



Town Bulletin #16

December 2011

***The Town of Star Valley Ranch
wishes everyone a very
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year***

Snow Removal Reminder

*From Thursday, November 17, 2011 Star Valley Independent article:
by Sarah Hale*

Having rights-of-way unobstructed is vital for snowplows.

This week the Town of Star Valley Ranch issued a reminder to area residents regarding snow removal. According to information provided by the town, it is essential to have unobstructed road right-of-way during winter months to allow for snow removal. "Keep your garbage cans in your driveway and away from the right-of-way," said Mayor Boyd Siddoway. "Refrain from plowing across the road or blowing snow into the road right-of-way when removing snow from your property."

The mayor also stated that vehicles and trailers cannot be parked in any road right-of-way.

"We want walkers to be aware that they need to be on the lookout for snowplows," said Siddoway. "Snowplow drivers may or may not be able to see them."

Drivers were also asked to slow down and practice safe winter driving habits.

"Roads are slick," Siddoway said. "We plow all roads and or cul de sacs with a business or residence on them for emergency services purposes. Our priority of plowing begins with school bus routes and other major roads within the town. The second priority is secondary and connecting roads. Cul de sacs are a third priority."

According to information provided by the town, recreational vehicles, such as ATV's and snowmobiles, may be operated on roads with the Town of Star Valley Ranch as long as they are operated by a licensed driver and the vehicle(s) has the required permits and tags.

The homeowner's association does require a permit for snowmobiles. The permits are available through the Star Valley Ranch Association Office, located at 781 Vista East Drive.

For more information on snow removal within the Town of Star Valley Ranch, contact the town at 883-8696

TSVR Planning and Zoning Board

The Town has placed signs (thirteen) at all entrances to the Town "BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED". Starting in late winter/early spring, we will be placing, in the legal section of the local paper, a reminder of the need to have a building permit.

The Planning and Zoning Board has updated and added new building permit packages, DO I NEED A BUILDING PERMIT?, FENCE PERMIT, UTILITY/STORAGE BUILDING PERMIT, DRIVEWAY PERMIT, AMEND A PLAT PERMIT and A BUILDING PERMIT.

Before starting a project call Town Hall and ask for the form "DO I NEED A BUILDING PERMIT?", see attached form. After you fill out and return the form, you will be advised if you need or do not need a permit. If you do need a permit, the proper permit package will be given to you. *Answer all questions, supply all required documents and mark all corners of your lot.* Failure to do so will only delay the approval of your permit.

The Board continues its efforts to recruit talented individuals with diverse backgrounds as new members. Year round residents of the Town are especially encouraged to apply. Citizens seeking more information and/or who wish to be considered for appointment to the Board should contact the Town offices, any Town official, or any member of the TSVR Planning & Zoning Board.

Planning and Zoning Board meetings are held at Town Hall at 5:00 PM on the first and third Wednesday of every month. The public is invited to attend all regularly scheduled Planning and Zoning Board meetings. Members of the public who have an interest in a building permit or any planning and zoning matter are especially encouraged to attend.

DO I NEED A BUILDING PERMIT?

	YES	NO
Type of Construction:		
Construction of a residential or primary structure	()	()
Construction of accessory structure _____	()	()
Floor area of the proposed construction is greater than 120 sq. feet	()	()
Addition to an existing structure	()	()
Repair of existing structure	()	()
Remodel of existing structure	()	()
Add/enlarge driveway access into Town right of way	()	()
Install/build a fence	()	()
Construct/enlarge a structural or retaining wall _____	()	()
Planned work:		
Pour footing/foundation	()	()
Construct a new roof_	()	()
Repair/replace a roof in kind	()	()
Enclose an existing covered open area, (car port, deck, etc.)	()	()
Install new deck/Increase size of existing deck	()	()
Repair/replace deck in kind using same footers/posts	()	()
Install/replace structural support (joists, posts, footings)	()	()
Move an interior wall	()	()
Install/enlarge door/window opening in exterior wall	()	()
Move a pre-built or kit structure onto property__	()	()
Other (List)	()	()

Natural Resource Board

Tree of the Month: Limber Pine (*Pinus Flexelis*) Over the past two issues we've discussed the two most common native trees within the Town of Star Valley Ranch; Douglas-fir and Quaking Aspen. Several other native conifers are found on the ranch but none are more interesting than Limber Pine. Its scientific name, *Pinus flexelis*, and its common name, Limber Pine, come from the fact that the limbs of this tree are extremely flexible. In fact some of the smaller branches can be tied in knots without breaking!

