# Southuest Ranches

# JULY 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



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On the 4th of July this country celebrates Independence Day. The land of the free because of the brave.



Let us honor every patriot without whom freedom would not exist.

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

## Mayor's Message



Mayor Steve Breitkreuz

On this Independence Day, I wish

you and your family a very special day. A day that you can spend together and enjoy the great freedom that we are blessed to share together. As you prepare for this day, I ask you to please be aware of your surroundings and the animals that are in our community. The fireworks can be very traumatic for our animals and in prior years has led to some tragic results. So, celebrate the day, but please be cognizant of those around you.

This past month we signed a historic agreement for our Town. This agreement has to do with the sale of the property that we purchased out west a few years ago. (At times called the "CCA property.") We originally purchased this property when it became apparent that Pembroke Pines was going to purchase it, and that would have cost the Town a tremendous amount of revenue for decades to come. So, because of the strong financial stability of the Town, we were able to purchase this property in on April 6, 2016 and begin the search for the proper partner who would provide for the Town the maximum benefit.

Since that time, many suitors have shown interest. In the past, before I was back on the Council, the Town even signed an agreement that I was highly opposed to because I did not feel the deal was in the Town's best interest. Fortunately, that agreement had numerous outs and did not come to fruition. Today, we are fortunate to find a new development partner: MG<sub>3</sub> Developer Group. They will be partnering to build a state-of-the-art industrial distribution facility that is low impact to the surrounding area and will not negatively impact any of our roads or residential communities. Being just north of Sheridan Street, south

of Stirling Road, west of 196th Avenue, and east of US 27, it is in an area that is well outside the eyesight and hearing range of our communities.

But the really good news is with lack of impact from a physical standpoint, it will have a huge impact from a financial standpoint. Through the sale of the property to MG3 and the ongoing financial contribution in future years, our Town will be completely debt free. That is an incredible accomplishment for our Town. We will be the only municipality in Broward County that can say that. Plus, we will be receiving ongoing revenue from this project that will help keep out taxes low for decades to come.

There are many to thank for this accomplishment. Certainly, the Council worked diligently to ensure your concerns were heard when it has come to any potential future deals and those concerns have been addressed. The Administration has worked diligently through the details to ensure this did not just look like the right opportunity. It is, in fact, the right opportunity. However, I want to specifically call out Keith Poliakoff, our Town Attorney, for his work on this project. He was key in helping to market the property, which helped to find a suitor who submitted a private public partnership proposal to the Town.

There will be more to come as this moves from contract stage to building stage to ongoing enterprise stage. However, this is a huge step forward for our Town. One that will secure the future of our Town, work to keep our taxes as low as possible, and overall, provide the financial security to ensure that we are able to preserve our Rural Lifestyle for generations to come.

Steve (954) 296-6018



Send your email address to: druesga@southwestranches.org



Vice Mayor Gary Jablonski

As a Council Member I took an oath to pre-

serve, to protect, and to defend this Town, and will always do what I believe is in the best interest of the entire community, despite pressure or even threats to the contrary.

I have always prided myself on preserving open space and doing everything in my power to ensure that Southwest Ranches will remain a rural agrarian community. Such efforts begin with limiting development and limiting development footprints to keep our **RURAL LIFESTYLE**. As you may be aware, the Town has two main residential zoning categories: Rural Estates and Rural Ranches. When Rural Estates was adopted by the Town, the zoning category was created to allow for the development of I NET acre homesites. When Rural Ranches was adopted by the Town, the zoning category was adopted to read that a home could be developed on 2.5 GROSS acres or 2 NET acres. Rather than matching the Rural Estates language, the Rural Ranches category gives a major exception by allowing homes to be developed on 2.0 NET acres. While all existing homes and lots were vested and would always maintain their development rights, this wording means that all new subdivisions could actually be built on 2 acres. In fact, I am sure you have noticed that ALL the major housing developers have taken advantage of these provisions and have given us NET acre lots with absolutely no room to spare.

Recently, the Town Council looked at amending its Code to incorporate an AG reserve area on newly created properties to ensure the ability to have some agricultural use of the property. This effort failed, mainly because of the size of the properties. As a result, I spent countless hours trying to find a way to resolve this situation, and the cleanest way was clear, simply create a NEW category for 2.5 NET acre lots. That way, any NEW subdivisions and rezonings could divide their properties into larger lots, which will help to preserve our open space.

As it relates to properties like the former New Testament 40 acres on Griffin Road, and similar Com-

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munity Facility (CF) properties, once a CF parcel is split from another CF parcel it can no longer be used for CF purposes. The Code does not allow CF uses within 1,000 feet from each other. As a result, the 40 acres on Griffin Road can only be used for Agricultural purposes today and cannot be legally developed until the property owner applies and is granted a rezoning. In other words, by law this property can only be used for agricultural purposes, and it cannot be developed until and unless it is rezoned. As a result, despite fear to the contrary, this property will be maintained as open space unless the Council agrees to a rezoning.

A developer has floated the idea of rezoning this property to Rural Ranches. There is no pending application to consider, so I will address in generalities and not on the merits of this one case. A rezoning is completely independent of a site plan. If we agree that developers could rezone, they could build to the minimum 2.0 NET acreage standard under the Rural Ranches zoning category. Any developer seeking to rezone is asking the Town to apply Code criteria to determine if a rezoning is warranted. If the Town agrees we are dramatically increasing property value and development rights. If all five members of the Town Council do not agree that the rezoning meets the Code Criteria, then the rezoning must be denied. This is done first, the site plan and plat are then derived from the new zoning criteria. That is the process. **To** rezone based on a site plan is known as contract zoning, which violates state law.

By creating a 2.5 Net acre district, I am giving developers the ability to rezone in a manner that will get them what they are seeking, but at the same time giving the community more open space, drainage, and room for ag. I truly believe that preserving open space is the cornerstone reason for why I ran for office. This new zoning category was introduced to the Comprehensive Planning Board a few months ago and was passed unanimously.

