



MAYOR'S MEMO

A FEW WORDS FROM KATHY BUYERS

Dear friends and neighbors,

Another beautiful Star Valley Ranch summer has ended and even though we are in the fall season we are seeing colder temperatures and a little bit of snow. We will soon be able to enjoy cross-country skiing and snowshoeing throughout our beautiful community.

Happy Birthday Town of Star Valley Ranch and Congratulations!
The Town of Star Valley Ranch celebrates its 18-year anniversary on Nov 8th. We all look forward to the next 18 years of growth and to many more accomplishments in the future. Here are some fun facts about our Town:

- ✧ We are the newest town in Wyoming ✧
- ✧ We were 7th in the state for population growth from 2010 to 2020 ✧
- ✧ We are the 3rd most populous town in Lincoln County ✧
- ✧ We are the 99th town in Wyoming ✧
- ✧ We have 32 miles of roads to maintain ✧
- ✧ We have the newest water system in Wyoming ✧

The Town water rates committee has spent time evaluating all current and historical water information so they can make recommendations to the Town Council. The committee is also looking at future projects and planning for the future of the water system. Part of the new water rate process will include reviewing all rates during the budget cycle beginning in April and making any rate changes based on the fiscal calendar which begins on July 1st. The Town Council is dedicated to creating the most accurate budget possible and will include water rates as part of the budget process every year.

As of this writing the Town is still waiting for locks for the additional package lockers. Thank you for your patience. The Town Public Works department is getting ready for winter snow. As a winter reminder please keep your garbage can on your property and off the roadway. Please make sure you have proper tires or chains for your vehicle. Many of our roads were never designed for winter driving and therefore extra safety precautions are needed. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Sincerely, *Kathleen Buyers, Mayor*

CALENDAR ITEMS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Roads Advisory Board
Nov 7th & Dec 5th at 5pm

Coffee with the Mayor
Nov 14th & Dec 12th at 9am

Natural Resources Board
Nov 14th at 2pm

Town Council Workshop
Nov 14th & Dec 12th at 2pm

Town Council Meeting
Nov 14th & Dec 12th at 7pm

Planning & Zoning Board
Nov 8th at 5pm
Dec 13th at 5pm

NUMBERS YOU NEED

CONTACTS

Town Hall

(307) 883-8696

clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org

Special Municipal Officer

(307) 880-2666

smo@starvalleyranchwy.org

KEEP OUR WILDLIFE WILD – WHY FEEDING IN WINTER IS BAD

FEEDING WILDLIFE DURING THE WINTER MONTHS DOES MORE HARM THAN GOOD

Virtually all wild animal populations experience year-to-year fluctuations. Each winter, well-intentioned people begin to feed wildlife, under the assumption it will ensure their survival through winter. Unfortunately, *feeding of any kind causes more harm than good to mule deer and only furthers their decline.*

Mule deer are adapted to their environment and specifically to the plants they rely on to survive. Throughout the summer they eat highly nutritious plants to build up their fat stores. Through the winter they eat less overall and transition to eating woody plants that are less nutritious while they utilize their fat stores for energy and survival.

Unlike elk, mule deer are highly selective foragers due to their specialized digestive system. Mule deer digestive systems contain specific bacteria that help break down only the plants they eat and are adapted to. The bacteria adjust slowly to match their diet through each season, and in the winter their gut contains the appropriate bacteria to digest only their winter diet of woody materials. Any human-provided food sources, including hay, apples, corn, etc. are simply not digestible and cause an abundance of lactic acid, acidosis, dehydration, and ultimately death. Fed mule deer often die from starvation with full stomachs of food they cannot digest.

"It is natural for some of the deer, especially fawns and weaker adults, to die each winter and this ultimately strengthens the population as a whole. Food provided by humans will only make winter worse for them. Your good intentions providing food to wintering wildlife may ease your own heart and mind but the reality is that it is causing an added amount of harm."

