



## MAYOR'S MEMO

A FEW WORDS FROM KATHY BUYERS

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

On April 11<sup>th</sup> the Town Council passed the first of three readings for the 2023/2024 Budget. We used the Town vision and mission to guide our decisions and set our priorities for the 2023-2024 Budget and beyond. The Town Council is focusing on how much revenue should be set aside in reserves for a potential emergency and also for future projects in both the water and general funds.

The Town Council is working towards better-quality ordinances starting with consistency from one board ordinance to another, improved building permit fees and application processes, and clarification of our nuisance ordinance.

The Town received over 260 inches of snow from October to March and this amount of snow created many challenges for the staff and our residents. The Town was short three employees, we had equipment challenges because of the amount of snow that had to be moved, and we ran out of places to put snow. We all agree that this was a challenging winter, and I would like to personally thank the staff for their many hours of dedication to the Town and our citizens who helped keep fire hydrants cleared during the long winter.

Currently, the Town is offering sand and bags by the First Response Center. The sandbags should be used to protect structures and should only be filled half full. If you need help filling bags, we have volunteers and staff that are willing to help when possible. Please contact Town Hall. Please visit Lincoln County Emergency Management for more information on flooding in our community.

[www.lincolncountywy.gov/Government/emergency\\_management/](http://www.lincolncountywy.gov/Government/emergency_management/)

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

May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1pm

#### Town Council Workshop

May 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm

#### Town Council Meeting

May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

#### Planning & Zoning Board

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

#### Natural Resources Board

May 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm

## 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)



## SPRING COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

WILL APRIL SNOW SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS?

Hello fellow SVR gardeners!

The old saying "*April showers bring May flowers*" didn't necessarily include April snow showers but the sun is out more and more and our wonderful western and Rocky Mountain birds are returning. Governor Mark Gordon declared April native plant month for Wyoming. We have an abundance of wonderful native plants beloved by pollinators of all varieties. If you have space in your home gardens, consider adding a few native plants to your beds. Generally perennial in nature, hardy, and often drought resistant and ideally suited to our elevation and climate. Check out online seed shops for our zone 4 region.

It will soon be time to get our Crop Circles Community Garden spots ready for planting. As soon as the snow goes, a notice will be sent out via email so it's vital to have a good working email on file for all community gardeners! We also may need some work time for garden area clean up and volunteer time will be needed for this, too. We may be getting a late start this year due to the length of time it will take for snow to melt at the community garden tanks. Consider using bedding plants to get a jump on our season.

As with previous seasons, any extra produce not needed by our gardeners will be donated to the Thayne Food Bank. More on this in next month's newsletter. I look forward to meeting all of you and as always if you need to reach me you can do so by email at: [svrcommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:svrcommunitygarden@gmail.com)

I look forward to growing with you!

**Deb Johnson**



Check out the Star Valley Weather Blog to see the latest snow totals and weather updates for our Town! Click on the graphic above or use this link:

<http://blog.starvalleyweather.com>



[Data courtesy of Jack Hales.]



## COUNCIL CORNER

A FEW WORDS FROM COUNCILMAN RON DENNEY

The Town of Star Valley Ranch plans to complete the reissuance of its Firewise Assessment Plan this summer ([click here](#) to view original plan completed in 2014) with the assistance of Barry Tye, the State of Wyoming Regional Forester. This will include a reassessment of the town to update an understanding of the risks of wildfires and to make recommendations for the town and its citizens to further mitigate those risks.

In conjunction with this effort, the Town of Star Valley Ranch urges its landowners to take advantage of the annual Firewise resources available to them. First, the Lincoln County Fuels Mitigation Coordinator, Patty Pringle, is available to homeowners to come to your home to complete an assessment to help you understand the mitigation measures that should be taken. She can be contacted by calling her directly at (307) 679-8574 to sign up for the Firewise Program.

Secondly, as a Firewise Community, the Town of Star Valley Ranch will collect your tree and brush cuttings during the last week of July. Following the Safety Day event on July 8<sup>th</sup>, homeowners can begin piling these cuttings in the road right-of-way in front of your property.

The Firewise Community Assessment Program document (viewable by [clicking this link](#)) further describes the Firewise Program, what is involved in a home assessment, and the mitigative actions that a homeowner would want to consider.

*Ron Denney*

### 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)

FOR MORE ABOUT  
FIREWISE SEE  
PAGE 9 OF THIS  
NEWSLETTER





## LAST CALL FOR ARBOR DAY 2023 DONATIONS!

DONATIONS DUE MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> | MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ARBOR DAY 2023!

