



The Ranch News September 2007 Volume 2 Number 3



Stars and Stripes create a patriotic flair at the main entrance to Star Valley Ranch as the community celebrates our nations independence with a full day of family fun. For more on this story see Jim Wheeler's article on page 5 . *Photo courtesy of Kent Harker*

Town Acquires Culinary Water System

by Mayor Boyd Siddoway

The Town of Star Valley Ranch signed the contracts in late May and assumed total responsibility for the culinary water system on June 1, 2007. The Town now has exclusive control and management of the culinary water system, its supply and its distribution to all users within the corporate limits and to those few that receive water from the Town that are outside of the corporate limits.

During the month of May, 2007, the final terms and conditions of the acquisition of the Culinary Water System from the Star Valley Ranch Association were consummated in four different contracts. Many meetings were held separately and jointly with the SVRA Board of Directors. The most notable were:

May 8, 2007 - Town Council Special Meeting - Culinary Water Transfer:

A special Town meeting for the purpose of discussion of the topic of the Culinary Water System Transfer from the Star Valley Ranch Association to the Town of Star Valley Ranch, Wyoming.

The Town's ultimate goal was to put together a contract between the Town and SVRA which addresses the Sale/Purchase as well as an Emergency Services Agreement and Water Conservation Agreement.

The sense of urgency regarding the May 31, 2007 deadline as it related to the \$600,000 grant and the ability to apply for additional grants was stressed. (*cont. pg.2*)



May 21, 2007 - Town Council Special Meeting - Culinary Water System Transfer:

A special Town meeting for the purpose of discussion of the topic of the Culinary Water System Transfer from the Star Valley Ranch Association to the Town of Star Valley Ranch, Wyoming, was held jointly with the homeowners association's board of directors at the SVRA Barn.

Mayor Siddoway gave a brief overview of the purpose of the meeting, which was intended to be a workshop style with one objective: Get the water transferred from the Association to the Town.

Components of the Transfer Include:

- Purchase Agreement (of the water system)
- Emergency Services Agreement (interim water supply guarantee)
- Attachment A – Town of Star Valley Ranch Water Conservation Ordinance
- Attachment B – Star Valley Ranch Association Water Conservation Plan

May 24, 2007 - Town Council Special Meeting - Culinary Water System Transfer:

A special Town meeting for the purpose of discussion of the topic of the Culinary Water System Transfer from the Star Valley Ranch Association to the Town of Star Valley Ranch, Wyoming, was held at the Town Hall.

Mayor Siddoway explained the history and the current status of the Culinary Water Transfer. He made mention of how well things had been coming together in the last five days or so, and thanked homeowners association chairman, Joe Angelovic.

The Mayor explained that the project of transferring the water had many component parts to it, and therefore the transfer would be accomplished via four agreements:

- Section 1: Transfer of the Culinary Water Assets
- Section 2: Emergency Service Agreement (ESA)
- Section 3: Facilities Lease
- Offer to Sell (Culinary Water Transfer Agreement)

May 30, 2007 -Town Council Special Meeting - Culinary Water System Transfer:

A special Town meeting, principally for the purpose of publicly signing the Culinary Water System Transfer Agreements, was held jointly with the Star Valley Ranch Association Board of Directors on Wednesday at the barn.

Mayor Siddoway first recognized everyone in the audience as a representative group of all the people that had expended time and energy in pursuit of the culinary water transfer during the preceding years, and asked that everyone give themselves and all others a congratulatory round of applause.

The Mayor also extended his thanks to the past and present Town Councilmen and Town staff and volunteers, as well as to the SVRA Chairman and the SVRA board members.

Four documents were executed by the Mayor and the SVRA Chairman in two sets of identical originals.

- (1) Transfer of Culinary Water System
- (2) Emergency Services Agreement
- (3) Lease/Purchase Agreement (Maintenance Yard / Airport Storage)
- (4) Purchase Agreement (Equipment, Tools and Inventory)

The Culinary Water System was transferred effective June 1, 2007.

Table of Contents

Pg 3—WWDC Update, Water Ordinances	Pg 9—USPS Committee Update	Pg 14 & 15
Pg 4—Water Conservation Tips	Pg 10—Public Safety Message	Sept—Nov
Pg 5—Town Image	Pg 11—Road & Water Report	Calendars
Pg 6— Master Plan Update, P&Z, BLM Update	Pg 12—Sales Tax & Town Resolution	
Pg 7— SVRA Long Range Planning	Pg 13—Town Minutes 7/17/07	
Pg 8— FISC III	Pg 14—Town Minutes 8/4/07	



Wyoming Water Development Commission's \$600,000.00 WWDC Level II Grant Status

(This grant is a 100% State Grant, non-matching)

The Town qualified for this grant on June 1, 2007 with the official transfer of the culinary water assets from the Association to the Town. The Town Council wishes to personally thank all of the Association's Members who signed and returned their "consent" forms. Thank You!

This grant is a follow on to the Level I (Exploratory) grant that will conclude this fall. The original grant was to define and evaluate the current overall system.

The Level II grant is to identify and drill up to four exploratory wells, define and recommend which test well should be developed as an additional source of water for the Town, located and recommend additional water storage tank(s) and define and recommend necessary transmission lines from wells to tanks.

