SOUTHINGST DANGERR The Official Newsletter of Southwest Panches

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OCTOBER 2022 HIGHLIGHTS <



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Mayor's Message

COUNCIL MEMBERS



Mayor Steve Breitkreuz

We welcome WM (previously Waste

Management) as our new vendor for waste, bulk, and recycle collection and are looking forward to returning to the level of service that we have enjoyed in the past. One of the key differences in this service over the prior service is that, to save in our contract costs and be more consistent in the pick-up service, we have gone to the waste suppled 96-gallon cans that are supplied by WM and which can be mechanically emptied into the truck.

These cans are very large and we expect that most homes will find that this container will meet their needs. Items left in bags or non-standard containers, will not be picked up as they do not fit the WM equipment. However, for an additional annual cost, a second or even third can be ordered. Also, in some areas of Town the pick-up days have changed, so please double check that to ensure that you are putting out your waste on the proper days. We have directed code for leniency and warnings for a while during this time of transition. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Town Hall or myself at (954) 296-6018.

One other item I want to touch on. Houses in our community being rented out as party locations is becoming a larger issue. These are commercial entities, completely in conflict with our rural lifestyle (normally Airbnb) that have placed themselves in our rural community. Their operation is to have people flock to a location for a night party and disrupt our quiet enjoyment of our homes.

This use is in conflict with our code in many ways. To effectively counter these entities, we need the residents help. First and foremost, if one is disrupting your enjoyment of your property either due to loud music, parking issues, or you see them taking cash at the door, please call Davie PD. We need to build a documented pattern of these uses so that when it comes before the magistrate, significant fines can be levied. Recently, fines of \$15,000 and \$20,000 have been enforced on two separate locations.

I do want to add that some properties have rural events that are respectful of their neighbors. That is not an issue. It is when there is a blatant disrespect of our neighbors, our community, and our Rural Lifestyle, that these entities are best to move on to another area outside of the Ranches.

Protecting the rural enjoyment of our homes is critical but it is worth the effort to protect what we have for the next generation of Ranchers. As always, thank-you for the honor of serving as your Mayor, in this very special place that we call home.

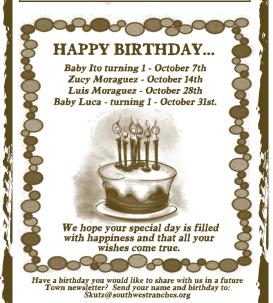
Steve 954-296-6018



STAY IN TOUCH WITH ENGINEERING

Fill for horse stalls does not require a fill permit. In addition, a permit may not be required if a small amount of sand is required to replenish a horse arena. However the Town recommends that a property owner or lease contact our office to assure that the type of work being performed falls under this criteria prior to performing the work. A phone call to us will help prevent a possible warning from Code Enforcement and double fees when it comes to acquiring the required permit.

Please call: (954) 434-0008 or Email: publicworks@southwestranches.org





Council Member Jim Allbritton

Good Day Southwest Ranches! I am pleased

to announce we are working very hard to reestablish the Green Meadows. Deems Ranches and Ivanhoe Estates Civic Association. There have been several Zoom meetings and the attendance has grown monthly. The following four residents have graciously volunteered to serve as the board officers for the association: Anna Koldys, President; Manon Hagan Stevens, Vice President; Barbara Gonzalez, Secretary; Robert Sirota, Treasurer. I would ask if you live in any of the three aforementioned areas and would like to get involved by joining in on the Zoom meetings on the last Monday of each month, please send your email address to district3swrcivicassn@gmail.com or jim4swr@ gmail.com, and you will be added to our BCC email notification list. A civic association is a great way to meet your neighbors, share what is happening in your neighborhood and have a unified voice at Town Hall.

The Town is currently following up on the recommendations from the Safety and Traffic Committee by purchasing two traffic control trailers that will be moved around the Town to remind drivers of the speed limit in that area. Our officers are currently using two new handheld laser guns to help control our speeding problems. We now have a total of three of these We also have an additional traffic units. enhancement detail targeting all the "hotspots" around Town. Two officers for three hours, four times a month at various times of day, have the sole purpose of writing traffic violations. There will also be ten signs placed around Town that state "Speed Checked by Radar." The tag readers are going in slowly and once in place they will help in identifying vehicles that may be involved in suspicious activities. I feel confident that we will see benefits by implementing these recommendations.

