



The Ranch News

MAYOR'S MEMO

A FEW WORDS FROM KATHY BUYERS

Dear friends and neighbors,

On December 7th, 2023, I attended the Wyoming State Loan and Investment Board (SLIB) meeting in Cheyenne. During the meeting our Town was approved for a reduction in interest on four of our water project loans to 1%. The Town was also approved for a change of scope on Water Improvement Project 2023 (WIP 23). This project will include Vista Drive from Vista West Drive to Vista East Drive, north on Vista East Drive and east on Green Canyon Road. The SLIB also added to the project Prater Canyon Drive, Prater Circle, 800 feet of Cedar Drive, Vista Court, Eastwood Way, Ridgecrest Drive, Ridgecrest Circle, 1600 feet of Hardman Road, and 300 feet of Porto Road. This project should begin construction in June 2024.

At the end of WIP 23 the Town will have replaced every old, shallow, and undersized water line in the Town. The Town will have also added approximately 275 fire hydrants.

As a reminder to all the Town water customers, the Town is currently reviewing rates and will not adjust rates until July. The Council felt strongly that rates should be done at the same time as the budget which will be effective July 1st. We will communicate with you as to the findings of the water rates study as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience.

Wishing everyone a wonderful winter season.

Thank You,

Kathleen Buyers, Mayor



CALENDAR ITEMS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Roads Advisory Board
Jan 2nd & Feb 6th at 5pm

Finance Advisory Board
Jan 9th at 1pm

Coffee with the Mayor
Jan 9th & Feb 13th at 9am

Natural Resources Board
Jan 18th at 2pm

Town Council Workshop
Jan 9th, Jan 16th & Feb 13th at 2pm

Town Council Meeting
Jan 9th & Feb 13th at 7pm

Planning & Zoning Board
Jan 10th & 24th at 5pm
Feb 14th & 28th at 5pm

NUMBERS YOU NEED

CONTACTS

Town Hall

(307) 883-8696

clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org

Special Municipal Officer

(307) 880-2666

smo@starvalleyranchwy.org

TOWN ANNUAL AUDIT

NO INSTANCES OF NONCOMPLIANCE

During the December 12th, 2023 Town of Star Valley Ranch Council Meeting, Jones Simkins, LLC, presented their findings of the Town's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Financial Audit.

The results of the audit disclosed no deficiencies in internal controls as well as no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards. You may find the audit report by clicking [here](#).



TSVR SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

A NEW UPDATE TO THIS POLICY IS NOW AVAILABLE

The Town of Star Valley Ranch recently updated its Snow Removal Policy. The purpose of the revised document is to establish policy, process, and maintenance levels for snow control within the Town of Star Valley Ranch and to communicate these expectations to the Town residents.

The updated document is available at this Town website [link](#) and citizens are encouraged to review it.



FROM THE SPECIAL MUNICIPAL OFFICER (SMO)

NOTES FROM JIM ROGERS, SMO

Here are a few winter reminders for Town residents:

- Per [Ordinance §71.05](#) “No vehicle may be parked on or in the road right-of-way in the town limits at any time”. Given the time of year with driveways needing to be cleared of snow, it is understandable that some temporary parking on roads may be necessary to accomplish snow removal tasks. Please try to keep this temporary parking to less than 2 hours. *Thank you for your cooperation!*
- Feeding deer during the winter is a big “no-no” and is prohibited per [Ordinance §90.27 \(B\), \(C\), and \(D\)](#). Please also refer to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department article from the [November/December 2023 Town newsletter](#) (on page 2) to learn more about the harmful effects of winter deer feeding.
- When clearing your driveways of snow, please also remember that pushing snow on or across the roadway is a violation of [Ordinance §72.03 \(A\), \(B\), and \(C\)](#).

I want to let everyone know your welfare is the Town's number one priority. Please help us to keep our roadways and wild creatures safe. Thank you! You can contact Jim with questions by phone at (307) 880-2666 or by email at: smo@starvalleyranchwy.org

COUNCIL CORNER

WILL RETURN IN THE MARCH / APRIL TSVR NEWSLETTER

While there is no Council Corner column in this issue, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of your council members at any time to ask questions or raise concerns. Councilmember email addresses are listed in the panel to the right and are also available on the [Council page](#) of the Town website.

We look forward to hearing from you!



CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL

COUNCILMAN ELLIS

tellis@starvalleyranchwy.org

COUNCILMAN DENNEY

rdenney@starvalleyranchwy.org

COUNCILMAN MERRILL

kmerrill@starvalleyranchwy.org

COUNCILMAN ROK

rrok@starvalleyranchwy.org



PERMIT & LICENSE REMINDERS

2024 SHORT-TERM RENTAL PERMITS

RENEWALS ARE PAST DUE!



Short-Term Rental property owners within the Town of Star Valley Ranch must apply for and obtain an approved STR permit *annually* to begin or continue operations. *Existing STR*

permit holders must also renew their STR permit annually before the end of December.

If you do not already have your 2024 STR permit, please contact Town Hall to find out what you need to do to come into compliance with [Ordinance §113 Short-Term Rental Permits](#). Late fees may apply.

Contact Town Hall at (307) 883-8696 with questions or email the Town Clerk at clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org.

PET LICENSES

LICENSE REGISTRATIONS ARE PAST DUE!

All dogs or cats over six-months of age 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.

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

Late fees apply after January 15th so please don't delay! Thanks for your cooperation!

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



ROADS 101

WINTER DRIVING SAFETY

BEST PRACTICES FOR NAVIGATING SNOW-COVERED ROADS

The following winter-driving tips, as summarized from *Car and Driver*, will improve your chances of arriving at your destination in a calm, comfortable, and—most importantly—safe manner this season.

Drive Super Smoothly. The key to safe driving in snow is being smooth with the steering wheel, accelerator, and brakes. Any sudden or jerky movements easily unstick tires from their tenuous grip on a slippery road surface. Thus, every turn of the wheel, push of the brakes, and throttle movement must be *deliberate, gentle, and gradual*.

Look Far Ahead. The slipperier it gets, the farther down the road you should look—and think. Anticipate what you'll need to do next. *Slow way down for turns. Allow double the stopping distance when the road is wet, triple on snow, and even more on ice.* Driving carefully and safely takes extra concentration.

Heed the Flashing Lights. How much traction do you actually have on a snowy road? One way to know before you get into trouble is to understand what one particular small, amber, flashing light in the instrument cluster means. (It's an outline of a car with squiggly lines behind it.) If you're accelerating in a straight line and this light is blinking, this is the stability-control system warning you that the wheels that drive the car are slipping. Heed it! And ease up on the accelerator so the tires regain their grip.

Look Here! If you feel your car beginning to skid, always, always, look where you want to go—not where the car is heading at that precise moment. Let your peripheral vision take care of whatever you're trying to avoid.

Deal with the Skids. Eventually, you will hit a slick spot and your car will start to slide away from the direction you want to go. Skids can be managed, so *do not panic and don't stab the brakes!* Instead, do the following:

- **For a front-wheel skid—*ease off the gas.*** In a beat or two, the front tires should regain traction. Then aim where you want to go as your traction returns.
- **For a rear-wheel skid—*quickly turn the steering wheel in the same direction that the rear is sliding.*** Ease off the accelerator and stay off the brakes. As the rear wheels regain traction, steer back in the original direction.

No matter which type of skid you're experiencing, make sure you keep your wheels pointed in the direction you want to be going.

Use Your Anti-Lock Brakes This Way. If all else fails and you need to stop as quickly as possible in snow or on ice, it is time to engage the help of your car's anti-lock-brake system (ABS). If you are in a skid from which you cannot recover or you need to avoid an obstacle—and your vehicle has ABS—*push the brake pedal down hard, and don't let up.* The ABS system will also allow you to keep the brake pedal fully depressed while you also keep steering.

[Note: most ABS systems cause the brake pedal to shudder when they activate to let you know they're working, so don't lift off the brakes when you feel this vibration; it's perfectly normal.]

Beware All-Wheel Drive. Vehicles equipped with all-wheel drive or four-wheel drive can lull you into a false sense of security on slick roads. *Do not be fooled; these systems don't in any way improve your vehicle's ability to turn or stop in snowy conditions,* so expect it to behave just like any other "normal" vehicle when you push on the brake pedal or turn the steering wheel.

Read complete details for the above tips as well as additional winter driving tips in the full *Car and Driver* article found at this link: <https://www.caranddriver.com/features/a25350719/how-to-drive-in-winter-snow-safely/>

NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS & NOTES

MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE OUR NEIGHBORS

NEW INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE FROM THE TOWN

During calendar year 2023 the Town of Star Valley Ranch had an abundance of mountain lion sightings within the town limits. These big cats make their home in the Bridger-Teton National Forest and given the town's proximity to this mountainous habitat, sightings such as those experienced last year (while usually a rarity) are not unexpected.