The Town anticipates using the Level II grant results to formally request a Level III grant in the fall of 2008 for the construction of the well, tank and transmission line.

Activities of June 1st – August 15th

Bid was awarded to Weston Engineering out of Laramie.

Several meetings with the WWDC, Weston Engineering and Forsgren Engineering have taken place.

Leak Testing of the entire culinary system has been scheduled

Preliminary well site general areas have been identified

A public Town Hall meeting hosted by Weston Engineering was held

An individual walk through with each Engineering firm was held:

A review of the BLM land as a potential site in the SW quadrant,

Review of the Prater Canyon Tank Location and

Discussion of Plans (interim and long term), Questions and Suggestions

Preliminary work on developing high pressure transmission line

(this would provide for more than one well to a trunk line.)

Forsgren is continuing to collect spring flow measurements.

Weston provided the operator with specifications for ventilation of the Airstrip Well No. 1 well-house

Discussions for the electrical evaluation of the pump controls

The Town Council continues to stress the importance of the preliminary completion and reporting by August of 2008 to allow us time to submit our application for construction. Delays past August of 2008 will result in a full year delay in the construction process.

New Town Ordinances and Regulations

by Mayor Boyd Siddoway

The Town of Star Valley Ranch has implemented Water Ordinance with defined Water Restrictions as well as ordinances for a Municipal Judge, Special Municipal Officer and Court Clerk.

Under the Water Ordinance, the Mayor has the authority to declare a water emergency based on an included Water Conservation Plan. This Water Conservation Plan will remain in effect for at least the time period required by the Town to develop and implement additional services, and establish and bill for water usage based on a metered usage.

All Ordinances, regulations and fines of the Town of Star Valley Ranch will be enforced.

A Municipal Ordinance Officer, Bob Byam has also been appointed to strictly enforce all of the town ordinances and town regulations of the Town of Star Valley Ranch. *(Cont. page 4)*



A Municipal Judge, Robert J. Logan has been appointed pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 6 of the Wyoming Statutes. The Town of Star Valley Ranch shall have one judge with jurisdiction as prescribed by the general laws of the State of Wyoming and by general laws of the Town not inconsistent with State law.

A Municipal Court Clerk, Andrew Moffett (Town Clerk) was appointed to fill this position until a permanent individual is selected and appointed.

Until such time that a meter is installed on every connection, the Town, via an ordinance, is charging a uniform quarterly water service fee based on:

- Service availability (connection installed)
- Service size,
- Service Status "ON" or "OFF"

You may elect to pay your water bill on a quarterly or on a discounted yearly basis. **IF you have a connection of any kind, and have NOT received a bill, please contact the Town (307-883-8696 / svrtown@silverstar.com / PO Box 1180, Star Valley Ranch, WY 83127) to avoid late fees.**

There are also water turn-on and turn-off fees.

We encourage each of you to please read and become familiar with all the rules and regulations associated with the Town of Star Valley Ranch's Ordinances and Resolutions. Copies of the Ordinances and Resolutions can be found at Town Hall or on the Town's Website at: www.starvalleyranchwy.org.

Water May Not Seem Like A Big Deal... Until You Try Living Without It!

By Councilman Carol Warren

Water is a precious resource. Growing demands and dry weather patterns are squeezing our water resources, causing natural habitat degradation and impacting our everyday use of water. We all have no choice but to pay more attention to how we are using water and how we may be wasting it.

Water Facts: The average U.S. household uses 350 gallons of water per day, according to the American Water Works Association. Households use 20 to 62 percent of that total outdoors on lawns, landscaping and such. Saving water outdoors, then, can really make a dent. Indoors, homeowners can reduce water use by about 30 per cent by installing more efficient water fixtures, washing machines, dishwashers and regularly checking for leaks. About 75% of indoor water consumption is in the bathroom.

- Filling your sink for dishwashing can save over 220 gallons per month.
- Installing low flush toilets or toilet tank fillers can use up to 50% less water per flush.
- Taking a shorter shower or smaller bath can save up to 14 gallons each time.
- Repairing a leaky toilet can save up to 440 gallons a month.
- Leaving sprinklers or hoses unattended can pour about 600 gallons or more in only a few hours.

Outdoor Water Wasters: Water-wise landscaping doesn't mean drab, colorless, lifeless yards, but it does mean the application of some important principles. By adopting these easy water-saving tips, we can help improve our water situation.

Lawn Care Tips:

- Don't over water your lawn. Plunge a screwdriver into your lawn before watering. The easier the screwdriver goes into the ground, the more water is still in the soil.
- Raise your lawn mower blade to at least 2.5 to 4 inches. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds in moisture better than closely-clipped lawn.
- Apply as little fertilizer as possible to reduce costly maintenance overgrowth. Once in the spring and once in the fall is plenty.
- Regularly check sprinkler systems and timing devices to be sure they are operating properly. (cont. pg 5)

Landscaping Tips:

- Trees, shrubs and lawn areas all have different watering requirements. Try to separate landscaping and plants into different irrigation zones.
- Mulch to retain moisture in the soil. Mulch with 2 to 3 inches of materials such as compost, ground bark, gravel or stone. Digging a hole around plants to catch the water also reduces the amount of water needed.
- Plant native and drought tolerant plants.
- Group plants together based on similar water needs.
- Use drip irrigation as it is most effective when it comes to watering everything except lawns.
- Use grass wisely in areas of the landscape where it will provide the most benefit.
- Use sprinklers that are sized and suited to the shape of your lawn.
- Install timers on outdoor taps used for sprinkling.
- Don't set your sprinkler and forget it. Don't water your driveway.