November marks the beginning of my third year as your District 3 Council Member. During the past two years the Town Council has worked diligently to keep Southwest Ranches rural. The Council passed a new $2\frac{1}{2}$ net acre land use zoning category, a lot size compatibility ordinance (lots sizes must be same size or bigger than the neighboring community) and an ordinance that keeps commercial business on the main roads through Town and out of our residential neighborhoods. This Council has also lowered the millage tax rate each of the past two years to help offset the rising service costs from our vendors. The Council realizes the costs of All Services are Going Up and we are doing everything possible to keep taxes down.

This November I would like to ask all the residents of Southwest Ranches to exercise their right to vote and keep our Town heading in the right direction.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Jim Allbritton -305-903-7043

Bob - 954-801-1758





Council Member Bob Hartmann

This November, three Town Charter amendments will be on the ballot.

The Town Charter is the Town's governing document like the US Constitution's purpose for our country. The Charter can only be changed through a process defined in the Charter. The process used by the Town, since the Town was created in 2000, has been, first, to seat a Charter Review Committee (CRC). The CRC holds public meetings and reviews the Charter, takes input, and recommends changes to the Council. Next. after reviewing the recommendations at Council meetings, the Council passes an ordinance, which contains the exact Charter questions that will appear on the general election ballot and the specific changes to the Charter that will be made if the amendments pass. Each Charter amendments must receive 60% of the vote or more of the Town's registered voters to be adopted. The Charter can also be changed by a public petition process also included in the Charter. The amendment language on the right will be on the ballot. Per state law, a summary of the amendment question shall be printed in clear and unambiguous language and must be answerable as yes or no. The summary may not exceed seventy-five words. The text below reflects the Charter changes.

The amendment #I adds a new requirement to run for Mayor. The change to the Charter, if passed would simply read: "The Mayor must be a resident of the Town for at least four years preceding the election."

Amendment #2 solves a problem that occurred a few years ago when a former Council Member resigned due to health reasons. Our current Charter exclusively requires a special election. When the situation above occurred, the Broward County Supervisor of Elections declined the Town's request for a special election. The Town received a Florida Attorney General opinion that under the circumstances the Council could appoint a new Council Member. The Charter will be changed to allow the Council to appoint a qualified resident voter to fill the vacancy within one hundred-twenty days by majority vote. The appointed Council Member will remain in

office until the next general election, where an election will take place to either finish the unexpired portion of the original term or commence a new term. If a majority vote cannot be obtained within the one hundred-twenty days, a special election will be held as soon as can be effectuated by the Supervisor of Elections complete the unexpired term. Concerning the case of replacing the Mayor, the Vice Mayor will fill the vacancy and will become the acting Mayor until the next regularly scheduled election, where an election will take place to either finish the unexpired portion of the Mayor's original term or commence a new term. A new Vice Mayor will be selected at the next Town Council Meeting. The acting Mayor may run for such election or, upon certification of the election results, will resume that Council Member's original District Seat. If the acting Mayor's District Seat is up for election, the acting Mayor may run for such election, and upon certification of the election results, will no longer be acting Mayor.

Southwest Ranches 2022 Charter Amendments

effectuate the following changes:

The Electorate will be asked, on the November ballot, whether the Charter should be amended to

Amendment #1

Town mayor residency requirement Should the Charter of the Town of Southwest Ranches be amended to require the Town Mayor to be a resident of the Town for at least four (4) years preceding the election?

Will the above-described amendment be adopted?

YES [] NO []

Amendment #2 Filling council vacancies.

Should the Charter of the Town of Southwest Ranches be amended to require the Town Council to fill a Council vacancy within one hundred -twenty days, or hold a special election, as soon as can be effectuated by the Supervisor of Elections to complete the unexpired term? In the case of the Mayor, the Vice Mayor would become the Acting Mayor until the next regularly scheduled election.

Will the above-described amendment be adopted? YES [] NO []

Amendment #3 Appointment

Appointment of the Charter review committee. Should the Charter of the Town of Southwest Ranches be

amended to require the Town Council to appoint a Charter Review Committee once every ten years following the publication of the census.

Will the above-described amendment be adopted?