Some residents were, however, concerned following the rash of sightings or simply had questions about these wild and elusive neighbors. The Town has subsequently consulted with our resident Wyoming Game and Fish Department Wildlife Biologist and with his assistance prepared some informational and educational materials (comprised of a poster and brochure). Once printed you'll find these publications available in the Town Mail Center; the Town expects this information to be available by the end of January or early February.

**WINDOW-WELL SAFETY**

CONSIDERATIONS ON KEEPING WILDLIFE FROM INJURY

Over the past several years multiple incidents of wildlife falling into and becoming trapped inside of window-wells around homes in Star Valley Ranch have occurred. These often unprotected and deep window-wells are not only dangerous for wildlife but can potentially also pose a hazard for people and pets.

Residents with window-wells are encouraged to assess potential dangers posed and if warranted consider adding window-well covers. The latter come in multiple varieties such as metal grates or polycarbonate covers.



A mule deer buck trapped in a window-well.

WINTER TRAILHEAD PARKING

WINTER PARKING RULES APPLY FROM 1 NOV TO 1 MAY

For Cedar Creek Trailhead (CCT): Park in the small plowed out and signed area just to the right of the junction of the CCT Road and Cedar Creek Drive. Overflow parking is located at the Cedar Creek Swimming Pool parking lot.

For Green Canyon Trailhead (GCT): Proceed to Green Canyon Circle and use the plowed cul-de-sac for parking. Please heed the signage and do not park in front of GCT or obstruct access to private property!

For Vista Drive Trailhead (VDT): Pull-out parking is located on the south side of Vista Drive (signed and plowed).

For Prater Canyon Trailhead (PCT): Parallel parking is *not allowed* on either side of Cedar Drive at the National Forest Boundary. The winter parking solution for PCT is still in the works as there is currently no approved winter parking area. *We understand this is not ideal, however, in the meantime please do not obstruct the road or obstruct access to private property.*

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

Ranch News

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

We Want Your Photos!!

With winter off to a decidedly slow start this season we are extending our photo calls through the end of February. So, get out that camera and send us your best!



Photo Call 1



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



Photo Call 2



Send us your best shots of
"Ranch Winter 2024"



Email all photos to: newsletter@starvalleyranchwy.org
 & we'll publish them in the March/April 2024 newsletter!

Have questions, comments or thoughts
 to share about our Town?
 Please email the Editor at:
newsletter@starvalleyranchwy.org

We welcome your thoughts on how we can
 continue to improve our Town newsletter
 and bring you the most useful information.
 Thank you!

GET MORE OUT OF THE TOWN'S TextMyGov APPLICATION

RESIDENTS CAN NOW APPLY FOR TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF TEXT NOTIFICATIONS

There are now two options for receiving text notifications from the Town on things that may impact residents. Previously the Town has offered **TSVR ALERTS** for emergency water outages, road closures, etcetera, which has been hugely successful in terms of sign-ups. **TSVR ALERTS** currently has 307 subscribers! We have now added **TSVR NEWS** for non-emergency text notification items like newsletters, office closures, community events, and more. Please consider opting into this additional text notification option by texting **TSVR NEWS** to 91896. Detailed information on how to opt-in to Town text notifications can be found in the graphics below. Have questions? Please reach out to the Town Clerk at (307) 883-8696 or by email at clerk@starvalleyranchwy.org.

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!

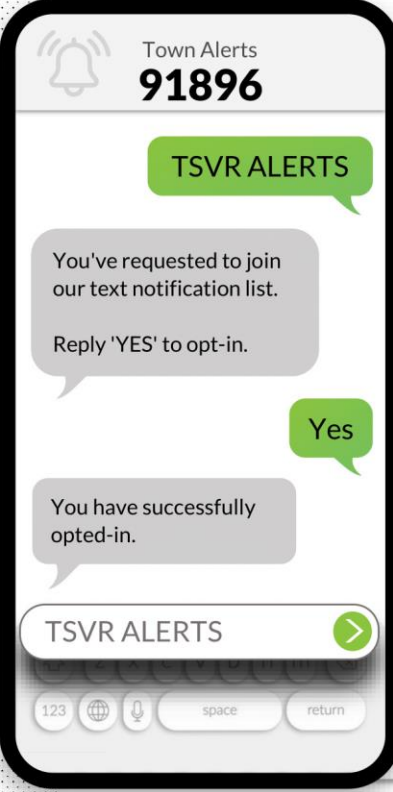
Get Started,
opt-in to any of the following notification