~ Daryl Lutz, Lander Region Wildlife Management Coordinator

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department recognizes and appreciates people's concern about wintering wildlife. As you watch wildlife this winter, please do not feed them because you are doing more harm than good.

[This article was adapted from a Wyoming Game and Fish news release published earlier in 2023.]



Mule deer dead from eating hay.

FROM THE SPECIAL MUNICIPAL OFFICER

NOTES FROM JIM ROGERS, SMO

Do you have one of these signs [see photo to the right]? I cannot stress enough how important it is to ensure your house number is visible from the road. Fire, EMS, and other first responders can't get to you if they can't find your address.

Per [Ordinance §71.06 \(A\)](#) "Address numbers must be clearly visible from the street at all times of the year."

You can obtain a house number plate like the blue reflective one shown in the photo by stopping by Town Hall and filling out a request form or you can [order online by clicking here](#). Note there is a \$20 fee.

Thanks for your cooperation! Please contact Jim with questions at: smo@starvalleyranchwy.org



COUNCIL CORNER

A FEW WORDS FROM COUNCILMAN ROK

During the month of November, the Town Council will conduct a third reading of Ordinance 2023-09 to establish a new Travel & Tourism (T&T) Board for the Town of Star Valley Ranch (TSVR). I know what many of you may be thinking: *Why does TSVR need a "Tourism Board"?!?*

As one of your newer Council members, who was motivated to run for a Council seat last year due to my frustrations with short-term rental (STR) properties and how STR visitors often treat our Town as a playground, I too had initial trepidation when the Council first began discussions on a proposed T&T Board. However, I soon learned the primary reason the T&T Board makes sense now is that it's the only way the Town can obtain access to funding the county has already collected for us in the form of lodging taxes. Rereading that last sentence, it sounds like "only the money matters", however, I want to assure residents that is not the case. To follow is some background information to aid in further explaining why the right time for a T&T Board is now and how this board can help the Ranch better manage the growing number of visitors we've seen over the past few years.

The State of Wyoming passed a lodging tax in 2020 authorizing a statewide 5% lodging tax which became effective January 1, 2021. Three percent (3%) of the latter assessment is distributed to the state of Wyoming (to the State's travel and tourism account) and the other 2% is distributed to the county, city/or town. Currently Lincoln County is sitting on \$36,000 collected for Star Valley Ranch since the Statewide lodging tax went into effect. As we have no commercial hotels or motels, this \$36K is from the STR properties operating within the Town. For the Town to access this funding, one of the requirements, by Wyoming Statute, is the establishment of a T&T Board. Some of these funds can be used for administration and management of "tourism-related" activities. For example, the Town has recently contracted with a company that will provide short-term rental monitoring and compliance services. Having access to the funds currently held by the county will help offset the cost of this service instead of having the monitoring service paid for out of the Town's General Fund.

The T&T Board would also make recommendations to the Town Council on other ways to make best use of any/all collected lodging tax monies. Providing educational materials for tourists about what they can and cannot do within the Town limits is another way those funds can be used. *The Council's overarching intent with the T&T Board is to better manage the tourism we already have and is not aimed at increasing it.*

As a Councilman I am extremely vested in the STR subject and the resulting effect of more visitors in our Town. I truly have our residents' best interest at heart and believe the creation of a T&T Board will be a benefit to our Town both in terms of helping to manage STRs already operating and to shape how we would like to see related "tourist-activities" within our Town evolve in future. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Razena Rok

CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL

COUNCILMAN ELLIS

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COUNCILMAN DENNEY

rdenney@starvalleyranchwy.org

COUNCILWOMEN MERRILL

kmerrill@starvalleyranchwy.org

COUNCILWOMEN ROK

rrok@starvalleyranchwy.org



ROADS 101

GETTING READY FOR WINTER

VEHICLE PREPARATIONS, PLOWING, AND MORE. . .

Winter is quickly approaching! Make sure you are ready for a snowy Star Valley Ranch Winter with proper tires and an emergency kit in your vehicle. With the winter months clearly in sight, we would like to remind everyone that road conditions can change rapidly and become more difficult to maneuver and drive upon.