Yes [] No [] AROUND'

continued from page 3

Amendment #3 changes а time requirement for the Charter Review Committee from meeting every four years to meet less frequently, every 10 years. If this amendment is adopted, the Council will appoint a Charter Review Committee once every ten (10) years following the publication of the census, which will contain at least five registered voters who are residents of the Town and whose responsibilities will include the review and analysis of the Charter and recommendations to the Council of proposed Charter amendments, without limitation. All recommendations of the Charter Review Committee will be considered by the Council and the Council may by ordinance propose amendments to the Charter upon recommendation of the Charter Review Committee. Upon passage of the initiating ordinance, the Council will submit the proposed amendment to a vote of the voters of the Town at the next general election held within the Town or at a special election called for such purpose.

If you have any questions or concerns about these charter amendments or any Town related matters, please call me at 954-801-1758. – Bob Hartmann





Council Member David S. Kuczenski

Howdy Folks, As we enter Octo-

ber, I'm calling this month's article "Report It." The reason I am writing about this issue this month is the Town as a whole, and moreover, within Sunshine Ranches, burglaries have been unacceptably increasing. I asked the administration for an analysis of reported burglaries in the Town divided by area. While at the time of making the request, I had a gut feeling of a disparity. I was astounded when I realized that the number of reported burglaries within Sunshine Ranches far exceeded the number of all the burglaries everywhere else in the Town ... combined. You read that right. If you add up all the reported burglaries everywhere else in the Town since January and compare those reports to the number of reported burglaries in Sunshine Ranches, the burglaries in Sunshine Ranches far exceed the number compared the rest of the Town.

I am leaning toward believing it is more than just a few bad kids. These facts seem just a bit too coincidental to be a few bad kids. It seems to be more organized to me. One recent police report identified a car with license plates registered in Hialeah, with 3 passengers driving at 3:40 in the morning East on Sunset Lane, then turning South on Hancock Road, then West on Luray Road, then back towards the North on Volunteer Road. While our Davie police officers pulled over the vehicle, no crime was detected, but they made the point that we are watching our homes.

On a recent early Friday morning, four incidents were reported from Holatee Trail to Mustang Trail. There was one instance of a firearm taken from an unlocked vehicle. One important fact identical to every location with criminal activity is every single vehicle that was entered was left unlocked or the key fob was left inside the car. Not one car was forcibly broken into. So, it comes down to this: first as every Council Member has stated at one time or another, lock your vehicles, take your fob inside your home, and never leave any valuables inside a car overnight. Second, we need more eyes looking for unusual events. If you see something unusual, report it. There just may be one seemingly insignificant fact that you may not matter to you that, however, links the incident to a larger picture that may tie many bad acts or actors together. Most importantly, you may not shoot another person unless that person has forced himself inside your home or if you have to defend yourself.

Back in January, your Council approved license plate readers (LPRs) that are in the process of final approval from Broward County and FPL. Earlier, a trial run was tested in Rolling Oaks and the results were effective on tracking vehicles entering the neighborhood. While more aggressive technology has been brought to my attention, such as facial recognition software, that option is simply not available; first, because it would require either thousands more cameras in front of every home or a check point at every entrance where every vehicle would be stopped, and every person would be required to exit the vehicle to be scanned. To be honest, we just do not have those resources and philosophically, I oppose that because it takes away from our freedom. The only weakness with the LPRs is if the vehicle has a stolen or covered plate. Next, I have received many calls from resi-

dents throughout the Town complaining of loud parties and /or activities that are not permitted within our Town. Most of these disturbances causing the complaints are from Airbnb parties or other for-profit parties, neither of which are allowed. The administration and/or code enforcement cannot take any action without an official record of the violation. Without a report, it becomes one neighbor complaining about another without proof. It does not take much effort to file a police report. Together we can preserve this special place we all call home.

I thank you for the privilege of serving you as your Council Member from District 4. If you wish to discuss an issue of concern, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will make every effort to return your call in 24-48 hours. I will give my best effort to help.

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

How do I contact WM Customer Service?

Call: (954) 974-7500

Website: www.wm.com One of the quickest ways to get information is through the website. On the main page at the bottom right corner, there is an option for a chat with a virtual assistant. The system will ask a few questions, but you will just need to put "request to speak with a representative" in the chat box, and it will take you to a live person on the chat.

