



Town Bulletin #5
January 2011

The Mayor and Town Council wish you all
A Very Happy and Prosperous New Year

ATTENTION: SENIOR CITIZENS

The Town of Star Valley Ranch will jointly sponsor a Senior Citizen's Lunch and activities with the Thayne Senior Center on Thursday, January 27, 2011.

Both the Thayne Center and the Town will be open for lunch and activities. Both menus will be the same, cost the same, just two different locations.

Help us plan for this event and confirm your interest...!

How many individuals are included in your answers? _____

Do you normally attend the Senior Center in Thayne? _____

PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

- Please count on us attending at SVR town Hall.
- We would prefer to attend the Thayne Center
- Not now, but would be interested in an alternate date
- Not interested in the SVR Town Hall location

Town Calendar for 2011

January	February	March
5 - P&Z Board Mtg ** 11 - Town Meeting 7pm 17 - Equality Day/MLK* 19 - P&Z Board Mtg **	2 - P&Z Board Mtg ** 8 - Town Meeting 7pm 16 - P&Z Board Mtg ** 21 - Presidents' Day *	2 - P&Z Board Mtg ** 8 - Town Meeting 7pm 16 - P&Z Board Mtg **
April	May	June
6 - P&Z Board Mtg ** 12 - Town Meeting 7pm 20 - P&Z Board Mtg **	4 - P&Z Board Mtg ** 10 - Town Meeting 7pm 18 - P&Z Board Mtg ** 30 - Memorial Day*	1 - P&Z Board Mtg ** 14 - Flag Day 14 - Town Meeting 7pm 15 - P&Z Board Mtg **
July	August	September
4 - Independence Day* 6 - P&Z Board Mtg ** 12 - Town Meeting 7pm 20 - P&Z Board Mtg **	3 - P&Z Board Mtg ** 9 - Town Meeting 7pm 17 - P&Z Board Mtg **	5 - Labor Day* 7 - P&Z Board Mtg ** 13 - Town Meeting 7pm 21 - P&Z Mtg **
October	November	December
5 - P&Z Mtg ** 10 - Columbus Day* 11 - Town Meeting 7pm 19 - P&Z Mtg **	2 - P&Z Mtg ** 8 - Founders' Day 8 - Town Meeting 7pm 11 - Veterans' Day * 16 - P&Z Mtg ** 24 - Thanksgiving Day* 25 - Day after " *	7 - P&Z Board Mtg ** 13 - Town Meeting 7pm 21 - P&Z Board Mtg ** 26 - Christmas Holiday*

* Town Hall will be CLOSED

** All P&Z Meetings held at Town Hall at 6:00 PM

Your Road Crew is asking for your personal COOPERATION

The three most expensive obstacles to effective and efficient snow removal:



Please place your garbage cans on the property side of the snow berm, inside your plowed driveway area. Please do not put your garbage cans out the night before, nor leave them out after pickup. The road crew will do the absolute minimum plowing and no grooming on Thursdays. We have discussed this with the pickup companies. If you feel you cannot abide with these requests, please call Town Hall (883-8696)



Automobiles parking in the plowed road right-of-way. This impedes snow plowing, post storm grooming and may be dangerous to your automobile. Please arrange to park in your driveway only. In case of a large gathering at your residence, please contact Town Hall for parking arrangements and use of Town barriers. If you feel you cannot abide with these requests, please call Town Hall (883-8696)



Removal of "Blue Stakes", marking surface fixtures of our water system. Without these markers either the Town's snow plowing equipment or contractors may hit and tear up our water system. This is very expensive and critical in our freezing weather. Please leave them in place. If you feel you cannot abide with these requests, please call Town Hall (883-8696)

Town Residents are reminded that any vehicles, utility trailers, Garbage containers or any other property parked or placed within a road right of way that are impeding traffic or causing a hazard to snow removal equipment or other traffic may be impounded at the owner's expense. (To view the entire Ordinance, go to the Town's Website at www.starvalleyranchwy.org, Title 5, Chapter 4 Roads, Motor Vehicles and Traffic Control)

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SVRA Corner

SVRA Corner

Star Valley Ranch Association

Watch for your DCC&R Revisions Packet and Final Ballot
to be Mailed January 3, 2011

Be eligible for 4 incentive cash drawings beginning February 15, 2011.