The Town usually plows at night so it is important you do not leave your garbage can or vehicle in the road right of way. *During the winter of 2022-2023 the Town received 273 inches of snow!* If you have not spent a winter in Town, you may want to partner with your neighbor or reach out to Town staff for some recommendations.



Our Town will continue to make every effort to maintain the roads in the best condition possible. The Town normally will plow snow after a base is established on the road, so damage does not occur to the road itself. The Town will do its best to make all roads passable but would ask for your patience until the base is built up and normal plowing can take place. Please do not inhibit snow removal any way, any time. Our operators have 32 miles of road to plow, and this takes time. Note that snowplowing priorities will be adjusted according to snowfall amounts. However, we try to start plowing when the snow depth on slopes is about 4 inches and on flats at about 6 inches. [You can find the Town Snow Removal Policy at this [link](#) on the Town website.]

In the meantime, here are precautions and reminders for driving during the winter months:

- Utilize snow tires or chains as needed depending on where you reside on the Ranch.
- Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle.
 - Refer to the Wyoming Department of Transportation ["Winter Wheelin' in Wyoming"](#) brochure for details.
- Please stay out of the way of Town snow removal equipment.
- Give the snow removal equipment plenty of room to operate.
- Do not park in the roadway.
- Make certain that your garbage containers are behind your property line.
- Do not push, shovel, or blow snow into the road.



Thank you for your courtesy and patience!

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

PERMIT & LICENSING REMINDERS

SHORT-TERM RENTAL PERMITS

MUST BE RENEWED BY 31 DECEMBER 2023



Short-Term Rental property owners within the Town of Star Valley Ranch must apply for and obtain an approved STR permit *annually* before the end of the calendar year.

Existing STR permit

holders must also renew their STR permit annually.

All new STR permit applications or renewal STR permit applications must be completed by the last day of December each year. STR property owners are responsible for compliance with the following:

- Notifying the Town of any changes in the status of their rental home (e.g., change in property managing agent, no longer operating as a short-term rental, change in ownership, etc.).
- Abiding by [Town Ordinance Title XI Chapter 113 Short-Term Rental Permits](#)
- Abiding by all [TSVR Ordinances](#)
- Notifying all owners of neighboring parcels within 300 feet of the STR property that they intend to operate a short-term rental
- Include their valid STR permit number in any STR property advertising (to include an effective internet link to the Town STR ordinance)

Additional requirements for short-term rental units include passing an annual safety inspection, a prohibition on multiple bookings during the same period, and the need to provide on-site parking (i.e., no vehicles are allowed to be parked on Town streets or right of ways).

Renew your existing STR permit or register for a new STR permit [online by clicking here](#).

Thank you for your cooperation! Please contact Town Hall at (307) 883-8696 with questions or email the Town Clerk at clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org.

PET LICENSES

MUST BE RENEWED BY 31 DECEMBER 2023

All dogs or cats over six-months old must be licensed within thirty (30) days of taking residence in the Town.

Each dog or cat license expires on December 31st of the calendar year and must be reissued annually.



Registration fees will be waived for Certified Service Dog or Cat with proof of Certification as prescribed by a Physician or a Certified Trainer.

No licensing fee will be prorated for a partial year. Refunds will not be issued for any license fee already paid.

Pet licenses are not transferable. In the event a license is lost or destroyed during the calendar year for which it was issued, a duplicate will be issued for a fee of \$2.

The owner's signed confirmation of address and contact information along with the animal's current spayed/neutered (altered) and rabies vaccination receipt from a certified veterinarian is required for registration and license renewals.

Please email a photo of the animal (with name attached) to: billing@starvalleyranchwy.org

You must pick up pet license tags from Town Hall in order for registration to be valid.

