



**Town Bulletin #18**  
**February 2012**

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**Star Valley Medical Center Health Fair**  
**“Blood Draw”**

Residents and friends of the Town of Star Valley Ranch  
will have three opportunities this year  
for the Health Fair blood draw at  
our Town Hall

Draws on Tuesday, May 1 and Thursday, May 3, 2012 will be by appointment only  
Call 885-5827 to schedule your appointment

Draws on Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> will be on an open, walk-in, first come, first served  
basis.

All these dates are scheduled from 6:00 AM to 10:30 AM.

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**Winter Road Information**

To avoid hitting and damaging your garbage cans, we continue to remind everyone to be sure their garbage cans are not in the plowed area of the roadway. Please keep them in your private driveway area. If you see a neighbor’s garbage can in the road, be a good neighbor and let them know of this request. Thank you.

Please remember than only licensed drivers are allowed to operate any motorized vehicles, including snowmobiles, golf carts, 4 wheelers, motorcycles, automobiles, etc. on the roads of Star Valley Ranch.

Please do not pull children (or adults) on sleds or tubes on the road. This is very dangerous. The Association is providing you a “groomed” area on the first fairway of Aspen Hills Golf Course. Have a happy and safe time with your winter activities.

## **Fees to Turn Water On or Off**

Our Water Department will be charging to turn water on and off for those requesting this service more than once each per year or outside of normal business hours.

The Council had two choices when deciding on this activity:

- ✓ Provide the service to everyone for free and distribute the cost to everyone for the extra, personal service via higher water fees or
- ✓ Charge those who use the extra services above the normal, service level.

This Council has taken the approach to try to distribute the costs of our new system fairly to everyone based on the following criteria:

**Infrastructure Costs** (payments associated with Wells, Tanks, Lines) to all who have access to the system via a Base Fee (\$41.00 per month)

**General Operating Costs** (daily operation and maintenance of the system) to those who use water via the Usage Fee (\$0.0014 per gallon used)

**Specific or Exceptional Cost** associated with an individual or small group via direct billing to the recipient of the benefit. (Turn on and turn off fees)

We do not profess perfection. However, this is the fairest way we know. Everyone pays their share as best we can determine and measure.

Some facts;

1. Every water user has one free turn on and one free turn off each calendar year between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:00PM on normal workdays.
2. Each additional turn on or turn off fee during normal hours was meant to be \$30.00 per call. (Council is in the process of modifying current code to reflect this amount)
3. The off-hour fee is \$45.00 per call outside normal business hours.
4. It costs the Water Department to provide this service.
5. If you arrive or depart on the weekend, the Water Department's personnel have to be called out to turn your water on or off during non-business hours. This is an additional cost to the Water Department. There are several choices you may consider;
  - ✓ Pay the off-hour fee of \$45.00 per call.
  - ✓ You may install an additional turn-off valve between the meter pit and your home and control your water yourself.
  - ✓ You could have a neighbor meet the Water Department's personnel at your house on Friday afternoon or Monday morning and pay the \$30.00 per call. (We will schedule in advance).
  - ✓ Leave your water and heater on, however, this may not be practical because of the potential loss to property.

We continue to solicit constructive critiques. The fact that water was free for 30 years is unfortunately, not an alternative. The condition of the water system four years ago was proof enough that "free" was not a good idea. We will be going through this process again in the fall, so please stay tuned, give us your input, and we will do the best we can.

If anyone has a realistic, positive solution, we would be delighted to entertain your idea.

## **Planning and Zoning**

During the year of 2011, the Planning and Zoning Board approved a total of twenty-five (25) construction permits. Five (5) of these permits were for homes, four (4) were for fences, and the remaining sixteen (16) were for miscellaneous projects. This is compared to seventeen (17) total projects in 2010. The 2010 projects are broken down as follows: five (5) permits for homes and twelve (12) were for miscellaneous projects. Fences did not require a permit until late in 2011. There are currently 20 projects still in progress, six of which are homes.

The Planning and Zoning Board has been assisting the Town Council in getting the Town of Star Valley Ranch enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program. All of the appropriate paperwork has been submitted to FEMA and our enrollment is expected to be approved early in the first quarter of 2012. Once approved, any resident will be able to contact their insurance agent and purchase flood insurance for their property.

