



**Town Bulletin #50**

October 2014

[www.starvalleyranchwy.org](http://www.starvalleyranchwy.org)



**General Election**

**November 4, 2014**

7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

**TOWN MAYOR**

**KATHLEEN BUYERS**

**ED KOCH**

**TOWN COUNCILMAN**

(Two Seats)

**DICK JOHNSON  
JOHN M. LYNCH**

**MARC JONES  
RON MUELLER**

**Register to Vote**

Town Hall until October 20 at 4:30 PM  
or at the polls on election day

**Absentee Ballot**

Contact Lincoln County Clerk's Office  
(307)877-9056  
<http://www.lcwy.org/departments/clerk/>

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**FLU SHOTS**

It is that "Time of Year" again

The Lincoln County health Department will be at  
Town of Star Valley Ranch  
Town Hall

**Friday October 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM**  
(Or longer; as long as there are people to vaccinate)

Price: \$20.00 and they will accept:

Debit Cards - Insurance Cards - Medicare - Medicaid

For further information: Contact Town Hall at 883-8696 or Patrice at 885-9598

## **MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

Thanks to YOU, the residents of the Town have spoken! The Town and Pedersen Planning Consultants have already received and tabulated 189 responses to our Community Survey. We have also extended the time for your response to the Community Survey to September 30 in order to provide greater opportunity to those who have yet to complete the survey. We thank you for your completion of the survey because your responses have been helpful to gain your insights and better understand your community priorities for the coming decade.

Pedersen Planning Consultants facilitated a lively and informative discussion with members of the Town Council and the Town Economic Development, Planning and Zoning, and Natural Resources boards on September 9. During the meeting, community leaders identified a wide range of community issues and potential opportunities for addressing them. The vision of your community leaders will eventually be compared with the insights of residents following the tabulation of resident responses to the Community Survey. Pedersen Planning Consultants will present the results of the Community Survey to the Town's community leaders prior to their determination of priorities for a preliminary set of community improvement objectives on October 7.

Meanwhile, the demographic and economic analysis for the master plan has been completed. It shows that our community was clearly impacted by the past national economic recession from December 2007 through June 2009 and the subsequent downturn in our regional, Lincoln County economy that extended through 2011. The resident population of our Town rose from 1,465 in July 2006 to about 1,527 residents in July 2013, a growth of 4.2 percent. The modest growth in population has been particularly sluggish since 2010 when the U.S. Census estimated a resident population of 1,503 persons.

Results from the April 2010 Census also make it clear that we are gradually becoming a somewhat younger community. In July 2006, the primary working age population (25-54 years of age) represented 33 percent of the population. Roughly four years later, this age group comprised 36 percent of all residents. Those nearing or in their retirement years were about 42 percent of the resident population in July 2006. By 2010, this age group comprised almost 37 percent of all residents.

The national and economic downturns also impacted investments for new home construction within the Town, as well as within one mile of the municipal boundary. The number of building permits for new single family homes has declined considerably since 2008. Between September 2007 and December 31, 2013, 34 new single family residences were constructed within the municipal boundary.

PEDERSEN PLANNING CONSULTANTS  
P.O. Box 2265 Granby, Colorado 80446  
Tel: 970-887-3759 Mobile: 307-760-2922

**Kathleen Buyers – Candidate for Mayor**



My name is Kathleen Buyers and I am running for Mayor of the Town of Star Valley Ranch.

After graduating from the University of Utah I spent 35 years working in retail management as a regional manager, managing all aspects of 23 stores and approximately 200 employees with a combined budget of over 20 million dollars annually.

I have developed an excellent working relationship with officials at the local, county and state level through my work as a Town of Star Valley Ranch Town Council Member and a board member of the Lincoln County Economic Development Board.

If elected, I will utilize my extensive experience in budgeting, planning for the future and the ability to work with all people. I will listen with an open mind and analyze the facts before reaching a decision. I am a quick study and fully committed to making the Town of Star Valley Ranch the best town possible. I would truly appreciate your vote and thank you, in advance, for the privilege of representing you.

