

Valley Advocates for Responsible Development

Celebrating Over 10 Years of Working Together



VARD, PO Box 1164, Driggs, ID 83422

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Valley Advocates for Responsible Development would like to thank all of our supporters and friends who contributed generously to our organization throughout the year. Your grassroots support enables us to continue to serve as a free community planning resource for business owners, developers, landowners, elected officials, and citizens.

What does VARD stand for?

We are frequently asked what our organization stands for and what we contribute to our beautiful community. First, VARD is NOT a political organization. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community advocacy organization that works for fair and predictable growth, land use, and development in Teton Valley. We cannot and do not endorse or work with political candidates, political parties, or political action committees. However, we can discuss community issues, advocate for policies, and provide information for the public at large.

VARD's Board of Directors also recently adopted a new mission statement this fall to better reflect our goals and priorities. VARD's mission is:

To shape policy, guide development, and provide outreach to preserve natural resources, protect rural character, and promote vibrant communities in Teton Valley through civic action.

Some of the complex issues we tackle are difficult, yet necessary in order to preserve and protect our local natural resources and vibrant community. VARD's values have always centered on balancing our growth, while protecting our wild places and open spaces, including (at right):

- 1 Smart growth and thoughtful development that benefits the entire community and future generations
- 2 Preservation and stewardship of our local natural resources
- 3 Civic engagement and public participation in the community development process
- 4 Fiscal responsibility and accountability in our local government
- 5 Respectful and civil dialogue
- 6 Serving as a free community educational resource

VARD



Valley Advocates for Responsible Development

MISSION: To shape policy, guide development, and provide outreach to preserve natural resources, protect rural character, and promote vibrant communities in Teton Valley through civic action.

OFFICE HOURS—
M-TR 9:00am-4:00pm
Friday by appointment

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www.tetonvalleyadvocates.org



www.facebook.com/Valley.Advocates.for.Responsible.Development

STAFF—
Stacey Frisk, Executive Director
Anna Trentadue, Program Director
Jen Werlin, Communications and Outreach Manager
Paul Wendland, Development Director

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Georgie Stanley



What has VARD been up to

WE'VE BEEN BUSY!

Here is a brief snapshot of our

VARD's program work to benefit ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The *Dig Driggs* business development guide outlines the incentives and programs the City of Driggs offers local businesses.
- The *Pathways to Prosperity* brochure highlights the economic benefits of local pathways.
- VARD staff served on the Teton County economic development steering committee, and VARD staff presently serve on the Teton County Impact Fee Advisory Committee as well as the Driggs Parks Committee.



DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS VARD has recently supported

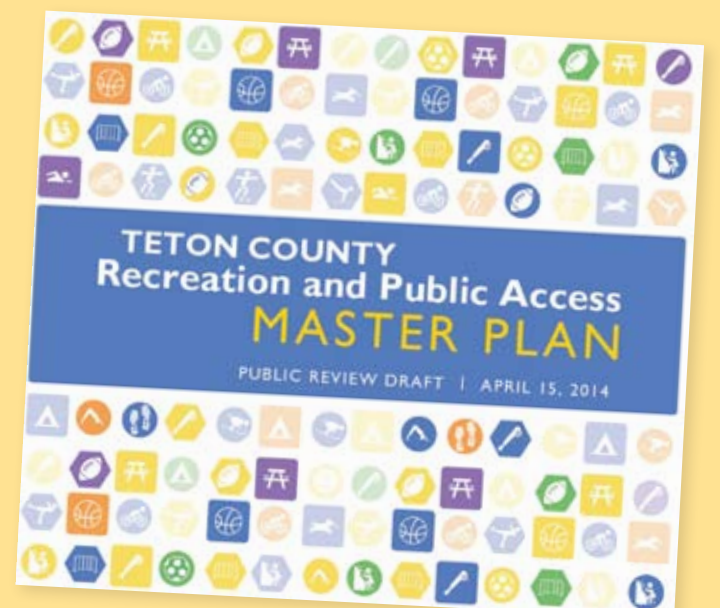
- **Taylor family campground.** A permit application for a primitive campground near Spring Creek – will provide recreation and tourism development!
- **Expansion of the National Outdoor Leadership School.** A permit application to expand the existing campus near Darby Canyon – additional recreation and tourism development!
- **Calvary Chapel private school.** A permitting and zone change application to approve a private school in north Driggs – good city infill development!
- **Re-plat of River Rim Ranch.** The new design for this far north-end housing development eliminated 155 lots located in sensitive habitat areas and increased open space by 588 acres.
- **Re-plat of Canyon Creek Ranch** (right). The new design for this very remote ranch north-end development located in critical big game wintering habitat eliminated 96% of the originally planned housing units (329 units!), as well as the commercial village, helping to reduce wildlife habitat fragmentation and impacts.