Indoor Water Savings Tips:

- Use a low flush toilet or tank filler.
- Use low flow faucets and shower heads.
- Repair leaks promptly.
- Run only full dishwashers and washing machines.
- Rinse your vegetables in a pan of water rather than under the tap.
- Turn water off while brushing teeth or shaving.
- Take shorter showers or smaller baths.
- Save extra flushes by not using the toilet as a wastebasket.
- Keep drinking water in the fridge instead of running cold water.
- Think about the water you are putting down the drain. Use it for watering a plant or cleaning, etc.

Water conservation helps ensure that we will be able to maintain the quality of life we have come to enjoy here in the Town of Star Valley Ranch.

Town Image

by Councilman Jim Wheeler

The Town of Star Valley Ranch is one of the most beautiful places in the world to live. That beauty is a gift, but we must all do our share so we can continue to enjoy and improve our gift. Over the past few months there have been many activities and events that have made our community more attractive and special.

At the beginning of the summer, 50 US flags were purchased by the Town to be used for special events that would remind us all of the great country we live in. These flags got their first use on Flag Day, June 14th. They spent the day on both sides of Vista Drive blowing in the breeze and giving a very special feeling to our town residents and visitors.

On June 30th we had a very special day celebrating the birthday of our great nation. The Star Valley Ranch Association and Town spent the day together involved in activities and good food. Our Town's US flags again made this day more special. Thanks to each person who helped make this a memorable day for our community!

On July 20th a group of 6 pilots from the National Guard unit stationed in Salt Lake City, Utah, flew 3 Apache attack helicopters to our Town for a training mission. They were greeted by a large group of Town residents and guests. The Town's 50 US flags lined the air strip run-way. The enthusiasm of the crew members, the beauty of our valley and the feeling of renewed patriotism will be remembered for a long time. Shauna Crittenden is the mother of one of the pilots. She was our contact for this special event. Her son, Captain Shayne Bell, and his five pilots gave personal showings of their aircraft. Young and old were able to examine the helicopters and ask questions. These young pilots represent the best our nation has to offer. The entire event was very impressive. There were many pictures taken, and a video was made and set to music. If you are interested, that DVD is available for purchase. It will make you very proud to be an American and give you a special feeling of pride for our Town and Nation.

(Cont. pg 6)



We have learned that one of the pilots (Clayton Barnes) was killed 8/20/07 when his helicopter crashed while on a night training mission in Cedar Valley Utah. This was one of the 3 Apache Helicopters that landed at our air strip on July 20th. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends!

The roads in the entire Town have been improved and dust guard sprayed on them. This has been a massive effort and a task well done. "Thanks" to our Public Works Department!

Many of the older buildings that lined the entrance on the north side of Vista Drive have been taken down and hauled away over the past couple of weeks. This will help the initial impression and image of our town. "Thank you", to the Stewarts for that effort.

There are many homes and yards that have had special care and effort that adds to the beauty and image of our Town. Lets all try to do our part to improve the image of our community.

I am often asked by people through out our Valley... "How are things at The Ranch"? I feel good when I say, "I personally feel they have never been better and feel that we have a bright future a head of us". "Thanks", to everyone for all that you do to help our Town of Star Valley Ranch reach its potential. Councilman, Jim Wheeler

Town Master Planning Update

by Councilman Al Redlin

The Town has awarded a contract for development of a Town Master Plan to Pedersen Planning Consultants, 777 Baggott Rd., Encampment, WY, 82325-0066. The project is being funded by a \$25,000 Community Development Block Grant which will be supplemented with approximately \$8,333 of required Town matching funds. The firm is presently engaged in gathering information to be utilized in development of the plan. The residents of Star Valley Ranch, adjacent property owners, members of other Star Valley communities, Lincoln County officials and staff, and any other interested parties are encouraged to attend planned informational meetings and express their thoughts and desires regarding future activities for Town involvement and development. The Town Master Plan is scheduled for completion early in calendar year 2008. (*Editors note: Please see the green Master Planning feedback form inserted in this newsletter.*)

Planning and Zoning

by Councilman Al Redlin

The Town of Star Valley Ranch has established its first Planning and Zoning Board. Residents Steve Ashworth, Landscape Planner; Rick Dustin, Forest Service Planner; Ron Schupp, Residential and Commercial Construction; Gary Braun, Recently Retired and Long Time Resident and Dan Whiteside, Road and Golf Course Construction, have been appointed to the Board. Steve Ashworth has been selected and is serving as Chairman of the P&Z Board. Mr. Dan Whiteside has recently resigned from the Board due to a job relocation and departure from the Ranch and Mr. Robert Palmquist, Geologist, has been appointed to fill that vacancy.

