



Town Bulletin #8
April 2011

+++++

Water Rates
PLEASE CHECK YOUR “WATER” USAGE
LAST OFFICIAL NOTICE
BEFORE BILLING FOR METERED USAGE

The Town’s new water rates will go into effect April 15, 2011. Meters will be read about April 25th and May 25th for the May Billing Period mailed on June 1st.

IF YOU HAVE UNEXPLAINED HIGH USAGE or a known leak please have it repaired before the April 25th meter reading date or before you have us turn your water on.

The “SPECIAL WINTER RATE SERVICE FEE and DESIGNATED PERIOD” which normally would end the last of March will be extended for the April billing period.

	<u>Old Rates</u>	<u>New Rates</u>
Base Fee	\$10.00	\$35.00
Base Fee Credit (Inside Town Limits)	<u> </u>	<u>-15.00</u>
Minimum Monthly Charge	\$10.00	\$20.00
Usage Fee		
Minimum Usage Fee 10,000 Gallons	26.00	
Usage Fee per Gallon	\$.60 per 1,000=	\$0.0014 per Gal=
	<u>\$1.20</u>	<u>\$17.19</u>
The proposed fees will be <u>less expensive</u> for water users than the old fees up to 12,282 gallons	\$37.20	\$37.19

Please check out the Town’s Water Ordinance and Appendix on our website: www.starvalleyranchwy.org and clicking on “Documents”, then “Town Code” and then, either “Title 4 – Water” for the current ordinance or “Title 4 (Revised)” for the new ordinance. The appendix is at the end of each document.

Questions should be directed to svrh2o@silverstar.com or call 307-883-8696

New “Water Meter” Billing System Update

As we look back over the last seven months with actual water meter readings, it has been a learning process as well as “trying” to both the Town’s Water Utility Department and our customers. We appreciate those who have been patient through the growing pains and adjustments to the changes this year.

There were several challenges associated with the inception of our new system: installing the new meters, conversion to a new billing program, process of reading the meters, and getting the bills out to everyone. It has taken a few months and now we feel we have met our goals during this last billing cycle.

Some of these problems included:

- Meters installed backwards
- Radio malfunctions
- Billing conversion to new software
- Discounted pre-payments not reflecting credits
- Reader not reflecting the total number on the meter
- Information not getting to the final billing
- Usage pro-ration error
- Empty lots billed on a flat rate usage
- Account data not getting to reader
- Some data not transferring from reader to billing
- Data not transferring

The task of converting our current billing system to the changes in the new ordinance will begin with the billing month of May to be billed on June 1. To see the new changes, you may go to our website: www.starvalleyranchwy.org , or call or e-mail the water-billing department at: 307-883-8696/ svrh2o@silverstar.com

“Traffic Control” Devices are Coming

Pot Holes, that is! Please be patient with our Road Crew as we enter into the spring and the traditional “spring breakup”. The roads and underlying ground must be dry for us to fix the potholes properly. Sometimes that seems to be forever. We do drive all the roads two to three times a week.

Thanks again!

TSVR Planning and Zoning Board

With the thoughts of spring coming to the Town of Star Valley Ranch, which it always has, the only question is when. The Town of Star Valley Ranch and TSVR Planning and Zoning Board remind the public that there might be a need to obtain a building permit. Permits are required for new building construction or any construction that involves exterior or structural modifications to their residence. The Town Code also requires permits for changing, adding or widening driveways that exit on town roadways, adding fences and installing accessory buildings over 120 square feet. While some construction does not require a permit, and the asking does not cost; proceeding without a permit when needed does have consequences.