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**Ed Koch – Candidate for Mayor**

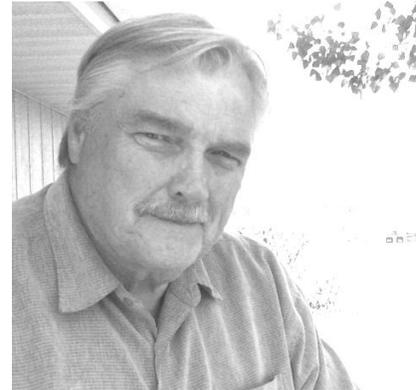
My name is Ed Koch and I want to be your next Mayor. As one of your Councilmen for the past six years, I believe the Council has had much success and has positively addressed the future of the Town. The efforts, and the Town’s successes, have been a most meaningful and rewarding experience for me, and I want to continue to help the Town progress into the community of which we can all be proud.

There are still many projects to continue or accomplish: many old water lines are inadequate and need to be replaced, completion of the Municipal center evaluation and design, utilize priorities to enhance and complete public Safety projects, continue to balance the budget while maximizing reserves, work to improve Fox Run Park focusing on the youth, work with the USFS on the Trails adjacent to the Town and continue to improve relations with the Star Valley Ranch Association.

Working together, the Mayor, the Council and you, we can all continue to be proud of The Town of Star Valley Ranch. I want to be that Mayor and I do ask for your VOTE on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Dick Johnson – Candidate for Councilman**

Good Morning to the Star Valley Ranch Community. For those who don't know me or those I haven't met yet, let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is **Dick Johnson** and I've been in public service most of my adult life, most recently as City Planner for Hill City, SD. I know how to embrace small town challenges. I can bring fresh Ideas, practical skills and abilities to the Town Council decision making process. I have been involved with Town Boards since moving here in 2011. I started on the Town Economic Development Board and later with Planning and Zoning. I am a strong advocate of the SVR community and believe this community has a bright future. I am someone who would like to help take our Town into that future. I know that water and roads are the top issues for most people. I will focus on implementation of the 2014 Town Master Plan to address those issues. I hope to see a comprehensive discussion of the Town's needs in that plan. The plan will provide a basis to seek funding for the projects needed for our Town. Also, I seek to insure a strong computer presence so that the people who are part of this community can follow what their government is doing. Another priority for many, me included, is completion of the Town Hall Municipal Complex. I look forward to serving this community and would appreciate your vote in November.



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**Marc Jones – Candidate for Councilman**

Marc Jones - I have been a resident of SVR, Wyoming for the last 2 1/2 years. I received a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Utah and a Bachelor's of Science in Health Sciences. I recently worked as a national surveyor for the Joint Commission, auditing healthcare organization's clinical, financial, and billing processes. Prior to that, I was an Area Manager for a national homecare company, Rotech Health Care, involved in sales, finance, clinical programs, and multi-million dollar budgets. Before entering the Home Health Care industry, I was the Education Coordinator for Pulmonary Services at the University of Utah Health Sciences Center and assisted with conducting workshops for healthcare workers throughout Utah. My past community involvement includes The Utah Food Bank and Humane Society, The Road Home, Utah Foster Care, Davis County Children's Justice Center, County Rescue and Sheriff Office, Davis County School District, Cystic Fibrosis Camp, and Special Olympics Volunteer. I currently work for Jackson Hole Real Estate Associates, focusing on the Star Valley Area and have a vested interest in the Town of SVR and how it develops and grows into the future. As decisions for water and road improvements are the Town's priority and responsibility, it is my philosophy that these decisions are made thru fact gathering, investigation, and community input. In addition, I hope to also foster an environment of community involvement, unity, and pride, while working to maintain the integrity and atmosphere of SVR as it was originally created. I hope you will give me the opportunity to serve on the Town Council for SVR.