Contract Term

The Franchise Agreement shall be for a term of eight years commencing on October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2030. The Town shall have the option, with the concurrence of selected vendor, to renew the Franchise Agreement for three (3) additional terms of one (1) year under the same terms and conditions as the initial term and conditions, including amendments, subject to approval by the Town Council.

Why did the Town choose WM?

The Town's contract with Waste Pro for solid waste services expires on September 30, 2022. Therefore, the Town had to solicit a new contract. The Town received responses from four (4) vendors. WM's proposal provided the best overall value and service. Waste Pro did not provide a response.

Who do I call about illegal dumping? Contact Town Hall and call Davie Police Department (954) 693-8326 to file a Report.

Who do I call if there has been damage to my property? Example: fence or mailbox? Call WM (954) 974-7500 or email

New Garbage Containers

What should I do if I want an additional garbage container?

Call Town Hall (954) 434-0008. Each additional solid waste container has a recurring annual fee of \$300.12 per container to collect and dispose of the additional waste. Payment for an additional cart(s) must be made in advance of collection annually. Payment can be made in the form of a check payable to the Town of Southwest Ranches or credit card payment made at Town Hall. If you decide you no longer need the additional cart, please call Town Hall to arrange pick-

Will WM pick up black garbage bags outside of my garbage container?

No, all bags must fit inside the garbage container. Will WM pick up in my existing 96-gallon garbage

container? No, garbage will only be picked up from WM containers with

the Town loao Can I order a second cart of a smaller size at a lower

expense for the cart and for collection?

What if I want a smaller cart?

Cart Exchanges - WM has a limited number of smaller carts available for those unable to manage the larger containers. Residents can swap a cart (96-gallon to 65-gallon for example) one time for no fee. If you then decide you want to revert, you will

be charged \$75 to do so. Call WM (954) 974-7500.

Does WM offer side yard service for disabled residents?

3' 10

Height: 45.13" Depth: 33.73" Width: 28.17

Yes, please contact Town Hall at (954) 434-0008. Documentation may be required.

A description on the size of the carts. Height: 45.13" Depth: 33.73" Width: 28.17"

Recycling Carts

Frequently Asked Questions

Please continue to use your existing blue recycling cart.

What should I do if I want an additional recycling cart? Contact WM (954) 974-7500. Additional recycling carts shall be collected at no additional cost to the Residential Service Unit or the Town.

Household garbage, recycle and bulk

Repair and Replacement of Solid Waste and Recycling Carts

Any carts damaged by WM, including extra Carts, shall be replaced by WM at no cost or inconvenience to the homeowner.

The cost of replacing carts due to loss, theft (without a documented police report), or destruction through no fault of WM shall be:

*Not to Exceed per Garbage Cart: \$ 100.00

*Not to Exceed per Recycling Cart: \$ 90.00

This fee may be collected from the residence by WM prior to or at the time of delivery of the cart.

Recyclable Materials

Recyclables must be dry, loose (not bagged) and include ONLY the following:

- Aluminum cans empty
- PET bottles with the symbol #1 with screw tops only empty
- HDPE plastic bottles with the symbol #2 (milk, water bottles, detergent, and shampoo bottles - empty
- Plastic containers with symbols #3 thru #7 empty (no expanded polystyrene)
- Steel and tin cans empty
- · Glass food and beverage containers brown, clear, or green - empty
- Newspaper
- Magazines, glossy inserts, pamphlets and catalogs · Uncoated paperboard (ex. Cereal boxes, food and
- snack boxes) Uncoated printing, writing, and office paper
- Old, corrugated containers / cardboard (uncoated)

Bulk Trash

6'0

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When can I place my bulk out for collection? The earliest you can place your bulk out for collection is the weekend before your collection date.

How much bulk can I put out?

Bulk piles should be limited to 12 cubic yards. This is approximately the size of a Volkswagen Beetle (approximately 8 feet wide by 10 feet long by 4 feet tall).

What will WM do if I have an oversized bulk pile?

WM will advise the homeowner of the overage. If the resident agrees, then there are no issues, and the homeowner will be billed accordingly.