The Town of Star Valley Ranch will be celebrating our 13<sup>th</sup> annual Arbor Day on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> for Arbor Day June 10<sup>th</sup> 2023 (if not received by May 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 on the line below:

\_\_\_\_\_

*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](mailto: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)



*Be A Trail Crew Volunteer  
and  
Get Out There!*

## 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!*

## IN THE MEANTIME

HERE'S MORE NEWS YOU CAN USE...



## NEWS FROM USPS

ADDING SECONDARY ROUTE

Since the beginning of 2023 many Ranch residents have experienced difficulty with package delivery via USPS. A new contract between Amazon and USPS is partially to blame with the Thayne postal facility being overwhelmed by the package volume.

In the short-term, to mitigate this issue, the Thayne postmaster has split the route for TSVR effective May 5<sup>th</sup>. This essentially means our TSVR route will be assigned to multiple mail carriers in an attempt to better handle package volume.

In the long-term, TSVR is making another attempt to obtain our own discrete zip code and establish our own contract postal facility. Stay tuned!



## A TALE OF TWO BRIDGES

HARDMAN ROAD & MIDDLE BRANCH DRIVE BRIDGES OPTIONS & PUBLIC MEETING

As many of you are aware, the bridge across Middle Branch Drive has been closed due to erosion concerns since last summer.

Subsequent to the Middle Branch bridge closure the Town learned that the bridge across Hardman Road is also in need of repair with the Town engineer providing an assessment that the Hardman bridge should be prioritized.

In April, the Town Council received several Hardman Road bridge replacement alternatives from Forsgren Engineering. The Town plans to hold a public meeting with residents to provide an update on these bridge alternatives as well as to discuss the path forward to address the Middle Branch bridge closure.

Details of this planned public meeting will be forthcoming at a later date.



## MEET YOUR TOWN EMPLOYEES

KRISTIN GRAY, TSVR CLERK

"I have worked for the Town since 2014, starting first as a water operator, and now as Town Clerk and Treasurer.

As Town Clerk I am responsible for payroll and personnel, I handle our accounts payable, help organize and record meetings for the Council, and in the last two years I have taken on the budget process with help from the Finance Advisory Board Chairman.

It's my role as Town Clerk to help the staff and Council navigate state statutes and updating ordinance. I also manage the Town's website and still help with the water department as needed since I still hold a level 2 water operator license.

Outside of work I am a giant nerd who enjoys video games, comics, movies, and board games, and I enjoy reading. I have two dogs and I enjoy traveling."



*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!*

## SMO'S REPORT

AKA - THE RANCH BLOTTER

From 1 February through 28 February 2023 the TSVR Special Municipal Officer issued 11 verbal warnings, 11 written warnings, and 2 citations. To follow is a summary of the calls and complaints responded to during this time period:

Animal Complaint	3	Water Shut-Off	0
Building & Zoning	0	Meter Pit Tampering	0
Road Right-of-Way	10	LCSO Assist	1
Snow Complaint	9	Fire Prevention\Open Fire	0
Nuisance Complaint	2	Stop Work Order	0

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office provided the following TSVR report for 1 Feb to 31 Mar 2023:

Citations	0
Warnings	0
CFS/Law Incidents	77
Special Patrol	23

Animal Problem	2	Auto Accident	4
Citizen Assist	4	Citizen Dispute	2
Custodial Interference	1	Disturbance	1
e911	20	Harassing	3
Information	5	Medical	11
Lost/Found Animal	5	Security Check	0
Ord Violation	1	Smoke/Fire Investigation	0
Traffic	2	Suspicious	3
Trespassing	2	VIN inspection	2
Civil Standby	1	Repossession	1
Court	1	Welfare Check	2
Fraud	1	Alarm	1
Motorist Assist	1	Parking Problem	1

*The TSVR SMO would like to remind residents [not to leave trash containers out after pick-up day](#) and to [keep trash containers off of town roadways](#). Thank you for your cooperation!*



## SPRING FLOOD AWARENESS

RECORD SNOWFALLS BRING POTENTIAL FOR SPRING FLOODING

Our massive winter snowfall brings with it the potential for flooding as temperatures slowly begin to warm. When asked by the Star Valley Independent newspaper, retired local meteorologist Jack Hales recently compared this past winter to the winter of 2010/2011. For those of you who were Ranch residents in 2011 you will recall the severity of flooding experienced in the Star Valley area. While snow total comparisons don't mean flooding is a given this spring, it's better to be prepared - *just in case*.