The Planning and Zoning Board will continue its work to formalize construction and zoning processes and procedures as well as propose appropriate modifications to the present town ordinances throughout 2012. This is a continuous effort to provide clarification, correct errors and omissions, and establish a set of guidelines for all future construction and development.

The Board's work to coordinate the Town's Master Plan land use proposals for areas adjacent to Town boundaries with Lincoln County continues to be an agenda item targeted for completion in early 2012.

The Board reminds the public that approved building permits must be posted in a visible location at the job site until a final inspection for the work has been obtained by the permit holder. The purpose of the final inspection is to insure the completed project conforms to the plans submitted in the approved permit application. Permit deposits will not be refunded until a successful final inspection is obtained. Building permit holders need to contact the P&Z Clerk to arrange for interim and final inspections of building and construction projects.

The Planning and Zoning Board continues to work to improve compliance on obtaining building permits. Thirteen signs stating that building permits are required have been posted at all entrances to the Town. Additional items being implemented by the Board include:

- Sending information letters to contractors and realtors reminding them that permits and inspections are required for building construction in the Town.
- Submitting periodic articles for publication in the local newspaper regarding the requirements and reasons for building permits. There will also be a Legal Notice posted in the Star Valley Independent about the requirement during prime building months.
- Posting permanent notices on bulletin boards in the Town Hall, post office, SVRA offices, golf pro shop, and public meeting areas with the requirement to obtain building permits.
- Including questions and answers (Q&A) or frequently asked questions (FAQ) and informative articles on building permits, building codes, and planning and zoning functions in the P&Z section of the Town newsletter.

While some small projects may not require a permit, members of the public should always contact Town Hall @ 883-8696 before starting any construction project to determine if a permit is required. Failure to do so will only delay the approval of your permit if it is required.

The P&Z Board will be working to “flesh out” the process for rezoning property that lies within town boundaries. The information will be consistent with the Town’s Ordinance and be patterned after the County’s process.

At this time the P&Z Board is fully staffed but the Board continues to request the names of individuals that might be interested in serving in anticipation of upcoming vacancies at the end of June 2012. Interested individuals should notify any current member of the Board or the Town Clerk in the Town Hall.

Planning and Zoning Board meetings are held at Town Hall at 5:00 PM on the first and third Wednesday of every month. February meetings will be held on February 1, 2012 and February 15, 2012 at 5:00 pm MST at the Town Hall.

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## Winter Road Care

Winter is here. Our road crew does their best in trying to keep our roads open and safe. Sometimes during and immediately after a storm it takes them a day or two to catch up with all the snow and in widening the roads back to the pre-storm condition. This last storm was very wet. The wet chunks freeze as the weather turns cold. We apologize for the problems, but have no immediate solution we can afford.

The Priority road Work that has been established for snow plowing, grading and dust guarding is as follows:

1. School Bus Routes & Commercial Locations
  - a. School Bus Routes  
(The school bus authorities change these routes from time to time.)
  - b. First Response Center & Postal Center
  - c. Town Hall
  - d. Public Works building
2. Main (Primary) Thoroughfares
  - a. Roads with heavy traffic other than school bus routes (Vista East / Vista West Loop)
  - b. Roads used as main feeder routes from secondary roads
3. Secondary Roads
  - a. Access roads
  - b. Cul-de-sacs that the end cannot be seen from the entrance of the road
4. Cul-De-Sacs
  - a. Roads that the end can be seen from the entrance of the road
  - b. Used as a turn-around road

## Natural Resource Board

**Arbor Day 2012:** Mark your calendars! The Town of Star Valley Ranch will be celebrating our second annual Arbor Day on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> in Fox Run Park starting at 10:00 AM. This year our goal is to add 10-12 new trees to the park. To help fund this effort the Town of Star Valley Ranch has established an account for the purchase of trees for planting on Arbor Day. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the Town Clerk, Brenda Bauer at Town Hall. The Natural Resource Board will maintain a plaque, to be displayed at Town Hall or other suitable location, displaying the names of donors, memorials or remembrances for donations of \$50 or more. For names to be recorded on this year's plaque donations must be received by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

**Tree of the month:** Narrow Leaf Cottonwood, *Populus angustifolia*. Narrow Leaf Cottonwood is a common tree found growing along stream banks throughout the Northern Rocky Mountains. It is identified by their long and narrow leaves that appear almost willow-like.