**John Lynch – Candidate for Councilman**

Previous to moving to the Town of SVR, I was born and raised in Ogden, Utah and served in the US Air Force. I later spent more than 30 years as a law enforcement officer in Maine and the State of Utah. Throughout my life, I have spent considerable time enjoying the wonderful natural resources of Star Valley, and specifically our community. I have been a full time resident in the Town of Star Valley Ranch since October 2012 and live here year round. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving with other residents of the ranch on the Natural Resource Board.

Since that time, I have become extremely interested in seeing the town succeed in their master plan, and completing important projects. These include a top priority for roads, water, and safety. The road base and drainage needs to continue to improve for the future. The water system, needs to continue to be upgraded to provide sufficient pressure for all home use, and fire hydrants. I will also focus on various aspects of public safety on the ranch including emergency generators, and community safety programs, including the Firewise program.

I appreciate your support, and if elected, look forward serving as a member of the town council

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**Candidates Night**

**Wednesday, October 15, 2014  
Town Hall - 7:00 PM**

Please come, meet and greet your candidates for Town Council.

Interested in where our Town is going?

Listen and ask your questions.

## Trail System - Questions and Answers

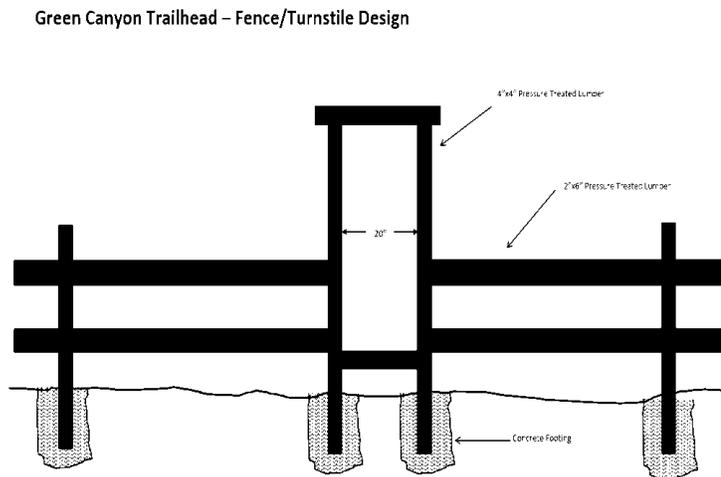
Based on public input to the proposed Star Valley Ranch Trail Plan, a few modifications have been made. The updated plan is now available on the town web page. In addition, the Natural Resource Board would like to offer the following clarification to explain some issues that were voiced during the public input phase of this proposal:

**Use of Town Tax Money or SVRA Funds?** These proposed trails and the reconstruction/maintenance of existing trails will be completed with the use of volunteers and a Recreational Trail Program grant from the State of Wyoming. Zero tax dollars from the Town of Star Valley Ranch will be used on this project. No funds from SVRA will be required.

**ATV Use?** The National Forest land east of the Town of Star Valley Ranch is currently identified in the Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan as **non-motorized** with two exceptions; the road that accesses the Town's water system in Prater Canyon and the road accessing the Association's water diversion in Green Canyon allow motorized vehicles. All other existing and proposed trails are now and will be **non-motorized** and will be designed and constructed to prevent ATV use.

**Horses/Bicycles?** Both of the existing trails in Prater and Cedar Creek have historically been used by horses and to a lesser extent by bicycles. We are not proposing to change this. We are proposing that the two new trails, Vista Prater and Valley View, be managed for foot traffic only. This can be enforced by the strategic use of fences, hiker turnstiles and how wide and high the trail is cleared.

See drawing to the right.



**Parking?** The trail plan and proposal calls for the establishment of two small trailheads; one at the mouth of Green Canyon and a second in the current overflow parking area north of the Association's barn. Both of these trailheads would be on National Forest Land. These areas are already used for parking but the plan would call for improvements including kiosks that would explain the rules and regulations for the area and other public safety information. They would bring organization, management and enforcement of regulations of this recreational use where there is little right now.

**Traffic?** A vast majority of the anticipated users of these trails, especially the Vista Prater and Valley View Trails will be local SVR residents. Both Cedar Creek and Prater Canyon trails have historically had users from outside the town. It is very unlikely that we will see any significant increase in use. The establishment of a trailhead north of the barn may reduce traffic on Cedar Creek Drive east of Cedar Creek Park.