This Board will provide the first level of review for construction projects within the Town and for developments in the vicinity of the Town and provide recommendations to the Town Council for approval or disapproval of the projects or developments. The Board will also be closely involved with development of the Town Master Plan being developed by Pedersen Planning Consultants.

The Board is presently developing its own Rules of Procedure, Standards for Construction, Requirements for Building Permits and Standards for Developments in the vicinity of Star Valley Ranch. These will be implemented by enactment of Town Ordinances. The Board plans to implement the procedures and requirements in January 2008.

BLM Right-of- Way

by Councilman Kent Harker

We are waiting to make a final decision on the size of the parcel the Town will apply for until we have the meeting scheduled for the last part of August. This meeting will be advertised when the date is finalized.

At that meeting we hope to have enough information on the facilities we plan to build on the right of way grant initially.

As we learned through our first right of way application, the BLM wants a detailed plan of the proposed improvements on the property so this time we want to be much more sure of our plans over the next few years.

We also want to try to come closer to an overall plan for the whole 40 acres so that we can start to put together an application to begin acquisition of the whole parcel.

We have gained valuable input from people in the public meetings held earlier this year and we will continue asking for people's ideas and suggestions before we submit a final application.



Star Valley Ranch Association Projects accomplished in 2007

The SVRA Long Range Planning Committee has compiled an important list of the 2007 projects **accomplished** and/or currently in progress at SVRA. The Board of Directors, General Manager, employees and volunteers have all been active in working on these projects. Congratulations to us all! The goal, rationale and results for each project are listed below.

1. Transfer the water and roads to the town.

Rationale: *The Town's access to funding and state of Wyoming expertise to build a more comprehensive culinary water and road maintenance systems ensures safety and reliability for future growth and also helps SVRA solve its financial problems.*

Result: Through the work of the FISC II Committee, over 2/3 of the SVRA membership signed their consent to transfer the culinary water system to the Town. Transfer of the culinary water system was completed in May 2007. The roads were also transferred in late May 2007, through an eminent domain legal action.

2. Renovate the cook shack.

Rationale: *The cook shack, which serves many interest groups at SVRA, requires renovation in order for it to be safe and continue to function for the next 5-10 years.*

Result: The renovation of the roof and interior ceiling is in progress. This goal is recommended to be revised and continued in budget year 2008.

3. Retire the irrigation note.

Rationale: *The most useful application of available funds was to retire the existing high interest irrigation note, allowing SVRA to be able to borrow on a new loan with better terms and keep our credit rating up.*

Result: The existing irrigation note was retired in May, 2007.

4. Develop a method for SVRA to establish priorities on all projects.

Rationale: *SVRA needs a tool to objectively rank projects to help in decision-making.*

Result: The Criteria Evaluation Form for SVRA Study Group Projects was created and used to establish priorities in 2007.

5. Create and use better communications tools in order to reach the entire SVRA community.

Rationale: *Communication with the SVRA community is one of our highest priorities in order to gain consensus to move the Ranch smoothly forward.*

Result: The SVRA website, email and print publications from SVRA or shared with the Town were used extensively in 2006-7. This goal is recommended to be revised and continued in budget year 2008.

6. Lease the utilities building to the Town.

Rationale: *The utilities building served the needs of SVRA's road and water maintenance, and needs to be leased to the Town for their use.*

Result: The utilities building was leased to the Town, with an option to buy, as part of the water transfer agreement in May 2007. This goal is recommended to be revised and continued into budget year 2008 as FISC III prepares a consent form for the membership to approve the sale of the utilities building and maintenance area to the Town.

7. Develop a recreation plan.

Rationale: *To research, compile and publish a report for inclusion in the SVRA Long Range Plan/Recommendations to address the recreational/wellness needs of the diverse SVR community beyond the well-established golf programs.*

Result: The Rec Plan 2006 was written by a representative group of the membership during June/July 2006, and a copy of the report was submitted to the Board of Directions. The following items were recommended to receive appropriate resources and priority in the future direction of the Star Valley Ranch community:

1. Formalize a Recreation Department/Program
2. Community Recreation Center



3. Neighborhood Parks
4. Community Pathway System
5. Cross-Country Ski Trails

A recommended new goal for budget year 2008 will outline a plan for a Community Recreation Center and its programs.

8. Hire a common areas employee.

Rationale: An employee is needed who has the knowledge and expertise to maintain the commons areas separate from the golf courses and to coordinate with volunteers.

Result: Two part-time common areas employees were hired for the 2007 summer season.

9. Conclude the last law suit including costs.

Rationale: By finishing the legal process, SVRA can turn its attention, energy and resources to new projects.

Result: The courts settled the law suit and final payment was made in 2007.

10. Demolish the Aspen Hills pool and clean up the area.

Rationale: The Aspen Hills pool had not been used for many years due to its poor condition. The cost of renovation or replacement could not be justified given its use as compared to other SVRA needs.

Result: The pool was demolished and clean-up begun. This goal is recommended to be revised and continued in budget year 2008.

11. Carry out a structural engineering study of all SVRA facilities.

Rationale: An overview of the condition of our facilities conditions is necessary in order to determine the feasibility of their continued use.