For your own safety and the expense it may cause to you, remember, **It is the Law!** Call Before you dig, call 811 or Wyoming One Call, 1-800-849-2476. You may be digging into underground telephone or power cables. Before any excavating, such as planting trees or adding a fence. Wyoming One Call needs to be notified **48 HOURS** in advance. This is not limited to a tractor or backhoe. It includes a shovel! Wyoming One Call will notify the Town of Star Valley Ranch Water Department, Lower Valley Energy and Silver Star Communications. Before calling, mark the area in **white** paint, black if snow is on the ground where you plan to excavate. When requesting a "locate", also ask that they include the power line from the street to your electric meter. If you have propane be alert for your propane line from the tank to your house, *dig slow and careful, as there might not be a tracer tape!*

When landscaping around your water meter pit, it is recommended that grass or flowers be used within a four-foot distance of the meter pit, to allow space for future excavation should repair work in the pit area be required. A blue T-Post should be installed by your meter pit. If you do not have a blue T-Post to identify your meter pit, call The Town Hall at 883-TOWN (8696) and request that one be installed as having this will greatly aid the Town Water Department in locating the pit, summer and winter, if a problem arises.

+++++

Budget Process

Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012

We have completed our preliminary Budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. We are starting the Budget (three reading) Ordinance process; first reading will be April 12, 2011 with the remaining two readings the following two months.

We have a tighter budget this year than we have had in the past. If you have a creative idea or would like to make a suggestion, please contact Town Hall.

We are trying to do the best we can. It is your Town. Get involved!

?? Spring Runoff ??

With the possibility of a wet spring here in Star Valley and the above average snow pack in the mountains, there is a potential for flooding. The Town will do what it can; however, each resident needs to take their own responsibility in protecting their properties.

As a Town we:

- Cannot divert the flow of a stream or ditch out of its natural route. (Cannot change its course).
- Will try to keep debris cleared out of culverts and bridges within the Town.
- May build up a bank or low spot as long as we do not redirect the flow.
- Will monitor streams and ditches.
- Will try to have sand available on a limited basis at the Maintenance Yard, First Response Center and Prater Circle.

As Residents, please consider:

- Keeping ditches cleared of debris, branches and other obstructions.
- Keeping a watch for potential flooding of streams or ditches near your residence.
- Being aware of sub-water (ground water) levels in your basements; items on the floor should be moved to higher levels.
- Having sand bags purchased in advance if you are in a susceptible area.
- Having sand delivered to your property.
- Contacting your insurance companies for advice as to how to handle a potential flood on your property.

The Town has been in contact with Lincoln County Emergency Services concerning potential flooding in our area. Based on their recommendation, the Town has scheduled a special meeting for April 12th at 6 PM at the Star Valley Ranch Town Hall. If you are in a low-lying area, please plan to attend.

In the event of a flood; call the Sheriff's Office emergency number at **911**.

Over-Night or Extended Parking

The Association has provided a parking area on the Airport apron. This area is just across the street to the south from the Town Hall Building.

The area is provided for parking for trailers and over-night stays.

With this ample parking, please do not leave –

- your vehicle parked in front of the post office,
- or park a vehicle at any time in the area of the "First Response Center",
- your vehicle for any extended time in the Town Hall parking lot.

Thank you! We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Teen Delegate Information

WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

Are you a teen (13-18) and interested in:

- Learning more about civic participation and Leadership?
- Learning about program ideas and strategies you can share in your School?
- Meeting youth and local elected officials from different regions of the state?
- Participating in discussions on how to create and sustain meaningful youth participation in your community?

Then the 2011 Wyoming Association of Municipalities Annual Convention is for you!

Following the lead of the National League of Cities, the Wyoming Association of Municipalities goal is to implement the belief that teens are key players in the community and should be nurtured and engaged as partners.

Attendance as a delegate from your community will provide you with the opportunity to actively interact with city and town officials and to learn how you can help make a difference in shaping the future of your community.

The annual WAM Convention in Sheridan, WY will be held June 8-11, 2011. Teen delegate activities will include workshops, keynote speakers and outdoor recreation. Teen delegates usually travel to the host city Wednesday in time to attend the Welcoming Reception – this year it is at the Historic Sheridan Inn. On the menu is a buffalo barbecue and you can watch a performance by Native American dancers from the Crow Nation. Thursday morning we will have workshops for you to attend in the morning and after lunch you will enjoy an afternoon in the beautiful Big Horn Mountains. Thursday evening join delegates at the Exhibition Hall reception, sample tidbits from various Sheridan restaurants and then decide where you want to go for dinner. Friday will again be a half day of workshop sessions geared especially with you in mind, and an afternoon learning a new skill.