**Hunting?** While hunting is permitted on National Forest Land, it is prohibited to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a residence, developed recreation site or occupied area. Both of the two proposed new trails would fall within this restriction thereby reducing firearms usage close to the town. Both Cedar Creek and Prater Canyon trails have been used by hunters to access the national forest for many, many years and we do not propose to change that. It is unlikely that the new trails would change hunting in the area.

**Watershed and Erosion?** Construction standards for National Forest trails require grades of less than 12%, a trail width of 18 to 24 inches, outward-sloped trail tread and a reversal of trail grades every 100 to 200 feet. With these standards, erosion should be greatly reduced. The reconstruction of Cedar Creek Trail should improve watershed conditions by improving the trail and eliminating areas where erosion is currently occurring due to poor design and lack of maintenance.

**Weeds?** The primary vectors for the spread of noxious weeds along trails are horses and mules that have eaten non-certified feed. Since the proposed new trails will be managed as foot traffic only, there will be little opportunity for the spread of weeds in these areas. In addition, much of the horse use in Cedar Creek Canyon is done by outfitters that use certified hay. Because of this, noxious weeds have not been a big issue along Cedar Creek trail. Trail crews will also accomplish weed abatement when they do their annual trail maintenance.

**Wildfire?** The two new trails that are proposed will not increase wildfire risk, as these trails do not have locations along them for camping. Both Cedar Creek and Prater Canyon trails have been used by hunters, hikers and campers for over 100 years and the incidence of human caused fires in these areas has been virtually zero.

**Security?** A number of studies have now shown that trails do not increase crime and, in fact, are commonly regarded as improvements by adjacent property owners. Comparisons of crimes before and after a trail is constructed make it quite clear that trail crime rates are almost non-existent on a per capita basis in comparison to other areas especially when user facilities are well maintained and signed.

“The study found that incidents of vandalism and burglary do not increase as a result of a trail” *Trails and Safe Communities: The Experience on 372 Trails*. National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, January 1998.iii Tammy Tracy & Hugh Morris.

**Trash?** Most of the incidents of trash have been attributed to the current informal trailhead on LVI property in the mouth of Cedar Creek. Very little trash has been observed along the existing trails in Cedar Creek and Prater Canyon. Moving the Cedar Creek trail and trailhead north of the barn will improved this situation by closing this area to vehicle access.

**Wildlife?** Some concern has been voiced over a conflict between hikers and elk/deer during the winter/early spring months. While it is true, the trail goes up into areas used by elk and deer, the base of the trail will still be snow covered in early spring. Very few, if any, hikers will ever go into this area before the elk and deer head for higher ground and greener pastures. In addition, the trail is designed to stay in the forest areas not out in the open, further reducing the chance for human/elk interaction.

**Town Economic Development Board**

The TED Board is looking for a few volunteers.

If you are interested in identifying future businesses in Star Valley Ranch come join the TED Board. We are presently working on business related marketing, education opportunities and future business. We are also very involved with the Lincoln County Economic Development Board.

Please notify the Town Clerk if you are interested.

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**Star Valley Ranch P&Z Update**

The newest town in Wyoming, Star Valley Ranch, continues to thrive and improve even during a time when our nation has a struggling economy. The town has made outstanding strides in improving our roads and water system.

The Planning and Zoning Board has worked behind the scene to help develop and then enforce our town’s ordinances. They work in conjunction with the Building Inspector to improve the construction standards on the Ranch by enforcing the 2006 International Building and Residential Codes.

The P&Z Board as well as all of the other town boards are always searching for interested town residents to become involved and participate in the future development of our town. We want to continue to improve and want input and active involvement from all of our residents.

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**Attention - Firewise Pickup - Attention**

The last day this year for the Town to pickup vegetation as a result of your efforts to meet the recommendations of your Firewise contract will be **Friday, October 10**, weather permitting.

If you have any questions regarding what we will pickup, where and how you should pile the vegetation, please call Public Works – 880-5325