All members should receive their DCC&R Revisions Packet with final personalized ballots by mid-January. Your participation in this important vote is critical to the Association's future direction. Read the packet carefully, return your signed and witnessed ballots in the self-addressed stamped return envelope, and watch for results on the SVRA email, website and in the *Star Valley Independent*. By participating as quickly as possible, members have a chance to win cash in 4 monthly drawings. If you do not receive your DCC&R Revisions Packet by Wednesday, January 19, 2011, please call the Association Office at: (307) 883- 2669.

SVRA Corner

SVRA Corner

Setting Water Rates to Sustain These Essential Services

(The Painful Act of Setting Water Rates)

Your Town Council and staff are engaged in developing the rates to be charged for culinary water services for fiscal year 2011-2012. None of us want higher rates. However, we have an essential role in making sure our rates are adequate to ensure the ongoing services and solvency of the Water Utility. The Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) requires that Water Utilities be self-sufficient as a requirement for issuance of water system improvement grants. The Town of Star Valley Ranch has been able to secure grants by assuring the WWDC that we will raise water rates incrementally by 10 to 15 % each year until our Water Utility is self-sufficient.

We have made significant strides during the past few years in providing improvements to the water system that help meet the goal of providing adequate, safe and reliable services, but this has not been done without cost. Most of the costs of the water system improvements have been provided by grants but the Town has entered into both low interest and no interest loans for which annual payments will soon start.

Most rate structures of other water utilities include a base rate and a water use rate. We anticipate that our rate structure will continue to include a base rate and a water use rate. The base rate typically covers the system's fixed expenses, which are costs that do not change, such as billing, administration, payment of debt, and contributions to reserve accounts. The water fee generally covers the variable costs, such as salaries, equipment, electricity, chemicals and those costs that change as the amount of water used changes.

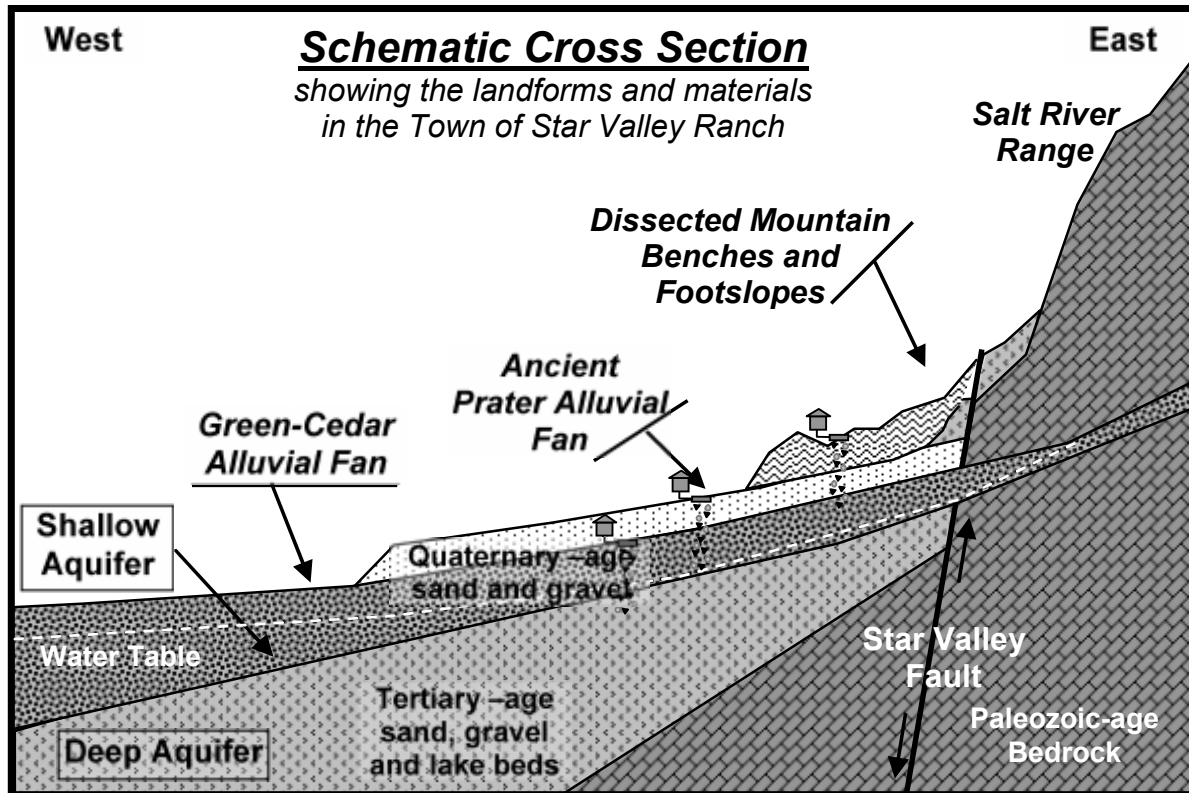
The Town is taking advantage of help from qualified experts to assist us with a rate study analysis that will not only help us with establishing rates for next year but also with future projections. We are using our engineering firm, Forsgren Associates, to estimate the costs of future improvement projects, grant availability, debt payments, and costs of producing water. Kathy Weinsaft, Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems (WARWS), will be visiting Star Valley Ranch in mid-January. Kathy has assisted many other Wyoming communities and Star Valley Ranch in establishing water service rates and is a recognized expert in this capacity.