I look forward to making the preservation of more open space in our Town a reality.

Since there are some who believe that requiring more open space for subdivisions is a bad idea, I'd like to hear what you, the residents, think. If you agree that we should be doing everything in our power to preserve and to protect our open space and rural agrarian community, please email me at gjablonski@southwestranches.org.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Town, Vice Mayor Gary Jablonski



# Council Member Bob Hartmann

At the June 9th Council meeting,

Broward Property Appraiser Marty Kiar provided an update on SWR's current market and assessed values.

Our Town's real estate market value has increased by 23.54%. Mr. Kiar pointed out this is because people are willing to pay a premium for our rural lifestyle and quality of life. Our taxable value has increased 14.4% through home/property sales and new home development. The state's portability law allowed 71 new homeowners to carry \$8 million in assessed value to their new homes lowering their assessed value and taxable value.

Market Value 2021:	\$2,612,431,270
Market Value 2022:	\$3,227,416,880
Percent Change:	23.54 %
Taxable Value 2021:	\$1,673,148,751
Taxable Value 2022:	\$1,914,059,213
Percent Change:	14.40%

A significant number of exemptions were in place this year. Don't leave tax money on the table. We have 2,261 homes on the tax rolls with 2,109 granted the homestead exemption. If your ad valorem tax bill does not show a homestead exemption or any of the additional exemptions listed below, you may be leaving money on the table. If you have any questions about these exemptions, contact the property appraiser at (954) 357-6830 or visit the website at: https://bcpa.net/.

#### Exemptions:

Total Homestead: 2.109 homes 65 and Over(with 50,000 reduction in property's assessment): 50 Long Term: 2 Widow: 166 Full Exemption Veterans Service-Connected Total and Permanent: I4 Disabled First Responder: 2 Deployed Military: 2 Veteran Discount:

You will notice there are no figures for Agricultural Exemptions. This is a commonly used phrase that people use for the Agricultural Classification of property. It's a property classification as are residential, commercial, and industrial.

The Town had 51 properties move from Agri- 🗯 cultural Classification to residential, mostly due to sales and some re-platting of large ag lots to build homes. The current tax rolls show 444 properties in the Agricultural Classification. While I don't like to see the Ag land in our Town converted, it cannot be stopped, we are losing some of our open spaces to development. The Council has put some changes in the law to discourage conversion; however, we respect and are held to Florida's strict property laws in place to protect private property rights. The Council rigorously enforces our density laws and maintains the minimum lots sizes written into our zoning code. I have done my best over the past four years to stop any increases in density to Keep us Rural. Based on their campaign promises and actions over the past two years, our current Council shares the same values.

On a separate topic, last month the Davie Police Department (DPD) officers who patrol our Town attended the Public Safety committee meeting. They were asked what the Town and residents could do to suppress crime. While I wrote about this encounter last month, there was an item I wanted to address; however, my column was out of space.

When livestock escapes their owner's property, some animals such as goats and sheep are easily returned home by DPD. Cattle and bulls can sometimes be returned home by DPD depending on their temperament. If they get an ornery one, DPD has a cattle rancher resident who assists when needed. The patrol officers also frequently respond to calls on loose horses. They generally handle loose horses; however, they cannot respond quickly because, being assigned in SWR, they do not have any tack in their patrol car. They must call DPD headquarters and have a halter and lead sent out to their location. During that time a lot of things can go wrong for the horse.

If you have any spare, usable, horse halters and/or rope leads that you can donate, please bring them to Town Hall and leave them with the front desk. Having a halter and lead in the trunk will save a lot of time, possibly the horse, and return the patrol officer back to protecting our Town more rapidly. Your generosity will be appreciated.

I am always here to help! If I can assist with any questions or Town issue, or you would just like to have a chat, please call me.

Bob 954-801-1758





Council Member Jim Allbritton

Good Day Neighbors:

One half of 2022 has flown by. The first half was filled with a lot of good things happening in our Town.

Our Education Board flew in with "Flocking" that raised a good amount of money, along with a number of other fundraisers. The Board will be able to give each qualified student a very nice check to use for their education. The Ed Board works tireless all year long to help our students.

Our Town is getting a beautiful mural along the wall at Founder's Park that depicts the unique lifestyle we enjoy in SWR, thanks to the Rural Arts Board and artist Laura Warren.

The Town had its first Farmers' Market and from all the talk, it was a great success. A special THANKS to the Mayor for his persistence in moving this forward.

A lot of the drainage work is finishing up and the neighborhoods will be returned to their original state with driveways repaired, sod being replaced and streets repaved. There are still a good number of drainage projects to come. These projects, along with the finished projects, are being paid for with grant money that our Town Staff fought hard to get.

The streets in our Town are starting to be repaved thanks to the special sales tax from Broward County. Some areas have been completed and the difference is amazing.

Florida Power & Light is in Town putting in new and improved hurricane resistant power lines that will help prevent those long outages we suffer after a major storm. This work will extend thru 2023 and into 2024.

A Safety and Traffic Committee was formed in January and last met in June. Thank you to the Committee for their dedication and hard work on coming up with recommendations to help slow traffic and deter crime.

The Town had a slight redistricting change

Thank you for your sacrifice

due to the 2020 Census and no Council Member was affected by the change.

Southwest Ranches has entered into a purchase agreement to sell the CCA property and thanks to our Town Attorney Mr. Poliakoff this agreement, when completed, will benefit our Town for a long time to come.

As we go forward thru the next half of 2022, there will be more drainage work, more road work, more FPL work, the Farmers Market will return after the hurricane season, the Ed Board will have several fund raising events and the Town Fair may return. All these things are good for the Town. So come join us and take part in all the events that make Southwest Ranches that unique Town we live in.