In coordination with Lincoln County Emergency Management, TSVR has been designated as one of many sandbag fill stations within the county. Sand and bags are available at the First Response Center at the corner of Vista

Drive and Vista West Drive (look for the kiosk on Vista Drive).

When filling sandbags, only fill them 1/2 to 2/3 full and then tie off or fold over. Stack sandbags up to 3 layers high, with a 1/2 bag alternating overlap.

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESOURCES YOU TAKE.** When done with the bags, you are responsible for their proper disposal. Additionally, when you divert water, be sure it will not cause adverse impact to neighbors or other property.

Visit the [Lincoln County Emergency Management Flood Resources](#) webpage for more information. Be Prepared!

In the next issue of

*Ranch News*



*As Mother Nature has thus far been reluctant to let Spring get underway, we are postponing our request for "Finally! It's Spring!"*

*photos until the June 2023 newsletter.*

*We hope to see your best Spring season photos!*



*Please email photos to*

[newsletter@starvalleyranchwy.org](mailto: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](http://www.lincolncountywy.gov)



## STAR VALLEY RANCH - A FIREWISE COMMUNITY

The Firewise program was developed by the National Fire Protection Association to help homeowners reduce the risk of wildfire damage. It involves following a set of guidelines that focus on creating defensible space, reducing flammable materials, and maintaining adequate water sources.

Creating defensible space involves removing vegetation, debris, and other flammable materials from the area around the home to create a buffer zone. This space serves as a barrier against the spread of wildfires, allowing firefighters to defend homes more effectively.

Reducing flammable materials involves removing or replacing materials that are highly combustible. This includes items like wooden fences, bark mulch, and untreated wood. Instead, homeowners should consider using fire-resistant materials such as rock, brick, or cement.

Maintaining adequate water sources is critical for firefighting efforts. Homeowners should ensure that there is a sufficient supply of water available, whether it be from a municipal water system or a private well. In addition, they should consider installing sprinklers or other water delivery systems that can be used in case of a wildfire.

By following these Firewise recommendations, homeowners can significantly reduce the risk of wildfire damage to their homes and the community. However, it is essential that homeowners take these recommendations seriously and follow them accordingly.

Unfortunately, many homeowners do not heed these recommendations, either due to a lack of knowledge or a belief that a wildfire will not affect them. This complacency can have severe consequences, as wildfires can spread rapidly and unexpectedly.

It is crucial for homeowners to take responsibility for protecting their homes and the community by following the Firewise recommendations. It may require time, effort, and resources, but the benefits of a Firewise compliant home are worth it.

In conclusion, the risk of wildfires in Star Valley Ranch is real and should not be taken lightly. Homeowners must take the necessary precautions and follow the Firewise recommendations to protect their homes and the community. By doing so, we can work together to reduce the risk of wildfire damage and ensure a safe and resilient community.

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

### HOME IGNITION ZONE CHECKLIST

**SIMPLE STEPS FROM ROOF TO FOUNDATION TO MAKE A HOME SAFER FROM EMBERS AND RADIANT HEAT**

- ☐ Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers
- ☐ Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration
- ☐ Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening
- ☐ Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers
- ☐ Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- ☐ Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
- ☐ Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors - mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles - anything that can burn
- ☐ Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches

**VISIT [FIREWISE.ORG](https://www.firewise.org) FOR MORE DETAILS**

Image by NFPA, with funding from USDA Forest Service

## ORDINANCE UPDATES & OTHER PUBLIC NOTICES

### ORDINANCES

#### PENDING ORDINANCES OR UPDATES

The following ordinance updates were approved as third readings during the April 11<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting. Ordinance updates become effective 10 days after the third reading.

#### 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.

#### ORDINANCE 2023-02

##### TITLE IX GENERAL REGULATIONS CHAPTER 90 ANIMALS

Administrative update to add a definition for the word "leash".

#### 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.

#### 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.



The following ordinance updates were approved as first and second readings at the April 11<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting.

#### ORDINANCE 2023-05 [SECOND READING]

##### TITLE XV LAND USAGE CHAPTER 150 BUILDINGS

Update to match language that was changed by ordinance in §150.076 (B)(8).

#### ORDINANCE 2023-06 [FIRST READING]

##### APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

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

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)



### NAT'L FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

#### TSVR IS A NFIP PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY

The Town of Star Valley Ranch is a participating community in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP, managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), enables homeowners, business owners and renters in participating communities to purchase federally backed flood insurance. For more information contact:

<https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance>



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