



Town Bulletin #36

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Summer Projects

We are taking a break from the usual water construction projects this summer. Instead, the Council has several study and planning projects underway.

The objective for each project is to lay out a professional plan of action for our Town. Each individual project should give us

- 1) a needs and requirements list,
- 2) a recommended construction standard for the Town to follow,
- 3) an estimated implementation cost,
- 4) each project will be segmented for a phased implementation and
- 5) a recommended priority for each phase based on benefits and safety.

Currently underway are the following projects:

- 1) Plastic Pipe Replacement for the north half of the Town
- 2) Surface Water (run-off) Mitigation
- 3) Roads Upgrade
- 4) Economic Development for the Valley and our Town

Upcoming planned activities:

- 1) Municipal Complex
Please see the following article, [Municipal-Complex Update](#)
- 2) Steel Pipe Replacement – Grant Application is due August 23, 2013
This project is to replace the steel line. It will start at the beginning of Cedar Creek Drive (Ridgecrest Intersection) and continue east, up and around the Barn and Silo buildings, then southeast and westerly around Cedar Creek Golf Course Hole #1 to the intersection near the Middle Branch Drive Bridge.
- 3) Master Plan Update
All of the above plans and studies will be incorporated into the Master Plan. We will start the review and updates over the winter months with the public hearings in the late spring and approval process over next summer.

Fiscal Year in Review

By Gregg Wilkes, Town Administrator

The Town of Star Valley Ranch has completed its fiscal year 2012-2013 that ended on June 30th. It was another good year for the Town in many areas; the four budgets that the Town works with, the General Fund, General Fund Capital Improvement, Water Operating and the Water Capital Improvement all came in under what was budgeted and this is with receiving lower revenues than expected. Kudos out to the Town employees who worked within budgets while doing a superb job on the roads and in the water department. Town roads are better than they have ever been and improving daily. The water projects, although not all completed, are resulting in quality water to the Town residents. Water pressures are getting better as we continue to make improvements.

This past year saw a completion of two projects Phase III of the Water Supply Project and Phase II of the Steel Pipeline Replacement Project. Again, as with the budget, both these projects have been completed on time and below budget. The Town has the transmission lines in place needed to supply water to all parts of the Ranch and has replaced the majority of the steel pipe that was used for our water system years ago, a small amount remains for which we are seeking funding to replace in the coming year.

Studies began on the work for a new town convention center that will house the Town Hall along with other needed facilities. Although this will continue through the next year, we have started with these studies and continue to look for revenue funding and ideas for this project. The current lease of Town Hall will expire at the end of this next fiscal year and we will continue to search out options to remedy this situation. This new Town center could take up to a couple of years for completion so the planning is ongoing.

Funding continues to decrease and the Town is working towards conservative efforts in all possible areas to keep within the budgets. So far, no services nor employees have had to be cut due to these decreases. Work will continue on the water and roads. We are conducting a Surface Water and Roads Study. The results of this study will help the Town improve road conditions and possible control of surface water runoff. Suggestions to improve the Town are always welcome; we value your relationship as citizens of Star Valley Ranch.

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Town Economic Development Board

The TED Board is looking for a few volunteers

If you are interested in future business in Star Valley come join the TED Board. We are presently working on business related marketing, education opportunities and future business in our valley. We are also very involved with the Lincoln County Economic Development Board and management of our towns valley wide ED Strategy Grant.

Please notify the Town Clerk if you are interested.

Economic Development Study

Better City

The Town of Star Valley Ranch is in the midst of performing an economic development strategy for all of Star Valley. The intent of this strategy is to create jobs and opportunity for citizens while maintaining the natural beauty, cherished open space, and unique character of Star Valley. The formulation of this strategy has been underway now for many weeks and is being conducted by qualified and experienced economic development professionals. A strategy committee has been formed to oversee the formulation of the strategy and consists of volunteers from Alpine, Thayne, Afton, Star Valley Ranch, the Chamber of Commerce, the Bank of Star Valley, Silver Star Communications, and the Etna Community Center.

Five specific areas of focus have been identified as the means of bringing about this strategy that utilize the assets available to the valley and the unique strengths inherent in the community. The five areas consist of: 1) Technology Outsourcing, 2) Entrepreneurship & Venture Capital, 3) Niche Specialty Manufacturing, 4) International & Regional Tourism, and 5) A Compelling Destination Venue. Summaries of these different areas of focus will be displayed at the County Fair on five large banners.

As this strategy is being formulated, public feedback is considered extremely valuable and important, because successful strategies need the support and enthusiasm of everyone. If you wish to provide your feedback to the strategy committee, please read the summaries found at the County Fair and follow the instructions listed on the banners on how to submit your feedback through an online form.

The majority of funding for this strategy was provided through a grant from the Department of Commerce, Economic Development Association.

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War on Weeds Day was a Great Start

For the past several years, the Men's Golf Association has sponsored a Dyers Woad weed-pulling day. The Town continues to spray weeds along the sides of the road. However, this was the Town and Association's first joint effort to wage a war on weeds. It was a great start. There were over 100 citizens and members who took advantage of the education, professional one-on-one assistance as well as some low cost herbicides.

A very special thanks to Travis Osmond, head of Lincoln County Weed and Pest. He was the spearhead for organizing and implementing the day's activities. He brought six two-man crews and spraying equipment to assist with the day's activities.

This is only a start, as it is a never-ending process. We will try to start the process earlier next year to give everyone an even better chance to plan for this special day.

Municipal-Complex Update

The Town of Star Valley Ranch is still trying to negotiate a new lease on the existing Town Hall. However, we must continue at this time to pursue our alternative option, that of building a new Municipal Complex across the street from Town Hall where the “First Response Center” is currently located.

We have completed the first round of input from those who wanted to be involved with the initial requirements. We held two planning meetings led by the firm of Plan-One as well as numerous requests for verbal, email or written comments. Please log onto our website: <http://www.starvalleyranchwy.org/> select “About Us” then hit “Future Municipal Complex” to read our progress to date.

We have met several times with Star Valley Medical Center and conducted a joint survey asking for your specific needs and desires for local service. SVMC is seriously looking at our location for the establishment of a complimentary clinic to the two existing clinics in Alpine and Thayne.

We have met with Lincoln County’s Library Director and discussed the possibility of establishing a County Library in our Town. Due to the existing libraries in our valley, the odds are very poor that we could ever have county funding available for an in-town library. The expense for a Town Library far exceeds our revenue streams. We are continuing to investigate the benefits and costs of an “electronic library”.

In addition, if there is sufficient demand, it may be possible to promote a private commercial business operation through the incorporation of space inside our complex.

Funding will always be the limiting factor. However, over the past years, the Town has saved and set aside \$650,000 for this facility. Based on meetings with the Wyoming Business Council, we believe with prudent design and modest construction we can qualify for “grants” to offset any additional costs.

Unfortunately, we cannot combine our resources or needs with the Association to build one nice facility. As the Association pursues providing recreational and social needs of the community, the Town will continue with the business of providing those services and needs associated with the infrastructure, health, welfare and safety of our citizens.

We still want to hear any ideas from those who have yet to give us their input or if you have a new idea. The Mayor and Council are available for one-on-one meetings, emails, phone interviews or letters with your comments.

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Thanks to all

And a special thanks to each of you who made our Fourth of July a fun and SAFE time. Please be safe as the summer progresses. Only licensed drivers are authorized to drive powered vehicles on Town roads. The Sheriff’s Deputies are writing tickets.