, please be respectful and stay off of private-property when operating a snow-mobile in Star Valley Ranch.

Please stay safe out there!



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