If the resident disagrees, WM contacts Town staff. Town staff will meet on-site with WM and verify the size of the pile. If there is a disagreement, the pile size will be recalculated. If Town

staff agrees on the overage, both WM and Town staff will coordinate with the homeowner.

If the homeowner does not want to pay the overage, the pile will not be collected at that time and the resident will be responsible for removing the pile from the right-of-way. There is also a potential for the homeowner to only remove the overage amount and coordinate with WM to have the pile serviced at a later time

If the resident fails to remove any or all the excess material, WM is ultimately responsible for picking up the pile and will do so based on the contract language and will bill the homeowner accordingly.

If the homeowner fails to pay the overage invoice, the case will be forwarded to the Special Magistrate for consideration at a Town Code Hearing. If my bulk pile is over the limit, how much will I be charged per cubic vard?

If your bulk pile is more than 12 cubic yards you will be charged \$35.90 per cubic yard.

I would like a special bulk pick-up. Who do I call? WM (954) 974-7500.

Will WM pick up black bags filled with vegetation? Yes. Place the black bags filled with vegetation on the bulk pile

Bulk Trash Materials

Bulk Trash means those wastes that may require special handling and management including, but not limited to, furniture, White Goods (refrigerator doors must be removed and have Freon-free sticker), concrete, rubble, mixed roofing materials, rock, gravel and other earthen materials, equipment, wire and cable, couches, chairs, mattresses, tables, carpets and padding, glass items (glass items must be in a rigid taped container), wood pallets, chicken coops, PVC fences, wire fences, and wood fences (cut to 4 feet sections), other materials resulting from home improvements and any and all household goods that are customary to ordinary housekeeping operations of a Residential Service Unit. Bulk Trash must be generated by the customer at the Residential Service Unit at which the Bulk Trash is placed for Collection.

Bulk Trash does not include Contractor-Generated Waste or Exempt Waste.

Exempt Waste means Biohazardous or Biomedical Waste, Hazardous Waste, Sludge, tree parts or lumber that is more than four (4) feet in length in its longest dimension, automobiles, automobile parts, boats, boat parts, boat trailers, internal combustion engines, leadacid batteries, used oil and tires, those wastes under the control of the Nuclear Regulatory Council, Contractor-Generated Waste, Recyclable Materials generated and source separated by Commercial Customers, horse manure, and those other materials whose size and/or weight are in excess of that allowed for Bulk Waste as defined herein.

(SWR) SHOW YOUR TOWN SPIRIT SWR stickers are made for residents by the Country Estates Homeowners Association. Sticker's are \$1 each and are available at Town Hall, 13400 Griffin Rd. D LOX 10 0 0 SY GY

ND T



• 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-insur-ance-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 re-

pair, 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 and ask to speak to the Town Engineer, for 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.



With 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 d canals

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.*

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



Property Insurance Reform

Robin Bartleman, State Representative

In May, I went to Tallahassee to tackle the property insurance crisis. The market is in dire condition with the increasing number of insurance companies in the state that have dropped

policyholders, have been declared insolvent, or have stopped writing new policies. I continue to meet constituents and receive calls about policy cancellations, unreasonable rate increases, and residents being asked to replace their roofs as a condition of renewal. Many constituents are in litigation with insurance companies that are dropping them, and they cannot get new coverage until a repair is done.

I supported CS/SB 2-D because it represents a step in the right direction, though it is neither a perfect nor complete bill. The law does the following:

-Creates a unit within the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) to detect and prevent insolvency of insurers and monitor companies.

-Creates Reinsurance to Assist Policyholders program (RAP) to provide insurance companies with \$2 billion for hurricane related losses at no reinsurance cost to the companies; savings to them must be passed on to policyholders via reduced premiums.

-Creates a grant program for homeowners to harden their homes leading to savings.

-Allows property insurers to offer a separate roof deductible for non-hurricane loss.

-Protects consumers from non-renewal due to roof age.

-Makes a variety of changes to property insurance litigation costs which have been previously passed on to consumers and led to increased premiums.

It is important to note that experts believe consumers will not see relief with this law for 12-18 months.

I have also received calls from constituents who have been dropped by their insurance carrier and were denied homeowner's insurance coverage through Citizens Property Insurance Corporation – which is supposed to be our insurance of last resort. Homeowners are denied Citizens because the replacement costs of their home are over the \$700,000 threshold; many homeowners are finding their home is over the threshold because of increased construction costs.