Result: A preliminary study was presented to the Board. Further study of the structural issues of the barn/silo area is necessary.

12. Complete the snack shack facility.

Rationale: The new pool building needs to be finished by adding a snack shack facility.

Result: The snack shack was completed, leased and is operating.

13. Put in an irrigation water system for the Cedar Creek playground.

Rationale: The grass in this heavily used commons area needs a proper irrigation system.

Result: The irrigation system is near completion.

14. Develop the SVRA long range plan.

Rationale: A long range plan is needed to guide SVRA decision-making into the future.

Result: The Long Range Planning Committee completed a long range planning organizer. From the plan, annual goals are to be developed and the plan is to be updated annually. Each year's annual goals and updated long range plan are to be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directions.

FISC III by SVRA Director Jan Jonson

STAR VALLEY RANCH needs your help. When the roads and culinary water system were recently transferred from the Star Valley Ranch Association to the Town of Star Valley Ranch, the Town entered into a three-year lease/purchase agreement for the maintenance shop and equipment storage area located near the main entrance on Vista Drive.

The use of the maintenance shop and equipment storage area is a temporary arrangement. Within a year or two following the purchase of the maintenance shop area the Town hopes to move their equipment to a new location, raze the existing maintenance shop, landscape the area and eventually erect a new Town Hall. This will greatly enhance our main entrance.

(Cont pg 9)



The maintenance area is common property of the Association and, as such, the sale to the Town can only occur with the consent of 2/3rds of the Association members. The agreed upon purchase price for the land and building is \$350,000 less any lease payments that have been made (\$36,000 per year). The Association intends to use the proceeds from the sale to help fund the Aspen Hills Water Conservation Project, a valuable community improvement.

When you receive your Consent to Sell form we urge you to please fill it out immediately and return it to the Association office. We need the assistance of each lot owner to succeed in this endeavor to improve our community.

Please contact a committee member if you have any questions.

Jan Jonson, Chair cjonson@silverstar.com
 Joe Angelovic jangelovic@silverstar.com
 Sue Johnston thejohnstons@silverstar.com
 A.J. Morrell amorrell@silverstar.com
 Ron Mueller rmueller@silverstar.com
 Al Redlin redlinaz@aol.com

Editors note: please complete and return the Consent To Sell form included as the yellow insert in this edition. Time is of the essence as SVRA strives to make the best of their financial resources as they complete the Aspen Hills water conservation project.

United State Postal Service Citizens' Committee Update

by Councilman Warren

The USPS Citizens' Committee has researched and investigated many mail delivery options available to the residents of the Town of Star Valley Ranch. With the information we have available at this time, it appears as though Town residents have the following two options for mail delivery. Other options, such as a Community Contract Post Office or a U.S. Post Office, do not look possible at this time. In the future, things may change, and we could have a Post Office; but not now. Retail services such as purchasing stamps and mailing packages would be available at the local post offices.

The Town's mail delivery options are contingent upon getting our own ZIP code. If we had our own ZIP code, it would make it much easier for the Thayne Post Office as the mail could be automatically sorted for Town delivery. This would also provide the residents more flexibility in making post office box number changes and establish our own identity.

MAIL DELIVERY OPTIONS

1. A Central Unmanned Mailroom

(We believe the current USPS Rules and Regulations would provide the following:)

- The Postal Service would buy and install the boxes.
- The mail delivery would be free with no annual box rental.
- The Highway Contract Route person would deliver the mail to mailroom and to each box.
- Your address would be a Post Office Box Number at the Town of Star Valley Ranch.
- The Highway Contract person could sort and distribute the mail indoors out of the weather

Questions to be answered: The big problem is where to house the mailroom and who pays for this building and maintenance thereof. How many boxes do we need? How large should the mailroom be? What kind and what size of boxes would the Postal Service provide? Could we start out with small mailroom, and then later expand into bigger mailroom with more boxes?

2. Cluster Mail Boxes

(We believe the current USPS Rules and Regulations would provide the following:)

- Installing some Cluster Boxes Units (CBU) throughout the Ranch. The initial cost for each person would be between \$100 and \$200 for a total of \$1600 per CBU. After the initial cost there may be no annual fees.



- Cluster Boxes are assigned a permanent street address with the problem that once your address is assigned to a CBU, it can't be changed. When more CBUs are added to the system, you stay with your original cluster box, not with the new one, which might be closer to your home.
- A location for each CBU must be established with a pull-out area on the Town's right-of-way, and the road maintained such as snow removal which the Town would have to commit to doing.
- The Highway Contract person would have to sort and distribute the mail outside in the weather.

HOW THE TOWN IS PROCEEDING TO OBTAIN ITS OWN ZIP CODE.

Using "Changing Postal ZIP Code Boundaries" from the "Congressional Research Service Report for Congress" as a guideline, we need to do the following:

- Request in writing to the manager of the district with rationale and justification.
Selwyn Epperson, District Manager CO/WY
United States Postal Service District Office
7500 E 53rd Place Denver CO 80266-9998
- The local postmaster is not the decision maker; the postmaster's only responsibility is to forward any requests received to the district level.
- The District Manager is to identify all relevant issues, etc., and respond in 60 days.
- If the request is feasible, all customers that would be affected by the change must be surveyed. A simple majority is adequate for approval.