Your attendance is by invitation only from a municipal officer in your hometown. If you are interested in this opportunity, please talk to your mayor or a council member about sponsoring your participation at the convention. A registration form is available at Town Hall (171 Vista Dr.) and must be returned to the WAM office. The registration form includes a parental/guardian consent form and a City of Sheridan WAM 2011 Youth/Teen Waiver (emergency contacts etc.).

The registration fee of \$85, is payable by your local government. All students must have an adult chaperone responsible for coordinating accommodations and convention participation of the teen delegates. This year we are fortunate that the Sheridan College is offering rooms for teen delegates at a rate of \$15 per person for double occupancy / \$20 per person single occupancy. Please contact the WAM office for details on the housing offer.

We look forward to your interest and participation in WAM's Annual Convention in Sheridan. If you have questions, please contact Town Hall at 883-8696

Fire Safety

Please join us in helping to ensure a safe and “fire-free” summer. Your individual help will make a difference.

As specified in Town Ordinance Title 8 Fire Prevention, The Town of Star Valley Ranch is located in the wildland - urban interface, adjacent to US Forest Service property. Much of the Town is located in areas that are subject to lush forested or grassland vegetation. Approximately one half of the building lots within the Town are undeveloped and not maintained. This creates an increased risk of fire during dry conditions due to the accumulation of heavy dry vegetation. Our Town could be subject to extensive damage should a fire occur. This ordinance is established in anticipation of the potential for high fire danger, and the corresponding threat to life and property in the event of a wildfire, while recognizing the pleasures of a recreational fire.

Our Town Ordinance states that it is unlawful to Discharge Fireworks or to have a non-approved Recreational Fire from April 1 through November 30 of each year, (8.01.020 and 8.01.030). Open Fires are never permitted.

Definitions of “Discharge of fireworks”, “Recreational Fires” and “Open Fires” are contained within the Town Ordinance *Title 8 Fire Prevention* and can be found on line at <http://www.starvalleyranchwy.org/Ordinances/> or by calling the Town Hall at: 307-883-8696.

SVRA Corner

SVRA Corner

DCC&R Revisions Incentive Cash Winner are...

As of March 15th, over 926 ballots had been received in the historic vote to revise the Star Valley Ranch Association DCC&Rs and we thank you. Since last reported in the Town Bulletin, two incentive cash drawings have been completed. Dave Clark won \$2000 on Feb. 19th and the Dorothy Folsom Trust won \$1500 on March 19th. Drawings in April and May will be worth \$1000 and \$500 respectively and your completed ballot must be received by the 15th of the month.

Of the ballots cast, 70% (over 1400) must be cast in favor of the proposed changes in order to pass the DCC&R revisions. Members do not need to have paid their assessment for their ballots to be counted. Although votes may be accepted through most of June, the experience of previous committees has shown that if people wait to vote, they are more likely to misplace their ballots or forget altogether. So, vote now and take advantage of the incentive cash drawings.

If members have not received a DCC&R Revisions Packet or have misplaced it or have questions please email or call the SVRA Office at svrawy@silverstar.com or (307) 883-2669.

Election - SVRA Board Of Directors – Election

You must file on or before Friday, April 15 – Packets are available at the SVRA Office

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

We need your help to make the SVRA Easter Egg Hunt happen. If you can help, call the SVRA Office at 883 2669,

Community Center Open Houses in April

View the first rendition of a Community Center Floor plan with a presentation and discussion with the project team members. If your time is short, drop by and give your input.

Thurs. April 7 from 7 - 9 pm at the Town Hall

Sat. April 9 from 10 - 12 am at the Town Hall

SVRA Corner

SVRA Corner