After researching the issue, I found that Miami-Dade and Monroe County have a million-dollar threshold. Our market is similar to Miami-Dade's and there should be parity. In order to address this issue, I sent a written request directly to the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) asking the Commissioner to conduct a study regarding expansion of Citizens coverage.

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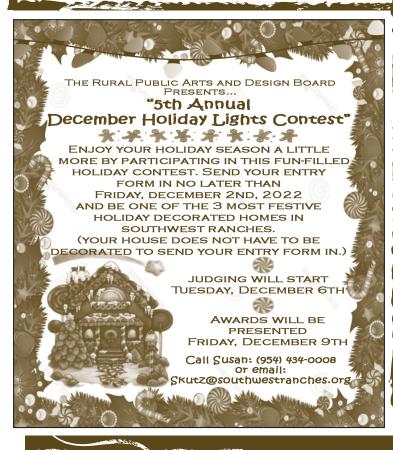
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I also filed a bi-partisan bill with Rep. Chip LaMarca and Senator Lauren Book, HB-13D to expand eligibility. I also filed an amendment to CS/SB-D for the same purpose. While the bill and amendment were not adopted, a discussion of eligibility on the House Floor brought attention to the issue, and I have been advised by the OIR that they have been diligently working on my request and hope to provide to me an update in the near future.

I look forward to going back next Session to improve upon homeowner's insurance reform and strike a balance between stabilizing the marketplace for carriers and protecting the consumer. I also anticipate changes to Citizens Property Insurance.

If you are dropped by a carrier or have issues with your property insurance, please call the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation at 1-877-693-5236.

It is an honor to serve you, and my office and I are here to assist you with any issues or concerns you may have. Feel free to contact me at robin.**bartleman@myfloridahouse. gov or our office at (954) 424-6828.** You can also reach me on my personal cell at (954) 668-3662.



Southwest Ranches

At the September 12th, 2022 First Public Budget Hearing and Council Meeting, the Mayor and Council Members took the time to praise the Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue Department. Several residents also commended the Southwest Ranches Fire Department for their dedication and service to the Town.

I want to thank you all for the acknowledgment. The Department is proud to serve our Residents

On another note, as stated in the past, new concrete electric power poles are being installed in place of wooden poles. I encourage you to clear and trim trees away from power lines. The power company is doing their part, now we need to do our part. "When the power is out, it gets hot quickly."

Fire Chief Lee Bennett

DECEMBER HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Town of Southwest Ranches Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board 13400 Griffin Road Southwest Ranches, Florida 33330

NAME: _____

PHONE:

I UNDERSTAND, ACKNOWLEDGE, AND AGREE THAT THE SUBMISSION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH OF MY HOME, WHICH I HAVE TAKEN, TO THE TOWN CONSTITUTES A "WORK MADE FOR HIRE," AND I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO THE WORK AND THE WORK PRODUCT, INCLUDING MORAL OR OTHERWISE. THIS STATEMENT SHALL CONTROL OVER THE PROVISIONS OF 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106/40, AND SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER BY ME OF ANY RIGHTS IN THE WORK SET OUT IN OR OTHERWISE GRANTED BY 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106/40, VISUAL ARTISTS RIGHTS KAT OF 1990. ALL OTHER RIGHTS IN AND TO THE WORK, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ALL RIGHTS IN THE NATURE OF "DROIT MORAL" RELATING TO ANY CONTINUING INTRERST I MAY HAVE IN THE MAINTENANCE OR MODIFICATION OF THE WORK, ARE EXPRESSLY WAIVED AND, INSOFAR AS SUCH RIGHTS ARE TRANSFERABLE, ARE ASSIGNED TO THE TOWN. MY WORK IS ORIGINAL AND T COMPLIES WITH ALL APPLICABLE PATENT, TRADEMARK AND COPYRIGHT LAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND CODES. I UNDERSTAND, ACKNOWLEDGE, AND GREE THAT THROUGH THE CONVEYANCE OF, REPRODUCED, SOLD, OR MODIFIED BY THE TOWN IN THE TOWN SSOLE DISCRETION.