The tree, a previously unknown species, was first identified new by Lewis and Clark during their 1805 expedition to the Pacific. On the Star Valley Ranch, Narrow Leaf Cottonwood is found growing along active streams and irrigation works especially the North Branch of Cedar Creek and the Hardman Ditch.

In other locations on the ranch, the Narrow Leaf Cottonwood is not doing so well. For example, those trees growing along the old Middle Branch of Cedar Creek within Fox Run Park are slowly dying out, as they no longer receive the ample amount of water stream loving cottonwoods need. There is a lesson here; if you plant a cottonwood in a dry location, be prepared to provide a lot of water!

**Interesting fact:** The Wyoming State Tree is a cottonwood but a different species; the Plains Cottonwood, *Populus deltoids* which, by the way, is only found naturally in only the eastern 1/3 of the state! A few Plains Cottonwoods have been planted within the Town of Star Valley Ranch and they seem to be holding their own. Plains Cottonwoods can be identified by its broad, green and shiny, delta shaped leaf.

**Next month:** Some advice on getting ready for tree planting season and most importantly; what trees not to plant!

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## Dog License – Renewal

First quarter renewal rates are in effect. The cost per animal is \$5.00 less than the cost for the rest of the year starting April 1, 2012.

The cost for neutered or spayed animals is \$15.00 and for non-altered dogs, it is \$30.00.

Or if you are cited, “an unregistered dog a minimum fine of two hundred dollars (\$200) for a Neutered or Spayed Dog and a minimum fine of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for non-altered dogs and not more than seven hundred and fifty (\$750.00) for each offense. For purposes of this ordinance, each offense shall be considered a separate violation.”

## Mountain Lion presence in Star Valley Ranch

A deer was killed on the first of January weekend in the Town of Star Valley Ranch. The attack was not witnessed, but it was determined that it was most likely a mountain lion. This happened on the first fairway near the end of Cedar Creek Drive.

This event has prompted the Town to remind local residents that mountain lions are active around the area and simple precautions can reduce the chance of conflicts or an encounter. The majority of Wyoming is mountain lion habitat and encountering one is always a possibility. The recent incident here in our town, reminds us that exercising caution and common sense is a good idea when living and recreating in lion country.

There are several different reasons why a mountain lion could show up at a residence, but taking certain safety measures significantly decrease this possibility.

Mountain lion attacks are extremely rare in Wyoming. If you do encounter a mountain lion, it will most likely retreat. If a lion does not retreat, get aggressive. Make yourself look as big and intimidating as possible, by raising and swinging your arms and yelling. Never run. If it advances towards you, throw anything you can at it – rocks, sticks, whatever you find. If it attacks, fight back in any way possible. The use of bear spray can be effective as a deterrent as well.

If you see or encounter a mountain lion in our area, please contact your local Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

- Todd Graham (Game Warden) 885-3717, Cell: 884-8779.
- Gary Fralick (Game and Fish Wildlife Biologist) 883-2998, 307-730-2802.

Original memo written by Mark Gocke of Pinedale and forwarded to the Town by Gary Fralick.

Association's Corner

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**Announcement:** The Star Valley Ranch Art Show planned for mid-February has been postponed. Valley artists who want more information and/or wish to participate should please contact Mark Marino at 307 413 9911.

Bring your skis, sleds, skates and sun screen (we hope) to our Winter Festival on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the pool area!! Plans are in process. So far we anticipate:

- Demonstrations and sample skis brought to the Ranch by Skinny Skis of Jackson.
- Using the trail system for cross-country, skate skiing and snowshoeing through our trail map and tours. See the new grooming machine.
- Sledding on the sledding hill at the top of Vista West and skating near the Cedar Creek Grill.
- Meet the new operators of the Cedar Creek Grill and order a hot drink!

SVRA strives to provide a multiple use system for winter activities. Our new groomer creates two kinds of trails: tracks for cross-country and packed for snowshoeing and skate skiing. The hill below the association office has also been groomed for sledding. SVRA welcomes snowmobilers but we ask that they avoid the groomed ski trails. When returning sledders to the top of the sledding hill, please use the slope east of the groomed hill (#9 fairway) so the sledding track remains safe and useable.

The Cross Country/Snowshoe Trail Map is available at the SVRA office, the Town Hall and on the SVRA website at this link: <http://www.svrawy.com/cross-countrysnowshoe-trails/>

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