Canyon Creek Ranch photo by Herb Heimerl

LAND USE PROJECTS VARD has recently supported

- Huntsman Springs park-land exchange, which would have given Driggs a downtown multi-use event space.
- De-annexation of large parcels of land previously slated for speculative development on the outer edges of Victor, so that the city can now focus its resources on the downtown area instead.
- Teton County Recreation and Public Access Master Plan
- Teton County Comprehensive Plan
- Teton County Economic Development Strategic Plan



to lately?

grassroots work:

VARD's state-wide and local advocacy for **GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY PLANNING**

- VARD's advocacy work played a key role in helping defeat House Bill 136, which would have negatively affected local community planning.
- We provided four years of pro bono legal representation for Teton Valley's voters, defending their voting rights all the way to the Idaho Supreme Court.
- We hosted the popular *Teton Valley Sustainability Series*, a local Farm and Ranch Tour (top) and also a Sustainable Homes Tour (right).
- We hosted free public forums with community development experts from Strong Towns and property rights expert Donovan Rypkema.
- We are actively tracking the re-writing of the new Victor, Driggs, and Teton County land use codes.
- VARD employees attend and report on almost every county public meeting. We strive to attend as many city meetings as possible.



PLANNING, PROPERTY RIGHTS AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
 A community Discussion with Economist Donovan Rypkema.
 Tuesday, October 30th, 7pm, Driggs Senior Center

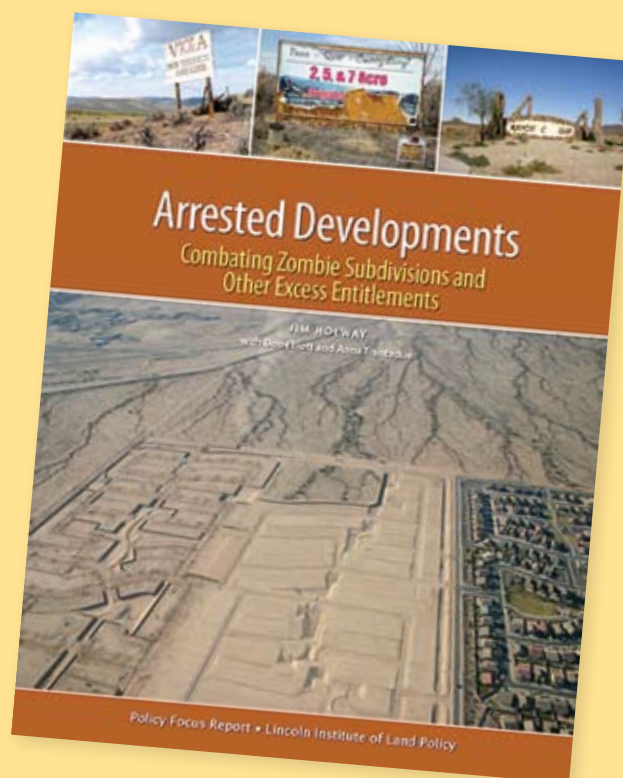
Mr. Rypkema is the principal of PlaceEconomics, specializing in downtown and neighborhood commercial district revitalization.

Much of Mr. Rypkema's work has focused on mobilizing economic growth in communities. He is also well regarded for promoting strong policies and incentives to direct growth, while still respecting private property rights.

Join us as we discuss the value of property rights and ways for our community to come together and direct growth for economic prosperity.

CITY OF DRIGGS **TETON VALLEY**

Appetizers and refreshments will be served.