(Date)

SIGNATURE:

WN Want to stay in touch and receive information on TOWN EVENTS? Send your email address to: druesga@southwestranches.org



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & BULK DROP OFF EVENT

Saturday, January 7th, 2023 . 8:00am to 2:00pm Location: Rolling Oaks Barn - 17630 SW 56th St., Southwest Ranches, 33331 Document shredding from 10-1pm . prescription drug drop off 10-2pm This service is provided for Town residents only. Proof of residency is required.

NOTE: Event may be can celled due to min evi eiup winde ar ath ACCEPTABLE HHW ITEMS ELECTRONICS RECYCLING UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS Aerosol Cans Antifreeze/Coolant/Paint Computers, Cables DVD Players, Appliances Key Boards, Mice, Adapters, Batteries & Auto Batteries Ashestos Monitors, Printers/Scanners, BBQ & Camp Size Propane Explosives or Ammunition Radios, Stero Components, TVs, Cleaners Medical/Infectious Waste Tape Players, VCRs Fluorescent Tubes/Bulbs Non-Residential Waste Garden Chemicals Latex/Oil-Based Paint Pesticides Pool Chlorine Tires (Up to 4 tires per household no rims) Used Oil & Filters For more information call Town Hall (954) 434-0008

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, October 26th 10am - 2pm By Appointment Only No Walk-Ins Call Town Hall (954) 434-0008



How is the \$50,000 Homestead Exemption Applied?

The history of Homestead Exemption dates to 1934 when Florida voters approved a \$5,000 exemption to help ease the burden of property taxes. This exemption amount was increased to \$10,000 in the 1960's by the Florida Legislature but was not yet incorporated into the Florida Constitution. A constitutional amendment adopted in 1980 increased the Homestead Exemption amount to \$25,000. In 2008, Florida voters adopted a constitutional amendment increasing the Homestead Exemption amount to \$50,000 based on the property's assessed value.

This amendment increasing the Homestead Exemption to \$50,000 is a bit complicated for a few reasons:

- The first \$25,000 of the exemption is applied by all taxing authorities to the first \$25,000 of your property's assessed value.
- The second \$25,000 exemption is NOT applied to the school portion of your tax bill. The school board budget – at roughly 37% of the entire tax bill – makes up the single largest portion of your property tax bill.
- The second \$25,000 of the exemption is applied to the portion of assessed value between \$50,000 - \$75,000. This means you will not receive the full benefit of the second \$25,000 if your property's assessed value is less than \$75,000. If your property's assessed value is less than \$50,000, you will not receive any additional savings from this second \$25,000 exemption.



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

Take care,







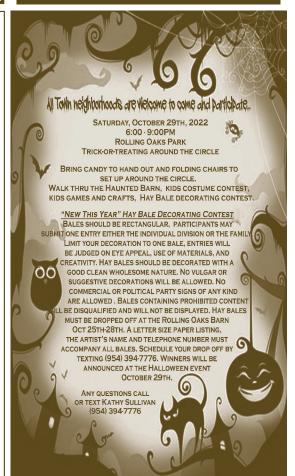
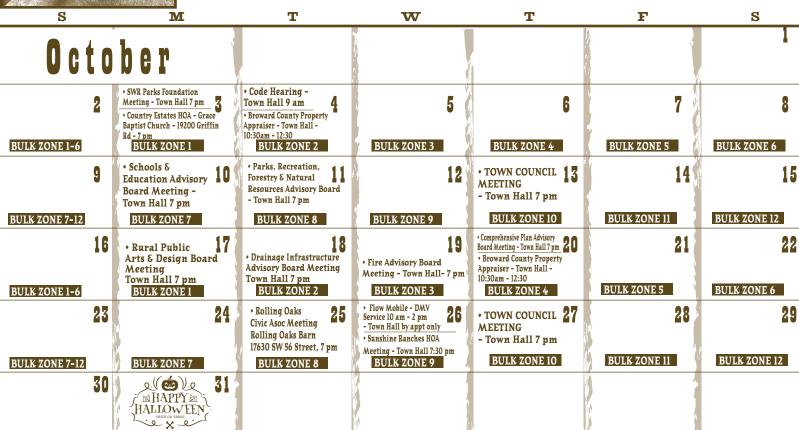




PHOTO BY: Andy Gonzalez "Represents the animal life in Southwest Ranches." (From the 2022 Photo Contest Calendar)