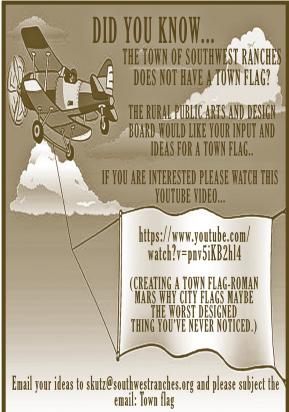
JIM ALLBRITTON, 305-903-7043



#### 2022 Property Exemptions – It Is Not Too Late to Apply

The timely deadline to apply for any 2022 exemption was March 1; however, applicants can still late file until September 19, 2022. If you both owned and made the property your permanent residence as of January 1, 2022, you can still apply for 2022 Homestead Exemption and any other exemptions you may qualify for. You can easily apply for Homestead Exemption online at https://web.bcpa. net/bcpaclient/#/Homestead as well as view all the other exemptions available to qualified applicants.

Both Homestead Exemption and the Low-Income Senior Exemption automatically renew each year. If you were receiving Homestead Exemption in 2021 on your current home, you do not need to reapply. If you were also receiving the Senior Exemption in 2021 and your adjusted household gross income for 2021 did not exceed \$32,561, this exemption has automatically renewed and you do not need to do anything additional. If your 2021 income exceeded \$32,561, please notify our Exemption Department at **exemptions@bcpa.net** so we can remove the Senior Exemption for the 2022 tax year.



#### Quarterly Tax Payment Installment Plan

While the Property Appraiser's Office does not set or collect taxes, our office receives many calls from residents inquiring about installment tax bills and their recently approved exemptions. Broward County's Records, Taxes & Treasury Division is responsible for the billing and collecting of property taxes.

For property owners on their installment payment plan, the first two installment payments (June and September) are based on the previous (2021) tax year. This means residents who have been approved for 2022 Homestead Exemption or other exemptions will not see these showing on either the June or September installment bills. The final two installment bills (December and March) will be adjusted to include any 2022 exemptions or changes to the property's taxable value. The deadline to apply for Broward County's Installment Payment Plan was May 1, 2022. Should you have any questions regarding the payment of property taxes, their office can be reached at 954.831.4000 or by email to **revenue@broward.org**.

If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at **martykiar@bcpa.net** 

Take care 1 arty frai Marty Kiar, CFA



Broward County Property Appraiser

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Council Member David S. Kuczenski

#### Howdy Folks,

July brings us the celebration of our Republic's independence. We are still pressing the regulation of explosive fireworks in our Town. Please consider our animals if you are thinking about launching explosive fireworks.

Last month our Council approved the sale of the approximately twenty-five acres that was previously designated for the CCA detention center. Years ago, this was a divisive issue among our residents. However, our Town Attorney Keith Poliakoff deserves much of the credit for putting together a great deal for our homeowners. One small provision that Keith inserted in the contract with CCA was to give the Town the right of first refusal to purchase. When the deal collapsed with CCA over the dispute concerning providing potable water, the Town exercised its option and purchased the property. (The deal collapsed due to opposition from Pembroke Pines.) Basically, the deal closed the sale for just over \$18.6 million for a property we purchased for \$8.1 million. In addition, our Town will receive 6% of the annual rent of the property plus the percentage of service fees. The effects of this sale will be multifold. First, as a result of this transaction, the town will be debt free, the only municipality in Broward County to tout this accomplishment. Second, we will forever receive 6% of the annual rent in addition to the regular service fees. Finally, if we go back to 2020, our Financial Administrator disclosed that the Town had a million-dollar surplus. My position back then was to return the overage to the taxpayers. Well, this transaction will do just that. I am very happy to say that for the first time the Town will be in position to lower the ad valorem taxes to you, the tax payer. Even during the last budget discussions. I pleaded with the administration to lower our taxes, even if just a little. It has been my goal as your Council Member to exercise fiscal restraint and when possible, return funds to you, the taxpayer. I am very happy that this deal will allow this ideal to come to fruition.

I thank you for the honor of holding this office. As a Council Member, I work to help the entire Town. If you have a concern or complaint, drop a call to me. I may not answer immediately, but I strive to return my calls in 24-48 hours.

Very Truly Yours, David S Kuczenski, Esq., Council Member Dist. 4



Brief legislation from the May 12, 2022 Town Council Regular Meeting:

• Adopted Resolution 2022-053 approving a modification to the St. Mark Church Site Plan to allow for a roof structure over the existing basketball court.

• Adopted Ordinance 2022-010 establishing and adopting four (4) revised residential election districts.

#### Brief legislation from the May 26, 2022 Town Council Regular Meeting:

• Adopted Resolution 2022-054 correcting Resolution 2022-045 clarifying that only \$14,455.00 was needed to issue a purchase order for the TSDOR program study.

• Adopted Resolution 2022-055 approving an agreement with Broward County to receive \$43,000 of Surtax Funding to complete the Green Meadows Drainage Improvements within the SW 54th Place right-ofway.

• Adopted Resolution 2022-056 approving a piggyback agreement with Crown Castle Fiber, LLC for Dedicated Internet Access (DIA) services.

• **Adopted Resolution 2022-057** approving a piggyback agreement with 8X8, Inc. for Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) telephone service.

#### Brief legislation from the June 2, 2022 Town Council Regular Meeting:

• Adopted Resolution 2022-059 approving a purchase and sale agreement to develop the Town's former CCA property.

Brief legislation from the June 9, 2022 Town Council Regular Meeting:

• Adopted Ordinance 2022-012 submitting to referendum three (3) amendments to the Town's Charter to be considered on the November 8, 2022 General Election.

To view these approved items in their entirety please visit the Town Clerk's Department page on the Town website and click on the Resolutions and/or Ordinances link.











#### **GULF FRITILLARY**

"Know your native pollinators" is a series of articles that will help you identify and appreciate Florida's varied pollinators, including bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, birds, and bats.