Public Safety Message

By David Ward, Town Public Safety Advisor

In this issue of the newsletter I want to discuss two issues that affect us all. First, I would like to discuss fire safety in our community, and secondly driving on town roads.

Fire Safety

We are very fortunate to live in a beautiful area, close to the forest. We enjoy open grass lands, and aspen and conifer forested areas. But along with that comes the threat of wildfire. Because of the drought conditions we have had this year, the fire danger, in and around our community, is critical. We should all be thinking about what we can do to make our properties more fire safe.

If you live in the open areas, where it is relatively flat, you should have a minimum of thirty feet around the structures on your property. That thirty foot area should either be lawn or mowed native grass. This will eliminate the threat of a grass fire impinging on your home. Also when landscaping, consider planting flame resistant and drought tolerant plants close to buildings. It is also wise to remove the lighter fuels, grass and duff, from under trees such as blue spruce and limb them up about a foot from the ground. If this type of tree is located in an irrigated lawn area this step is not necessary.

The real challenge to providing a defensible space around your home, comes when you live in the forested areas of our community. Again you need a minimum of thirty feet around your home, where most if not all low growing flammable vegetation has been removed. The trees in this area should be limbed up at least six feet and all dead branches removed. This includes conifers such as douglas fir, and deciduous trees like cotton wood, etc. Irrigated and mowed grass or lawn adds to the protection in this area. On the remainder of your property it is wise to remove all dead fall and excess accumulations of pine cones and needle fall. Limb trees up six to eight feet, and remove all dead trees and branches. Remove all ladder fuels, that is vegetation that provides a pathway from the ground into the crowns of the trees. The goal is to keep the fire on the ground, thus allowing firefighters a chance to more easily control the fire and also to save the trees and our homes.

The good news is that in Lincoln County we have a program administered by Ms. Terry Potter, that provides a grant to private property owners to accomplish the reduction of fire hazards around your home by responsible elimination of flammable vegetation. This is a 65% / 35% grant with a \$1650.00 cap. The property owner provides 35% either in

money or labor. The grant money pays 65% of the cost. You will be hearing more about this program in the future. We are going to try to kick it off this program in a big way next spring, however it is available to you now. For more information you can contact me, Dave Ward at (307) 248-0552 or call town hall. This is a great opportunity, we should all take advantage of.

The next fire related topic, has to do with driving golf carts off the fairways into the dry grass. While this type of activity is extremely dangerous to the operator, it also poses a threat to the surrounding properties and forest. If you do start a fire by engaging in this type of irresponsible behavior, you could not only lose your golf cart, and risk injury to yourself, but if the resulting fire damages nearby homes or other property you could be held legally and financially responsible. If the resulting fire burns on to federal land, the forest, you will be responsible for the cost to suppress that forest fire. Please be responsible when you are on the golf course, don't drive your golf cart off the short green grass.

Driving on town roads

Finally I would like to talk about driving on town roads. We have a very serious problem with speeding on our streets and roads. This not only puts the vehicle operator at danger, but it also endangers all pedestrians. For example, there is one young man that I have seen driving a black jeep wagoner, a yellow four wheeler, and a dirt bike. He is always speeding and has no respect for himself or others. After all, driving responsibly and obeying the speed limit within the town, which by the way is 25 miles per hour, is not only the right and safe thing to do, but if you don't is shows a total lack of respect for others.

The town is in the process of working with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department to arrange for periodic patrols of our community. It is my hope that this presence will not only generate a few citations but will get the message out that we, as a town, will no longer tolerate speeding and underage drivers on the streets of Star Valley Ranch. I hope they get the guy on the yellow four wheeler.

Road Department Report

By Councilman Kent Harker

Since our last newsletter the Road crew has improved many of the roads. They have regraded and dustguarded the roads in Plats 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 22 and they also redid Cedar Creek Drive.

The last few days they have been patching the paved roads and will be continuing this effort for a few more days.

They will be mowing along the sides of the roads soon. They have also trimmed trees along the roads and cleaned up many broken off tree branches from several storms.

If you come and visit the shop you will see that there has been a massive cleaning job done both inside and out and much of the materials storage area has been closed in with shelves and racks built to keep our inventory of pipe, valves and other installation supplies in a neat and orderly manner.

We have also done considerable repairs and maintenance to our equipment that we purchased from the Association in the water transfer agreement.

Water Department Report

by Councilman Kent Harker

Since our last newsletter the Water Department has been very busy.

One of the major jobs was to replace the pressure-reducing valve that supplies the water to Plats 4 & 5. This valve has been in a dangerous condition for quite some time to the point that it wasn't safe for the men to get down in the vault to work on it.

Two new water connections were made during August and one other connection that was installed before the Town took over the water system was dug up and repaired. (Cont pg 12)

There were Many leak repairs done since the Town took over the water system and the biggest one was done August 14 when the crew replaced a section of pipe in Green Canyon that had deteriorated to the point that you could almost poke your finger through the pipe. It was necessary to completely shut off the water to Plat 13 to make this repair and to ask everyone to conserve as much water as possible while the water from Green Canyon was off. We really dodged a bullet on this one.