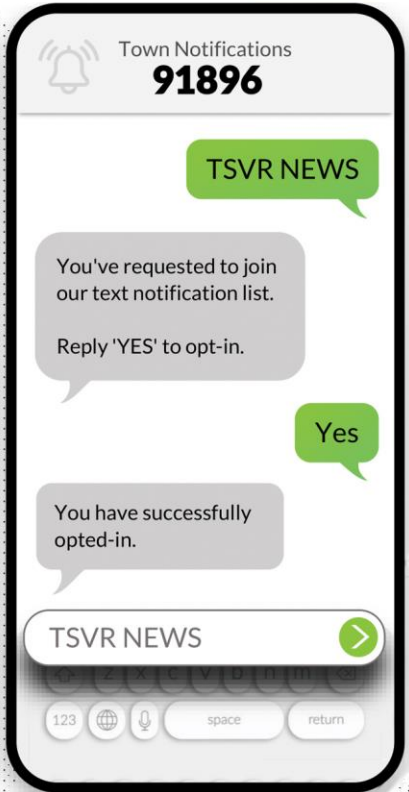
For Town-wide Important Notifications,
text **"TSVR ALERTS"** to **91896**

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

Get started now,
Scan the QR code to quickly join our text notifications.







What to Expect:

- After the initial keyword is sent, you'll 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.

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF DISPATCH REPORT

AKA - THE RANCH BLOTTER

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

[Summary information to the right with details below.]

Summary	Citations	0
	Warnings	0
	CFS/Law Incidents	25
	Special Patrol	19

Animal Problem	--	Abandoned Vehicle	1	Agency Assist	--
Alarms	1	Alcohol Problem	--	Auto Accident	--
Burglary	1	Citizen Assist	1	Citizen Dispute	--
Civil Standby	--	Controlled Burn	2	Child Abuse	--
Alcohol Problem	--	Custodial Interference	--	Disturbance	--
Court	--	Domestic Violence	1	Dead body	--
Elderly Abuse	--	e911	4	Harassing	--
Intoxication	--	Field Contact	1	Fraud	--
Lost/Found Animal	1	Information	--	Lost/Found Property	--
Juvenile Problem	1	Noise	--	Message Delivery	--
Game & Fish	--	Protection Order	--	Medical	4
Missing person	--	Ordinance Violation	--	Reckless Driving	1
Public Relations	--	Suspicious	1	Theft	--
Threatening	--	Traffic	2	VIN Inspection	3
Welfare Check	--	Warrant	--	Weapons Offense	--

SMO REPORT

FOR 1 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

During the month of November, the TSVR SMO issued 3 verbal warnings, 5 written warnings, and 1 citation.

Animal Complaint	3	Road Damage	0	Fire Prevention/Open Fire	0
Building & Zoning	1	STR Complaint	0	Stop Work Order	0
Road Right-of-Way	4	Water Shut-Off	0	Animal Impound	0
Snow Complaint	0	Meter Pit Tampering	0	Other	0
Nuisance Complaint	1	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 December 12th Town Council meeting. *Ordinance updates become effective 10 days after the third reading.*

ORDINANCE 2023-11 [THIRD 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).

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL.

ORDINANCE 2023-12 [FIRST READING]

TITLE IX GENERAL REGULATIONS CHAPTER 94 NUISANCE

This Ordinance is an update to the existing code to provide clarification, improved timeline for abatement, and more concise language.

SECOND READING PLANNED FOR 9 JANUARY 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

6TH PENNY SALES TAX UNDER CONSIDERATION

Preliminary discussions have been held by Lincoln County officials regarding the potential to place a specific purpose tax question on the November 2024 ballot. This “6th Penny Tax”, if approved by voters, could fund community specified projects. The tax would sunset upon completion of the designated projects and would not be collected in perpetuity. Look for more information on the potential 6th Penny Tax proposal to be forthcoming from the Town Council in the next few months.



MORE NEWS IN BRIEF

QUICK NOTES ON TOWN OPERATIONS AS OF 31 DECEMBER

- The Town hired a new billing clerk at the beginning of November. If you haven't met Loretta Mason yet, stop by and say “Hello” next time you are at Town Hall.
- Last month (in December), 30 new parcel lockers were installed at the Town Mail Center and are now actively accepting over-sized mail.



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Town of Star Valley Ranch
171 Vista Drive #7007
Star Valley Ranch, WY 83127
Phone: (307) 883-8696
Fax: (307) 883-8327