Our goal is to keep the water rates as low as possible consistent with providing adequate, safe and reliable services. The Town has contributed a significant portion of the funds received from the 8-mil property tax and the 5th penny sales tax for the Water Utility and we anticipate that this practice will continue for the foreseeable future. The Town has also either budgeted or loaned money from its general funds to subsidize the Water Utility.

Look for more specifics in the Town's March Bulletin included in the water billing statement. In the meantime, your comments are encouraged and welcomed.

ON-SITE WASTEWATER STUDY

For the Town of Star Valley Ranch, Wyoming



During the summer of 2007, the Town authorized a study to determine if small on-site waste water disposal systems (“septic systems”) within the Town posed a threat to ground water quality and a public health problem at that time and when if ever would septic systems begin to pose a problem. The study was a pro-active attempt to assess potential ground water problems before they arose. The study utilized available data and methodology in Chapter 23 of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations. The report was presented to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) in April 2008 for their review and comments.

WDEQ approved the report, noted its exceptional quality, and complimented the Town on its pro-active stance.

The study found no ground water or health problems existed in 2007. Potential problems might arise in some parts of town as the occupancy approaches full build-out. Should these problems arise, the Town anticipates the installation of small self-contained public sewer systems would serve the problem areas.

Should shallow ground water problems occur, the town’s drinking water supply should not be affected because the town is served by deep wells and a mountain spring. The Town continues to monitor our water-quality, report the results monthly to the Department of Environmental Quality and annually review occupancy relative to full build-out. The full report is available at Town Hall or on our website at www.starvalleyranchwy.org.

Planning and Zoning Board

The Town of Star Valley Ranch and the TSVR Planning & Zoning Board remind the public of the need to obtain a building permit for new building construction or any construction that involves exterior or structural modifications to their residence. Members of the public should contact Town Hall before starting any construction project to determine if a building permit is required.

Title 9 of the Town Code requires a building permit be obtained before beginning work to install or expand a driveway or to build any vehicular access into a public road right of way. For new construction, the Town’s driveway construction requirements are reviewed as part of the building permit application process. General regulations for driveways are contained in Town Code Title 9, Section 9.05.120. However before beginning any construction of any new or expanded access into a public right of way from private property, members of the public should contact Town Hall to determine if a permit is required.

Title 6, Appendix 6.01-A of the Town Code provides that a permit from the Town is required to build a fence within Town boundaries. Members of the public who desire to build a fence must apply for a fence permit from the Town. A permit obtained from the Town is separate from any homeowner association requirements to obtain a fence permit. The Town’s general regulations for fences are contained in Town Code Title 9, Section 9.05.070. Please contact Town Hall for further information.

Town citizens who plan to install or modify permanent outside lighting on their property are reminded the Town of Star Valley Ranch has adopted regulations governing outside lighting within Town boundaries. The outside lighting regulations are available on the Town’s web site (www.starvalleywy.org) and are detailed in the Star Valley Ranch Town Code, Title 9, Section 9.05.140. Generally, in single-family residential areas, an outside light fixture emitting more than 1200 lumens shall be full cutoff and fully shielded to an observer at the property line. The bulbs in outside light fixtures must be frosted glass or covered by a similar translucent cover. The purpose of these regulations is to minimize light pollution and light trespass problems in the Town. Members of the public may contact Town Hall for further information.