The Gulf fritillary is sometimes known as the Passion butterfly — so named because of its ardor for Passionflower. You will find so much to love about this unique pollinator!



#### **CLASSIFICATION**

POLLINATORS

**Order:** Lepidoptera, **Family:** Nymphalidae, **Subfamily:** Heliconiinae, **Genus species:** Agraulis vanilla

Pictured: Gulf fritillary on Elliott's aster (*Symphyotricum elliotti*) by Mary Keim.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Gulf fritillary is part of the "brush-footed" butterfly family (Nymphalidae), referring to the genetic trait of short hairs on the front of its legs.

**FORAGING PREFERENCES** Gulf fritillary caterpillars rely on passionflower (Passiflora spp.) such as Purple passionflower (P. incarnata), Yellow passionflower (P. lutea) and Corkystem passionflower (P. suberosa) as their host plants. They feed on all parts of the plant. Buttonsage (Lantana involucrata) is also a larval host plant. (See caution below.) Adults pollinate a variety of flowering plants, especially those in the Asteraceae family, which includes Beggarticks (Bidens alba), Climbing aster (Symphyotrichum carolinianum),



Black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta), Stokes' aster (Stokesia laevis) and Coreopsis species.

Pictured: Gulf fritillary caterpillar on Purple passionflower (Passiflora incarnata) by Mary Keim.

**FUN FACT** Gulf fritillaries have a rapid, erratic flight and generally stay above human eye level until they are attracted to a flowering plant down below.

**IDENTIFICATION** Gulf fritillaries are medium-sized butterflies with elongated forewings. Their wingspan extends between 65 and 95 millimeters long. The surface of the upper wing is bright orange with black markings. The undersides of the wings are brown with a red blush color near the base. In the forewing cell, three black-rimmed white spots are visible on the top and underside. Gulf fritillaries have a black "comma" on their hindwing with white oblong shapes, one of which is broken. Their bodies are long, slender, and orange with white stripes. They have orange eyes, white freckles on their head and a white jaw extending up. Females are larger, darker and have more extensive markings than their male counterparts.



Gulf fritillary on Butterfly milkweed (Asclepias tuberosa) by Mary Keim.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Members of the Heliconiinae family are sometimes referred to as longwing butterflies.

**HABITAT** Gulf fritillary butterflies live in the extreme southern United States. Outside of the U.S., they are a broad-ranging species, found throughout Mexico, Central

America, the Caribbean and into South America. They begin their journey by migrating northward from Texas and Florida to more northern parts of the southeastern U.S. such as North Carolina and Alabama for temporary breeding

grounds. Gulf fritillaries occasionally venture into the Central U.S, however they cannot survive in temperatures below 21 degrees Fahrenheit. In late summer and early fall, peninsular Florida sees huge numbers of these butterflies return. Despite the migration of many, adult Gulf fritillaries can be found in southern Florida throughout the year. Gulf fritillaries enjoy a variety of habitat including sunny roadsides, disturbed areas, edges, fields, pastures, woodlands, second-growth semitropical forests and urban areas like parks and yards. You may even find them blithely floating around your butterfly garden.

FUN FACT Gulf fritillary butterflies can be found in all 67 counties of Florida.



LIFE CYCLE Gulf fritillaries lay yellow eggs singly on or near the host plant — generally the leaves, stems, and tendrils of passionflowers. Caterpillars are orange to reddish-brown with orange-brown stripes and black spines. The pupa stage is mottled brown and resembles a dead leaf. The butterflies produce multiple generations each year. The pupa

stage of the Gulf fritillary resembles a dead leaf. Photo by Mary Keim.

**FUN FACT/DID YOU KNOW?** When it is disturbed, the Gulf fritillary releases chemicals from its abdominal glands, producing an unpleasant odor. This dissuades many birds and other predators from making the butterfly into a snack. If a predator does decide to have a Gulf fritillary lunch, they do so at their own risk. Most of the passionflower plant that the caterpillar feasts on, including the leaves and stems, contains toxins that stay in the bodies of the Gulf fritillary larva and adult butterfly. The toxins are lethal to unsuspecting predators not equipped with the same immunities. The butterfly's bright orange coloration acts as a warning that it should be avoided. For this article and more, please visit: https://www.flawildflowers.org/pollinators/



#### Broward County Property Appraiser's Office

115 S. Andrews Ave, Room III, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33301 (954) 357-6830 • Fax: (954) 357-8474 www.bcpa.net

#### PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FILING DATES ANNOUNCED FOR TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, SOUTHWEST RANCHES

Broward County Property Appraiser, Marty Kiar has announced special 2022 homeowner sign-up dates for Homestead, Senior and other property tax exemptions at Southwest Ranches Town Hall 13400 Griffin Road, Southwest Ranches, FL 33330.

2022 Southwest Ranches Town Hall 3rd Thursday of the month 10:00 am -12:00 pm JULY 5, 2022

#### Documents required to file a Homestead Exemption include:

- A current Florida driver's license or Florida identification card, AND
- A current voter registration card or declaration of domicile
- · Non-US citizens must also provide proof of legal residency.

• If you are a new resident to Florida, please provide your Settlement Statement from your prior out of state property.

Qualified residents 65 years of age or older as of January 1, 2022 may also apply for the additional Senior Exemption (after January 1, 2022). Seniors must bring a copy of their 2021 Income Tax Return or a copy of their 2021 Social Security 1099 form (if no tax return was filed).



• **Do not walk through flowing water.** If you must walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure the depth of the water ahead.

• Do not drive through a flooded area. Do not drive around road barriers; the road may be washed out.

 Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Electrical current travels through water. If possible, report downed powerlines to FPL. Do not use appliances or motors that are wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried.

• Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have been flooded out of their habitat may take shelter in your home.

• Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors can be covered with debris. Surfaces that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

• Be alert for gas leaks. If your house is serviced by gas, do not smoke, use candles or open flames unless you know the gas has not built up. Make arrangements to turn off your electricity and gas.

To sign up to be notified via voice message, text and email for important public safety information during a storm visit *http://southwestranches.org/rapid-notify/ and Broward.org/ Emergency/Pages/AlertBroward.aspx.* 



#### **Financial Assistance Advice**

If your home or business is damaged by a flood, you may be required to meet certain building requirements to reduce further flood damage by coming into compliance with local, state, and federal criteria. To help with these

costs, financial assistance such as grants, loans, rebates and the NFIP's Increased Cost of Compliance Coverage may be available.

For assistance regarding financial assistance options, please contact the Town's Engineering Department at (954) 434-0008, Broward County's Mitigation Coordinator at (954) 831-3900 or visit **Disasterassistance.gov**.



#### **National Flood Insurance Program Changes**

In accordance with 2014 Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is continuing to gradually phase out flood insurance premium subsidies on certain policyholders. The

changes have and will have the greatest impact on properties located within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) that were built prior to the adoption of Broward County's first FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) on October 26, 1972, or prior to December 31, 1974, without elevation certificate information. For more information on the National Flood Insurance Program changes visit *FEMA.gov/flood-insurance-reform.* 



#### Get a Flood Insurance Policy

Replacing household contents damaged by floods could place a significant financial burden on a homeowner or renter without flood insurance. Just a few inches of water from a flood can cause tens of thousands of dollars in

damage. Homeowner's insurance policies do not generally cover damage from floods. However, because the Town of Southwest Ranches participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy from an insurance agent and benefit from the premium discount available to all Southwest Ranches residents. Flood insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded previously. Please note that unless there is a special condition of the mortgage, there normally is a 30-day waiting period between the time flood insurance is purchased and the time coverage is in force. Though all home and business owners in these areas with mortgages from federally regulated or insurance to protect against significant financial losses. If your property is in the SFHA and you have a mortgage from a federally regulated or insured lender, flood insurance is required. Even if you do not have a mortgage and you live in the SFHA or you live outside of the SFHA, all property owners and renters should carefully consider the benefits of flood insurance to protect against significant financial losses from floods. For more information visit the following sites: *Floodsmart.gov and FEMA.gov/ national-flood-insurance-program.* 

If you would like to know if your property is in a SFHA you can use the interactive map viewer. Visit *http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/flood-insurance-information/* and select Flood Maps. You can also call (954) 434-0008, provide your address and zip code, and Town staff will assist you in determining SFHA information specific to your property.



#### **Elevation Certificate Information**

Elevation certificates for buildings are on file and may be obtained by visiting http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/flood-insurance-information/.



#### Water Quality and Flood Control Effects of Drainage Systems

The success of the drainage system in your neighborhood depends on proper maintenance of the system. The swales that are commonly located between your yard and street are part of the neighborhood's storm water management system.

Gutters, storm drain pipes, lakes, wetlands, swales and canals should be kept free of debris. It is against Town Code to dump trash in waters. The drainage system may provide both water quality and flood control benefits. Lakes, wetlands, swales and canals filter pollutants from runoff or allow pollutants to settle out. Check with the Town's Engineering Department before paving, regrading or altering swales.

#### Protect Property from Flooding

Losses due to floods can be reduced by implementing property protection measures. Furniture, appliances, clothing, and other movable items can be elevated within the structure or relocated away from potential flooding if time permits. You should also make an itemized inventory of your belongings including costs, dates of purchase and serial numbers.

There are several ways to protect a building from flood damage if feasible. One way is to make sure your lot is graded in a manner that will direct runoff away from your building. Another approach is to make your walls waterproof and place watertight closures over the doorways. This method is not recommended if water will rise to a depth of two feet or greater. A third approach is to raise the house above flood levels. Prior to making these modifications, consult with a certified contractor.



#### **Build Responsibly**

Strict regulations govern substantial improvements to structures in the flood plain. According to NFIP, "substantial improvement" means the cost of any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure either before the improvement is started or if the structure has been damaged and is being restored.

Please be advised that any new development or improvement on a property will be subject to current Town regulations and may also be subject to state and federal regulations. Please contact the Southwest Ranches Building Code Services Division at (954) 434-0008 for specific information and to report unpermitted construction activities.



#### Flood Risk Specialist Available to Assist Residents

The Town of Southwest Ranches wants to ensure that residents who have questions about flood risks, flood insurance, and retrofitting techniques, get

answers in a timely manner. The Town Engineer is available to assist in the following areas: 1) Flood Insurance; 2) Flood Zone interpretation including base flood elevation and/or flood depth; 3) Additional FIRM information; 4) Problems not shown on FIRM; 5) Special flood related hazards; 6) Historical flood-related data; 7) Natural floodplain functions; and 8) Property protection measures. Please call the Engineering Department at (954) 434-0008

#### continued on page 8



# ARQUND

## Continued from page 7

and ask to speak to the Town Engineer. You may also schedule a site visit to review flooding, drainage, and storm sewer problems, and to obtain advice on retrofitting techniques to provide additional protection. Go to *http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/flood-insurance-information/ for additional information.* 



#### Local Flood Hazards

Floods resulting from prolonged, heavy rainfall can occur in rivers and canals that drain inland areas into the Atlantic Ocean when waterway capacities are exceeded. Flooding from heavy rainfall occurs in low-lying areas and areas

near rivers and canals.

The severe flooding that occurred as a result of the exceedingly wet summers and the hurricanes of 1947 was the basis for creating what is now the South Florida Water Management District. South Florida's five-month rainy season brings more than two-thirds of the region's annual rainfall. The rainy season can also bring flooding, which may occur when large amounts of rain fall over a short period of time or from a single heavy storm, tropical system or hurricane.