Pet license fees are as follows:

Classification	Fee	Late Fee (after Jan 15 th)
Altered dog or cat	\$10.00	\$5.00
Unaltered dog or cat	\$25.00	\$5.00

Stop by Town Hall to register your pet or complete the registration form [online by clicking here](#).

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

NEWS & NOTES FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD (NRB)

COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

UPDATES FROM OUR CROP CIRCLES COMMUNITY GARDEN

Hello all SVR gardeners for growing season 2023.

It was an odd year for gardening across the entire valley, I think. A slow start coupled with early cold, and heat made most gardens lag behind in performance and production. It didn't help that we had suspicious activity in some tanks that resulted in losses. We had some concerns about who or what was causing the issues and the NRB will be addressing the issue of cameras as we move along towards winter.

Hoses are now stored, and our wonderful garden circles locked down for a long winter's sleep. Thank you to all for getting the tanks cleared off so well and nicely. I know many of our gardeners who are out of town residents in winter are already gone. I hope each of you enjoyed your garden experience this year and had good harvests. My tomatoes didn't start putting on until late, but they were delicious!

From our community garden tanks in the alley between the garden the dog park, we were able to contribute approximately 35 to 40 pounds of potatoes to the Thayne food bank. Not as much as I wanted but truthfully more than I expected. It was a hard year for potatoes.

My thanks to all of you for your hard work and cheerful responses this growing season. As the new coordinator learning the ropes, you each made my work easier. Growing things is one of my passions and I'm in such good company with each of you.

An interest-email for those wishing to continue next season will go out in late February or early March. Lots will be drawn for the tanks and those who get a tank will be notified by late March with sign-up to follow. Regrettably, I won't be able to honor location preference or requests for more than one tank per family. I welcome any comments, concerns or questions that will help me do my work better next season. Please email me with any thoughts.

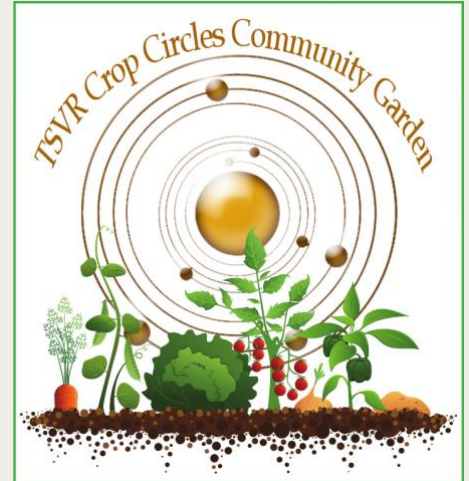
Again, thank you for your time and support of our community garden circles. Have a lovely fall and winter and I will look forward to seeing you in the spring.

Blue skies, wide open spaces, our beautiful mountains, how could we not love gardens here?

Keep on growing!

Deb Johnson

SVR Community Garden Coordinator
svrcommunitygarden@gmail.com



D. Hillman

Town of Star Valley Ranch Text Alerts!

Get town updates sent directly to your phone via text message.

TextMyGov™



Sign up to receive town text message notifications!

Get Started,
opt-in to any of the following notification

- For Town-wide Important Notifications,
text **"TSVR ALERTS"** to **91896**
- For Town-wide News Alerts,
text **"TSVR NEWS"** to **91896**

What to Expect:

- After the initial keyword is sent, you will receive a confirmation message asking you to reply **YES** to verify opt-in.
- You may receive multiple text messages a month with a notification for each alert category opted-in to.
- Message and data rates may apply. Check with your carrier for more details.
- You can text **STOP** at any time to remove yourself from ALL notification lists.

View terms and privacy policy info at: textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions



Ranch News

Here's a look at what's coming up!



That's right, it's photo call time!



We want to see your best
"Ranch Powder Hounds"
of the winter 2024 season!

Email photos to

newsletter@starvalleyranchwy.org

and we'll publish them in
January/February 2024!



And as we love seeing your photos
please also send us your best
shots of our beautiful

"Ranch Winter 2024"

and we'll happily publish them
throughout our winter season!