VARD's recent **ACADEMIC WORK**

- Publication of *Arrested Developments*, a policy manual outlining tools and best practices to address premature and obsolete subdivisions.
- Wrote *Addressing Excess Development Entitlements*, a working paper for the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.
- VARD staff presented our research at three Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute conferences and the HUD *Community Matters* conference.



How is VARD funded?

VARD is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. We are, and have been, 100% privately funded by people just like you.

- On average, 65% of our funding comes from individual donors:
 - » 88% of our donors are Teton Valley residents, businesses, foundations and property owners.
 - » 12% of our donors are from outside of Teton Valley.
- On average, 35% of our funding comes from foundation grants.



Left: 5th Annual VARD Golf Tournament participants line up for the shot-gun start.

Below: Sponsored by grants through 1% for the Teton and the Community Foundation of Teton Valley, VARD took a sold-out crowd on a tour of Teton Valley farms and ranches. Snowdrift Farm owners Sue Miller and Georgie Stanley explain weed control efforts in the gardens.

With Gratitude

THANK YOU for supporting VARD at our fall outreach and fundraising events. Many thanks to our supporters and generous sponsors of *VARD's 5th Annual Golf Tournament and Reception at Teton Springs* and our *Teton Valley Farm and Ranch Tour*, where we toured Snowdrift Farm in Victor (a certified organic, small-acreage farm), H.D. Dunn and Son Angus Ranch in Teton (a grassfed, natural-beef ranch), and Arnold Farms in Felt (a fourth generation, certified seed-potato farm that is part of the Teton Seed Marketing Association).

We would also like to extend our sincerest thanks to everyone who donated to VARD in the *7th Annual Tin Cup Challenge*. The growing support of our organization continues to humble us and keeps us motivated to continue our advocacy work for fair and responsible development in Teton Valley.



Online Donations Made Easier / Become a VARD Planning Patron Today

If you missed donating to VARD this summer or fall, you can easily give to VARD on our newly redesigned website at www.tetonvalleyadvocates.org. There you can make a secure online donation or simply become a monthly VARD Planning Patron to enjoy hassle-free monthly automatic donations from your credit card or checking account.

You'll have the knowledge that your donation is put to work immediately in order to promote VARD's mission: *To shape policy, guide development, and provide outreach to preserve natural resources, protect rural character, and promote vibrant communities in Teton Valley through civic action.*



Support VARD's important work year-round; smart planning starts with YOU!

Questions? If you have any questions about our Planning Patron program, or if you would like to start, change or suspend your monthly donation, please contact our Development Director Paul at 208-354-1707 or paul@tetonvalleyadvocates.org. **Thank you for your support!**



VARD WYDAHOedown

Friday, November 21, 5-9pm
Moose Creek Ranch

Mark your calendar for VARD's first ever hoedown on Friday, November 21, 5-9pm at Moose Creek Ranch in Victor. Enter the raffle or bid on one of our fabulous auction items. Stay tuned for details at www.tetonvalleyadvocates.org.



photo by Eric I. Soyland

Realtor Intro to Conservation Easements Continuing Education Course

Sponsored by Salmon Valley Stewardship, the Bitter Root Water Forum, and Valley Advocates for Responsible Development

After more than a year of planning, VARD is happy to co-sponsor a Continuing Education Course: *Realtor Intro to Conservation Easements*.

Understand the benefits and restrictions of conservation easements on private property, the valuation and appraisal process for easements, how to market conservation easements, how to work with land trusts, and learn from conservation easement landowners. Date and details TBD.

Get Involved • Become a Member • TETON VALLEY NEEDS YOU!

name _____

address _____

city _____

state _____ zip _____

e-mail _____



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- Benefactor \$1000+/year
- Sponsor \$500-\$999/year
- Patron \$250-\$499/year
- Friend \$100-\$249/year
- Supporter \$50-\$99/year
- Member \$25-\$49/year

Members receive meeting invitations, regular newsletters and e-mail updates.

Please return this form with your check to: **VARD PO Box 1164, Driggs, ID 83422** VARD IS A NONPROFIT 501(c)(3) ORGANIZATION, DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