Since portions of Southwest Ranches have been designated as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), it is advisable to check the interactive map viewer to see the location of your property with respect to the SFHA. Visit *http://southwestranches. org/departments/town-engineering/flood-insurance-information/* and se-

lect Flood Maps. You can also call (954) 434-0008, provide your address and zip code, and Town staff will assist you in determining SFHA information specific to your property.

#### **Protect Natural Floodplain Functions**

Although much of the natural flood plain system in South Florida has been altered and is frequently over-drained, efforts are being made to enhance many historical wetlands and canals to restore them to a more natural state. These flood plain and wetland areas buffer flood flows, remove pollutants from our surface waters, recharge groundwater and create diverse habitat systems for plants and animals. The Southwest Ranches Comprehensive Plan includes policies pertaining to flood plains and wetlands. The plan provides for protection and creation of surface waters, protection and wetlands preservation.

#### Map Services

Maps are an effective method of communicating information about flood hazards. Residents and businesses that are aware of potential flood hazards can take steps to avoid problems and reduce exposure to flooding. Therefore, the

Town offers complementary maps to supplement and clarify the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with information on additional hazards, flooding outside mapped areas, development regulations that affect floodplain properties, flood insurance, natural floodplain functions, and property protection measures.

A GIS mapping application for Southwest Ranches that is publicly available includes information you will need for a flood insurance policy including whether your property is in a SFHA, the community number, panel number and suffix, FIRM date, FIRM zone, base flood elevation and the elevation datum used. Additional FIRM information is also available showing areas of concern such as whether your property is located within a floodway.

The Town has mapped local drainage problem areas within the Town. In addition, the Town has a map providing information about past floods that have occurred. If you live in one of these areas, we would like to have a discussion with you regarding potential remedies.

A GIS mapping application for Southwest Ranches that is publicly available includes layers related to natural floodplain functions, specifically wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat. The map includes Broward County's wetland data to provide a comprehensive picture of where wetlands are located within the Town.

To view these interactive maps, please visit the Town's website. For more information regarding the flood maps and the Town's floodplain management program or if you would like assistance reading the maps, please call Town Hall at (954) 434-0008 or email *rley@ swranches.org.* 

We honor your dedication

Source: Broward County Flood News, Summer 2018, Volume 24, Issue 1

# **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

Our backyards are connected to the Everglades. How cool is that? As property owners, we have a responsibility for protecting our water resources. We can reduce nutrient pollution in the Everglades by following simple Best Management Practices:

#### Lawn and Property Best Management Practices

• Maintain a ring of responsibility. Keep fertilizers and pesticides at least ten (10) feet away from the water's edge when treating your lawn. Runoff carries nutrients and chemicals into adjacent canals and lakes.

Postpone fertilizing when a rainfall event is expected.

• Clean up spilled oil, fertilizers, and pesticides, and dispose of it properly.

• Never use storm drains for the disposal of oils, paint, and household chemicals.

• When mowing near the shoreline, direct grass clippings away from the water.

• Never leave clippings on paved surfaces or blow them

into storm drains. Instead, distribute grass cuttings back over the newly mowed lawn to return nutrients to the soil.

- · Keep storm drains free of leaves and other debris.
- Irrigate efficiently by using only as much water as needed.

• Minimize the use of pesticides, fertilizers, and chemicals. Use appropriate rates and methods and apply only as needed. Keep trees and other landscaping properly trimmed to avoid loose palm fronds, coconuts, or tree limbs from blocking the flow of water. Do not dispose of trees or branches in lakes or canals.

• Pick up pet waste. Animal waste contains nutrients and can harbor pathogens that can be carried by stormwater runoff into nearby water sources. Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms, fish kills, and habitat destruction, while pathogens can pose health risks for humans and wildlife.

• Place a silt fence around active construction sites. This will prevent any sedimentation from running off into adjacent properties and water bodies.

• Prevent erosion by seeding or placing sod. The vegetation will hold the soil together preventing sedimentation into water bodies.

• Do not litter. Dispose of trash and recyclables in their proper containers.

• Inspect the septic system. Septic systems that have not been maintained properly can release pathogens and nutrients into nearby water bodies. Be sure to pump the tank as necessary.

#### **Equine Best Management Practices**

• Maintain a vegetative buffer strip between paddocks or pastures and canals to filter runoff and prevent soil erosion. Construct berms or swales where appropriate to retain stormwater and prevent runoff.

• Do not spread manure within 10 feet of canals or water bodies.

• Position manure piles away from canals and roadways and have it regularly picked up.

Grading of slopes that drain into canals, waterways, and lakes is based on state and local requirements and designed to meet water quantity and quality criteria. Never change grades on slopes without proper review and permitting.

Together, we can protect our precious water resources. Best Management Practices combine research and development with science, judgment, and common sense. Adhering to these practices results in better environmental stewardship and healthier water resources for us all.



ARQUND

# Mini-Flow: Florida Licensing on Wheels

Come to Town Hall if you need to renew or replace your Florida Driver's License, Identification Card or Tag and Registration. The Department of Motorist Services Mini-FLOW Florida Licensing on Wheels will be at Town Hall:

Wednesday, July 27th

By Appointment Only - No Walk-Ins Call Town Hall (954) 434-0008

# LIVESTOCK AREA

WITH THE 4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY COMING UP PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF OUR NEIGHBORS WITH LIVESTOCK, PLEASE DO NOT USE FIREWORKS THAT WOULD CAUSE UNDUE HARM OR STRESS TO OUR FRIENDS WITH ANIMALS,

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR.