Limber Pine is found in the higher elevation areas of the Rocky Mountains. In favorable conditions, trees may reach 60 to 80 feet in height. Limber Pine is in the group of pines known as white pines. They have five needles in each bundle of needles on their branches and grow with multiple tops and a striking smooth white bark high in the tree. They are closely related to Whitebark Pine, *Pinus albicaulis*, which also grows in our area but at even higher elevations. To tell the difference between Limber Pine and Whitebark Pine you need to look at the immature cones. Green cones are Limber Pine and purple cones are Whitebark Pine.

Most Limber Pines within the Star Valley Ranch grow on the south end of town. One of the finest examples can be found on the left side of the first hole fairway of the Cedar Creek Golf Course. This beautiful tree is 28 inches in diameter and over 40 feet tall!

Like all of the white pines, Limber and Whitebark Pine are affected by White Pine Blister Rust, a fungus that was introduced accidentally from Europe. Because of this Limber and Whitebark pine have a high mortality in some areas. But they seem to be doing well in our area!

Limber Pine is an important source of food for squirrels and Clark's Nutcrackers. Black Bears may raid squirrel caches for Limber Pine nuts. Squirrels, Northern Flickers, and Mountain Bluebirds often nest in the trees.

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Christmas Trees

Looking for a live Christmas tree this Christmas?? Consider a Douglas-fir or other conifer within an aspen stand, either on your own property or on National Forest Land with a permit from the U.S. Forest Service. Taking a conifer out of an aspen stand will slow the invasion of conifers and the eventual loss of the aspen forests in and around the Town of Star Valley Ranch.

Dog Re-Registrations



If you would like to re-register your dog for the 2012 and save money, please stop by Town Hall before the end of the year.

<u>Renewal Period</u>	<u>Neutered/Spayed</u>	<u>Intact</u>
Before Noon on 12/30/2011	\$10.00	\$25.00
First Quarter of 2012 (January- March)	\$15.00	\$30.00
Remainder of 2012 (April – December)	\$20.00	\$35.00

Association's Corner

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SVRA Assessment Dollars at Work

Projects completed in 2011: passage by 73% of members in favor of the single version of the new DCC&Rs; expansion of the Cedar Creek Park area after resolution of a dispute concerning the use of SVRA lots; pool bathrooms and changing rooms renovated; new pool cover cutting heating costs; new tables and seating at the pool and pavilion, tennis courts resurfaced; new cart path project continues; profitable lounge operations.

Projects planned in 2012: buy snow groomer to groom tracks for x-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and sledding; new tables, umbrellas, bike rack for pool area and deck runners for pool changing rooms; resurface and restripe basketball court; renovate volleyball court and horseshoe area; add concrete to south side of grill/park area; improve driving range and cart paths; develop RV parking area.

What happened to our community center? Although members of the Town and Association worked many hours researching and writing applications for more than \$2,000,000 in state grants to remodel the barn and silo complex, the state would not allow a long term lease, but required that the Town own the property. Unfortunately the guidance we had received was inaccurate.

Is there another way to build a year-round facility? SVRA's Board believes that to move toward our vision of well-maintained facilities and affordable recreation and social activities, continued work towards a smaller, perhaps staged, year-round, multi-use building that we can afford without grants is a primary goal. A new plan will be developed and presented to the Association members in 2012.

How can we afford it? SVRA has reserves saved from the sale of assets to the Town. However, the research done in 2011 makes it clear that our reserves will not cover the cost of this project. In order to add to our reserves, the Board has voted to raise the annual assessment to \$350 per lot -- \$44 per lot will be placed into the capital reserve and designated to the new SVRA center project. Member input is important to this project. Call the SVRA office if you would like to be involved.

The Board will not meet in December. The SVRA office is open except for Christmas and New Years. We wish all members a happy, healthy holiday season.

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