We really need to thank our water employees for a job well done!

1% Sales Tax Information

On February 13, 2007 the Town of Star Valley Ranch passed a resolution in support of the inclusion of a referendum on this coming November's ballot to give the voters an opportunity to vote on whether or not to vote to re-instate the additional 1% Sales Tax in the County. The failure of this proposition will cost our Town nearly \$600,000 in revenues for the 2007/08 fiscal year. Our Town was joined in passing this resolution by 100% of all the towns in Lincoln County. If you need further information prior to voting, please contact Town Hall. Following is a copy of the Resolution as passed.

Town of
Star Valley Ranch

RESOLUTION NO. 07-02-13-001

WHEREAS, W. S. Section 39-15-204(a)(i) (as amended) authorizes the County of Lincoln to impose an excise tax at a rate in increments of one-half percent (0.5%) not to exceed a rate of one percent (1%) upon the sales of tangible personal property, admissions and services made within the county, the purpose of which is for general revenue; and

WHEREAS, W.S. Section 39-15-203(a)(i) (as amended) stipulates that no such tax may be imposed until the proposition to impose the tax is submitted to the vote of the qualified electors of Lincoln County and a majority of those casting their ballots have voted in favor of imposing the tax; and

WHEREAS, W.S. Section 39-15-203 (a)(i)(B) provides that the proposition to impose an excise tax shall...be submitted to the electors of the county upon the receipt by the board of county commissioners of a resolution approving the proposition from the governing body of the county and the governing bodies of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the incorporated municipalities within the county; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Star Valley Ranch, one of the incorporated municipalities within Lincoln County approves the proposition of imposing a one percent (1%) tax for general revenue within Lincoln County be placed on the ballot before the voters of the Town of Star Valley Ranch and Lincoln County; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Town of Star Valley Ranch encourages the board of county commissioners of Lincoln County to vote to approve the proposition of imposing a one percent (1%) tax for general revenue within Lincoln County be placed on the ballot before the voters of Lincoln County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Star Valley Ranch, Lincoln County, Wyoming, that the Board of Commissioners of Lincoln County, Wyoming, be and are hereby notified pursuant to W.S. 39-15-203(a)(i)(B) (as amended) of the resolution of the Town of Star Valley Ranch, Wyoming, approving the submission to the voters of Lincoln County at a special election, the proposition of whether a one percent (1%) excise tax on tangible personal property, admissions and services obtained within Lincoln County be imposed for the purpose of general revenue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Star Valley Ranch, Lincoln County, Wyoming encourages the Board of Commissioners of Lincoln County, Wyoming to vote and resolve to approve the proposition of imposing a one percent (1%) tax for general revenue within Lincoln County be placed on the ballot before the voters of Lincoln County at a special election, the proposition of whether a one percent (1%) excise tax on tangible personal property, admissions and services obtained within Lincoln County be imposed for the purpose of general revenue.

Highlights of Town Council Meeting – July 17, 2007 *by Councilman Warren*

Notable guests in attendance at this meeting included Lincoln County, Sheriff Shane Johnson and Sheriff's Deputy, Brian Anderson; Lincoln County Deputy Homeland Security Coordinator, Jay Hokanson; Thayne Mayor, Don Aullman and Thayne & Rural Fire Department Chief, Todd Erickson accompanied by several of Thayne's firefighters.

Ordinance 2007-03 – Municipal Judge: The Town of Star Valley Ranch approved the second reading of Ordinance 2007-03.

Request for Additional Town Support – WAM: Councilman Redlin moved the Town of Star Valley Ranch approve an additional funding request from the Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM) for \$103.00 for the purposes of their funding a Legislative Director and Chief Lobbyist position. This motion carried unanimously.

FISC III: SVRA Director, Jan Johnson, reported on the SVRA's FISC III Committee. This Committee is charged with gathering the consent of at least 2/3 of the property owners inside Town limits in order to qualify the homeowners association to sell the building and property at 251 Vista Drive to the Town.

Culinary Water: Mayor Pro tem Warren discussed the WWDC Level II Water Scoping Meeting held on June 27th at Town Hall. Ben Jordan, a WWDC contractor with Weston Engineering, Inc., discussed the plans and scope of the \$600,000 grant for exploration for ground water for the Town. Mr. Jordan addressed expectations for the next 12 – 18 months as exploration begins. The exploration should provide the Town with a highly productive well site that the Town will develop as a new culinary water source.

Municipal Water Utility: Councilman Harker gave a report on the Water Department. Eight water leaks have been repaired along with a water line that was broken by a contractor.

The Town of Star Valley Ranch called a Water Emergency on July 12th as the tanks reached a low level. This was a Level I – Yellow Ribbon - Water Emergency Classification. Town volunteers delivered information packets to every home on the Ranch to alert the residents to this water emergency.

Community Water Advisory Committee: The Town of Star Valley Ranch approved a Community Water Advisory Committee to be chaired by Councilman Kent Harker and composed of committee members Braydy Nelson, Town Water Operator; Mark Sprague, SVRA Golf Course Superintendent; and Terry Wilson, Water Engineer, SVRA Utilities Committee member, for the purpose of making recommendations of Water Emergency Classifications to the Mayor.