# Waste Collection

# MAKE SURE YOUR GARBAGE, BULK AND RECYCLE ARE OUT BEFORE 7 AM

TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES - Waste Collection Map & Schedule



TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS ON STIRLING ROAD...Please remember you are in AREA 1A for your bulk schedule. Residential Bulk may be placed in the Swale the Saturday before your scheduled

BULK COLLECTION DAY. (ORD 2008-07) PAGE 6

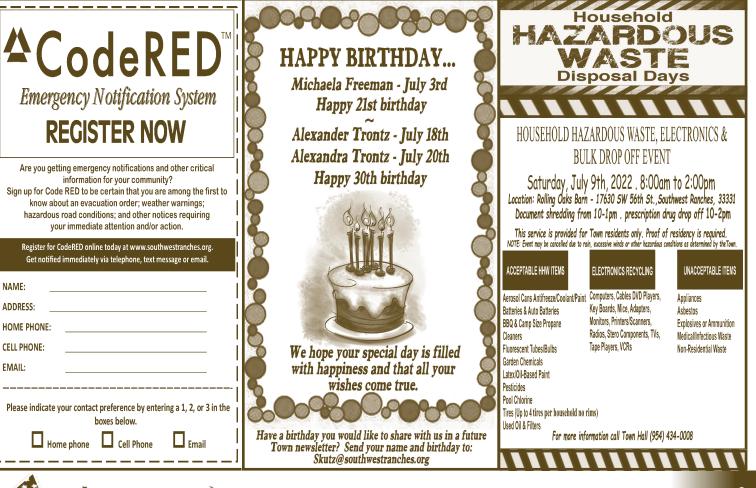
Weekly <u>SOLID (GARBAGE)</u> Waste Days

Area 3	Area 2	Area 1	
Wednesday & Saturday	Tuesday & Friday	Monday & Thursday	

<b>BULK</b> Collection Service Dates by Area							
Month	Area	WEDNESDAY Only	Area	TUESDAY Only	Area	MONDAY Only	
JULY	3-A	7/13 - 7/17	2-A	7/12 - 7/26	1-A	7/11 - 7/25	
2022	3-B	7/06 - 7/20	2-B	7/05 - 7/15	1-B	7/04 - 7/18	
AUG		8/10 - 8/24	2-A	8/09 - 8/23	1-A	8/08 - 8/22	
2022	3-B	8/03 - 8/17 - 8/31	2-B	8/02 - 8/16 - 8/30	1-B	8/01 - 8/15 - 8/29	

RECYCLE collection occurs once per week: Area 1 every Monday • Area 2 every Tuesday • Area 3 every Wednesday

You kept us safe



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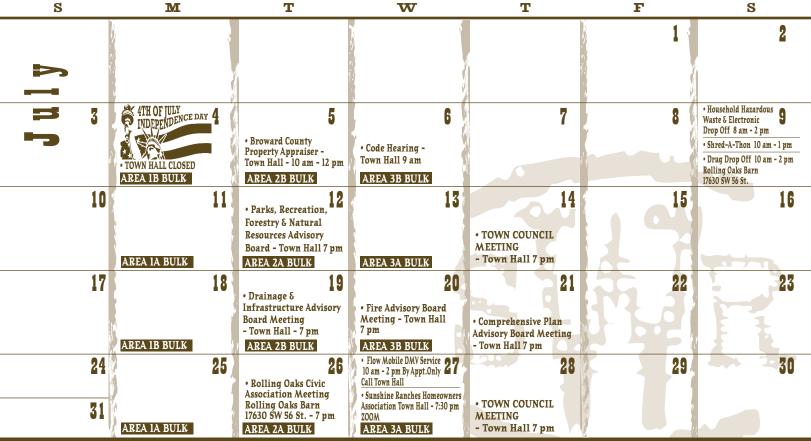


## **PHOTO BY: George Morris** "Some rise, some set, we live in the Ranches,



let's never forget."

(From the 2022 Photo Contest Calendar)



## All Town Council Meetings and Advisory Board meetings will be held in person at Town Hall unless explicitly stated otherwise.

## ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES

#### RURAL PUBLIC ARTS AND DESIGN BOARD

 Discussion for entrance sian for Southwest Meadows Preserve

 Received approval for \$2,500 to budget six additional panels for mural at Founder's Park. Artist Laura Warren was invited to Advisory Board meeting to bring ideas for the mural.

· Board would like input from residents on a design for Town of Southwest Ranches flag.

· Photo contest submissions must be in no later than September 5th. The theme for this year's calendar is "Fun in the Ranches," what makes Southwest Ranches unique to you? Animals, recreation, gardens, sunsets, Town events are all ideas for this year's contest.





Pictured: Kathy Jablonski, Vice Mayor Jablonski, Council Member Kuczenski, Nancy Hartmann, Council Member Hartmann, Representative Robin Bartleman, District 104, Council Member Allbritton and Rose Allbritton.

MAY 13, 2022 BROWARD LEAGUE OF CITIES HELD THEIR 65TH ANNIVERSARY AT MARGARITAVILLE HOLLYWOOD HOTEL. COUNCIL MEMBER JIM ALLBRITTON WAS INITIATED AS A BOARD MEMBER WITH VICE MAYOR JABLONSKI AND COUNCIL MEMBER KUCZENSKI AS ALTERNATE BOARD MEMBERS.

Thank you for the sacrifices you made

# Southwest Ranches

It is that time of year: hot weather and lots of rain and storms. Remember, "Don't Wait to Hydrate" during family activities outdoors.

School is out of session. Children will be out playing with their friends, riding bicycles, playing sports and more. Please keep a sharp eye out for them and their safety.

As stated in previous articles, prepare for Hurricane Season now. Trim your trees away from electric lines to prevent power outages (it gets hot rapidly). Clean up and remove all unwanted yard debris. Have a safety plan for your animals in the event of a storm/hurricane. Our pets depend on us for their safety.

The Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue wishes our residents a healthy, safe summer.