Have questions, comments or 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 issue.

Thank you!

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF DISPATCH REPORT

AKA - THE RANCH BLOTTER

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office provided the following TSVR dispatch report for 1 - 30 September 2023.

[Summary information to the right with details below.]

Summary	Citations	0
	Warnings	0
	CFS/Law Incidents	46
	Special Patrol	7

Animal Problem	--	Abandoned Vehicle	1	Agency Assist	--
Alarms	1	Alcohol Problem	--	Auto Accident	--
Burglary	--	Citizen Assist	--	Citizen Dispute	3
Civil Standby	1	Controlled Burn	1	Child Abuse	1
Alcohol Problem	--	Custodial Interference	--	Disturbance	1
Court	--	Domestic Violence	--	Dead body	1
Elderly Abuse	--	e911	8	Harassing	--
Intoxication	--	Fire / Fireworks	--	Fraud	--
Lost/Found Animal	--	Information	--	Lost/Found Property	--
Juvenile Problem	--	Noise	1	Message Delivery	--
Game & Fish	--	Protection Order	--	Medical	10
Missing person	--	Ordinance Violation	--	Reckless Driving	1
Public Relations	--	Suspicious	2	Theft	2
Threatening	--	Traffic	2	VIN Inspection	6
Welfare Check	2	Warrant	1	Weapons Offense	1

SMO REPORT

FOR 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

During the month of September, the TSVR SMO issued 6 verbal warnings, 10 written warnings, and 7 citations.

Animal Complaint	3	Road Damage	0	Fire Prevention/Open Fire	0
Building & Zoning	10	STR Complaint	1	Stop Work Order	0
Road Right-of-Way	5	Water Shut-Off	0	Animal Impound	0
Snow Complaint	0	Meter Pit Tampering	0	Other	0
Nuisance Complaint	4	LCSO Assist	0		

LETTERS, ORDINANCE UPDATES & OTHER PUBLIC NOTICES

LETTERS

FROM OUR TOWN RESIDENTS

*No letters this month. Please drop us a line.
We'd love to hear from you. Thanks!*



ORDINANCES

PENDING ORDINANCES OR UPDATES

The following ordinance updates were approved during the September 12th Town Council meeting. *Ordinance updates become effective 10 days after the third reading.*

ORDINANCE 2023-09 [SECOND READING]

TITLE III ADMINISTRATION CHAPTER 33 TOWN ORGANIZATIONS

This Ordinance is for the creation of a Travel and Tourism Board and outlines the procedures in accordance with existing boards.

THIRD READING PLANNED FOR 14 NOVEMBER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.

ORDINANCE 2023-10 [SECOND READING]

TITLE XV LAND USE CHAPTER 150 BUILDINGS

This Ordinance is an update to the existing code removing the fees from ordinance and making them set by resolution.

THIRD READING PLANNED FOR 14 NOVEMBER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.

ORDINANCE 2023-11 [FIRST READING]

TITLE III ADMINISTRATION CHAPTER 35 MUNICIPAL COURT

This Ordinance is an update to the existing code by increasing the bond for §92.03 (discharge of fireworks), §150.019 B (failure to post a building

permit) and §150.019 C (failure to obtain a building permit).

SECOND READING PLANNED FOR 14 NOVEMBER 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



PUBLIC NOTICE

FINAL PAYMENT FOR WIP 2021

The Town's Water Improvement Project (WIP) 2021 is now complete. See the final payment notice [here](#) on page 20A!



MORE NEWS IN BRIEF

QUICK NOTES ON TOWN OPERATIONS AS OF 31 OCTOBER

- Work on the recently awarded contract for asphalt paving on Brambleberry Drive is scheduled to begin in June of 2024.
- The Town is looking into adding a second parking lot entrance for the Town Mail Center.
- Speedbumps on Vista Drive and North Forest Drive have been removed in preparation for winter road plowing.



Ranch News is published
8 to 10 times per year by the
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