Water Utility Customer Billing: The Town Clerk displayed an example of the initial water invoice packets that water customers would be receiving later in the week. He explained that the invoices were accompanied by the water ordinance, water conservation plan and water fee schedules for this first billing only. He also commended Municipal Water Utility Billing Specialist, Brenda Bauer, for exceeding all expectations with this historic first billing cycle.

Councilman Redlin moved the Town of Star Valley Ranch approve the extension of the period during which water customers may make annual payments and enjoy requisite 10% discounts to encompass the entire first quarter (July 1st through September 30th) for the first 2007 billing cycle only. The motion carried unanimously.

Facilities: Councilman Harker reported on the Maintenance Shop improvements and clean-up.

The Town was still going forward on the BLM plans, and another meeting regarding BLM planning is anticipated sometime in August with the public being notified and encouraged to attend.

Planning: Councilman Redlin noted that Pederson Planning Consultants have been selected to develop a Town Master.

Appointment of Special Municipal Officer: The Town of Star Valley Ranch confirmed the Mayor's appointment of Bob Byam as the Town's "Special Municipal Officer."

Roads: The Roads Department has been busy this month building up the gravel base and crushed gravel on many of the roads. The entire school bus route, all of the roads in Plats 4, 5, 21 and part of Plats 13, 17 and 18 have been completed. Dust guarding of the area around the Public Works Department Maintenance building has also been completed.

Highlights of Town Council Special Meeting—August 4, 2007 by *Councilman Warren*

Culinary Water System: A special Town meeting for the purposes of discussion of the topics regarding the Culinary Water System and consideration of an Emergency Ordinance to modify the Water Conservation Plan was held on August 4, 2007, at Town Hall.

Review: Mayor Siddoway began the meeting with an explanation of the purpose of and procedure for passing an emergency ordinance.

Mayor Siddoway called for a motion as follows:

Councilman Redlin moved the Town of Star Valley Ranch suspend the three public readings (as defined and authorized in S.W. 15-1-115) of today’s proposed emergency Ordinance 2007-04. The motion carried unanimously.

(Emergency) Ordinance 2007-04 – Appendix 4-1 – Water Conservation Plan Modifications, Section 3 Water Shortage Classifications – subsection titled “Level I – Moderate”: This Emergency Ordinance was approved by the Town of Star Valley Ranch. It recognized the conservation efforts of the citizens and property owners, and addressed concerns voiced by the Town’s citizens and property owners. It corrected ambiguities in the initial Ordinance, redefined the watering period, and provided a more systematic assignment of watering days that lend themselves to more efficient use of automatic sprinkler systems.

The Mayor introduced the Town Compliance Officer, Bob Byam. The Mayor encouraged everyone to be a good neighbor and advise those not at the meeting of the new watering hours/days.

SEPTEMBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Labor Day Town Hall Closed	4	5 P&Z Board Mtg 7:30 pm Town Hall	6	7	8
9	10	11 Town Meeting 7 pm Town Hall	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 P&Z Board Mtg 7:30 pm Town Hall	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Master Plan Comments Received						

OCTOBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 P&Z Board Mtg 7:30 pm Town Hall	4	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day Town Hall Closed	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Town Mtg 7:30pm Town Hall	17 P&Z Board Mtg 7:30 pm Town Hall	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Halloween			

NOVEMBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 PLEASE VOTE!! 1% OPTIONAL SALES TAX	7 P&Z Board Mtg 7:30 pm Town Hall	8 Town Founders Day	9	10
11	12	13 Town Mtg 7:30pm Town Hall	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 P&Z Board Mtg 7:30 pm Town Hall	22 Thanksgiving Town Hall Closed	23 Town Hall Closed	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



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15 Cedar Creek Rd. (CR118) Suite D
PO Box 1180
Star Valley Ranch, WY, 83127
Phone: 307-883-TOWN (8696)
Fax: 307-883-TFAX (8329)
www.starvalleyranchwy.org
svrtown@silverstar.com

Mayor:

J. Boyd Siddoway — svrmayor@silverstar.com

Councilmen:

Kent B. Harker — khark@silverstar.com
George A. Redlin — redlinaz@aol.com
Carol J. Warren — cjlw@silverstar.com
Jimmy D. Wheeler — jim96san@silverstar.com

Town Public Works

Warren Webb, Director—svrwater@silverstar.com
Town Road “Hotline” 307-880-ROADS
Town Water “Hotline” 307-880-WATER

Town Clerk:

Andy Moffett — supercairn@silverstar.com

Special Municipal Officer

Bob Byam - 307-880-2666

Sign Up for Email

You can receive more thorough and faster information on all of the above items and additional information about what’s going on by signing up for e-mail. Please signup by sending the following message via e-mail to svrtown@silverstar.com.

I would like to be on the Town’s e-mail list and receive more thorough information on what is happening at Star Valley Ranch, WY.

Name: _____ Plat/Lot: _____ (if you know it)
Mailing address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____, Zip Code: _____
E-mail address: _____

This Newsletter is being sent to all the property owners in the Town of Star Valley Ranch