Fire Chief Lee Bennett

## IN TOUCH

TOWN HALL: 13400 Griffin Road / Southwest Ranches, FL 33330 • PHONE: (954) 434-0008 • FAX: (954) 434-1490 TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm • TOWN WEBSITE: www.southwestranches.org TOWN HALL TWITTER ACCOUNT: @SWR\_Gov • YOUTUBE: Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel • FACEBOOK: facebook@SWRGOV

ELECTED OFFICIALS			
Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	(954) 343-7462	sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org	
Vice Mayor Gary Jablonski	(954) 343-7456	gjablonski@southwestranches.org	
Council Member Bob Hartmann Council Member Jim Allbritton	(954) 343-7447	bhartmann@southwestranches.org	
Council Member David S. Kuczenski	(954) 343-7461 (954) 343-7472	jallbritton@southwestranches.org dkuczenski@southwestranches.org	
TOWN STAFF	(954) 343-7472	ukuczenski@sountwestranches.org	
Andy Berns, Town Administrator	(954) 434-0008	aberns@southwestranches.org	
Danielle Caban, Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator,	(954) 343-7474	dcaban@southwestranches.org	
Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk	(954) 343-7450	rmuniz@southwestranches.org	
Debra M. Ruesga, <i>Deputy Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-745I	druesga@southwestranches.org	
Dan Stewart, Records and Administrative Coordinator	(954) 343-7443	dstewart@southwestranches.org	
Sandy Luongo, <i>General Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7476	sluongo@southwestranches.org	
Vernelle Nelson, Administrative Assistant	(954) 434-0008	vnelson@southwestranches.org	
Angelica Arosemena, Administrative Assistant	(954) 434-0008	aarosemena@southwestranches.org	
Emil C. Lopez, Town Financial Administrator	(954) 343-7473	elopez@southwestranches.org	
Rich Strum, Town Controller	(954) 343-7442	rstrum@southwestranches.org	
Venessa Redman, <i>Senior Procurement &amp; Budget Officer</i> Arianna Durbeej, <i>Town Accountant</i>	(954) 343-7467	vredman@southwestranches.org adurbeej@southwestranches.org	
Keith Poliakoff, <i>Town Attorney</i>	(954-343-7477 (954) 909-0580	kpoliakoff@southwestranches.org	
Rod Ley, <i>Public Works Director</i>	(954) 343-7444	rley@southwestranches.org	
Emily McCord Aceti, <i>Community Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7453	eaceti@southwestranches.org	
Philip Chorath, <i>Engineer 1</i>	(954) 343-7441	pchorath@southwestranches.org	
Susan Kutz, Administrative Specialist, Newsletter Editor & Graphic Designer	(954) 343-7460	skutz@southwestranches.org	
December Lauretano-Haines, Parks, Recreation & Open Space Manager	(954) 343-7452	dlauretano@southwestranches.org	
Melinda Stringer, Administrative Assistant	(954) 343-7454	mstringer@southwestranches.org	
TOWN SERVICES	-		
BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING - (CAP GOVERNMENT			
Brian Dillon, <i>Building Official</i> Joyce Marques, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446	bdillon@capfla.com	
Derlin Guevara, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446	jmarques@capfla.com dguevara@capfla.com	
PLANNING – (MELLGREN PLANNING GROUP)	(954) 343-7445 (954) 475-3070	michele@tmpgplanning.com	
Jeff Katims	(954) 475-3070	jkatims@sepiinc.com	
ZONING/PERMITTING	(7)4/475 5070	1	
Julio Medina	(954) 343-7458	zoninginfo@southwestranches.org	
CODE			
Julio Medina, Code Enforcement Director	(954) 343-7458	jmedina@southwestranches.org	
Code Enforcement Hotline Concepcion Campos, <i>Code Enforcement Officer</i>	(954) 343-7449	ccampos@southwestranches.org	
Marlon Gonzalez, <i>Code Enforcement Officer</i>	(954) 343-7457 (954) 343-7440	mgonzalez@swranches.org	
Jenna Anderson, Administrative Coordinator	(954) 343-7459	janderson@southwestranches.org	
	(934) 343 7439	Junicerboniebountwoonantentobiorg	
Waste/BULK/RECYCLING SERVICES	(954) 967-4200		
Waste Pro <b>REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS – Chief Bennett</b>	(954) 868-2057	lbennett@southwestranches.org	
MOSQUITO CONTROL	(954) 765-4062	ibennen@sountwestranenes.org	
LOST AND FOUND ANIMALS	(754) 224-0877	Facebook@SWRLostandFoundAnimals	
PUBLIC SAFETY		C	
EMERGENCY	911		
Non-Emergency	(954) 764-4357 (HELP)		
Davie Police Department	(954) 693-8200		
Jeff Hobales, <i>Detective</i>	(954) 693-8326	jeffrey_hobales@davie-fl.gov	
Cheryl Danner, Police Services Coordinator	(954) 693-8352	cdanner@southwestranches.org	
Davie Fire Rescue Station 112	(954) 952-4608		
Volunteer Fire Rescue - Chief Bennett	(954) 868-2057		
TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES Potholes and Signs Down - Philip Chorath	(954) 343-7441	pchorath@southwestranches.org	
Illicit Discharge - Environmental Response Line:	(954) 519-1499	online complaint form at http://www.broward.org/	
OTHER		Environment/Resources/Pages/EnviroComplaint.aspx	
WATER DISTRICTS - CANALS			
Central Broward Water Control District	(954) 432-5110	www.centralbrowardwcd.org	
East of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)			
South Broward Drainage District	(954) 680-3337	www.sbdd.org	
West of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)			
John De los Santos, Newsletter Layout and Design	(954) 292-8850	johndelossantos@rocketmail.com	

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Thank you for our freedom



#### **Town of Southwest Ranches**

13400 Griffin Road

Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

PRSRT STD US POSTAGE PAID MIAMI, FL PERMIT #622



# TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!

TWITTER:

@SWR\_Gov

FACEBOOK: facebook@SWRGOV

YOUTUBE: Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel CLICK ON QR CODE TO VISIT US AT www.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.org