CALENDAR

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

	REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS	
△ CodeRED [™]	HIGHLY VISIBLE DAY OR NIGHT Order today this could help save your life or someone you love.	BROWARD.org
Emergency Notification System REGISTER NOW	IF WE CAN'T FIND YOU	ALERTIBROWARD SIGN UP
Are you getting emergency notifications and other critical information for your community? Sign up for Code RED to be certain that you are among the first to	WE CAN'T HELP YOU.	AlertBroward notifications will provide subscribers with important information in critical countywide situations
know about an evacuation order; weather warnings; hazardous road conditions; and other notices requiring your immediate attention and/or action. Register for CodeRED online today at www.southwestranches.org.	City/State/Zip: Phone:	such as hurricanes, evacuations, curfews, and open shelters. By signing up you'll receive time-sensitive calls to your home, business or mobile phones.s or emails.
Get notified immediately via telephone, text message or email. NAME: ADDRESS:	MOUNTING PREFERENCE: vertical (up/down) horizontal (left/right) COLOR PREFERENCE: green w/white letters blue w/white letters	https://www.broward.org/Emergency/Pages/AlertBroward.aspx
HOME PHONE: CELL PHONE: EMAIL:	Make Checks payable to: Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue	ALERT, BROWARD SIGN UP
Please indicate your contact preference by entering a 1, 2, or 3 in the boxes below.	17220 Griffin Rd, Southwest Ranches, Fl. 33331 For additional	
Home phone Cell Phone Email	information contact Chief Bennett at 954.868.2057	FLORIDA

BULK ZONE 1-6

BULK ZONE 1

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

<u>LLECTED OTTICIALS</u>		
Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	(954) 343-7462	sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org
Vice Mayor Gary Jablonski	(954) 343-7456	gjablonski@southwestranches.org
Council Member Bob Hartmann	(954) 343-7447	bhartmann@southwestranches.org
Council Member Jim Allbritton	(954) 343-7461	jallbritton@southwestranches.org
Council Member David S. Kuczenski	(954) 343-7472	dkuczenski@southwestranches.org
TOWN STAFF		
Andy Berns, <i>Town Administrator</i>	(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) 343-7451	druesga@southwestranches.org
Dan Stewart, Records and Administrative Coordinator	(954) 343-7443	dstewart@southwestranches.org
Tom Holste, General Services Manager	(954) 343-7476	tholste@southwestranches.org
Angelica Arosemena, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 434-0008	aarosemena@southwestranches.org
Emil C. Lopez, <i>Town Financial Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7473	elopez@southwestranches.org
Rich Strum, Town Controller	(954) 343-7442	rstrum@southwestranches.org
Venessa Redman, Senior Procurement & Budget Officer	(954) 343-7467	vredman@southwestranches.org
Arianna Durbeej, <i>Town Accountant</i>	(954-343-7477	adurbeej@southwestranches.org
Keith Poliakoff, <i>Town Attorney</i>	(954) 909-0580	kpoliakoff@southwestranches.org
Rod Ley, Public Works Director	(954) 343-7444	rley@southwestranches.org
Emily McCord Aceti, Community Services Manager	(954) 343-7453	eaceti@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, A <i>dministrative Assistant</i>	(954) 343-7454	mstringer@southwestranches.org
 TOWN SERVICES		
BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING – (CAP GOVERNMENT)) M-F 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	
Brian Dillon, <i>Building Official</i>	(954) 343-7446	bdillon@capfla.com
Joyce Marques, Permit Technician	(954) 343-7446	jmarques@capfla.com
DIANNING (SEDIING)		

PLANNING - (SEPIINC) Jeff Katims

ZONING/PERMITTING

Iulio Medina CODE Julio Medina, Code Enforcement Director

Code Enforcement Hotline Concepcion Campos, Code Enforcement Officer Marlon Gonzalez, Code Enforcement Officer Jenna Anderson, Administrative Coordinator

WASTE/BULK/RECYCLING SERVICES

WM (Waste Management) **REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS – Chief Bennett MOSQUITO CONTROL** LOST AND FOUND ANIMALS

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY Non-Emergency Davie Police Department Jeff Hobales, *Detective* Cheryl Danner, Police Services Coordinator Davie Fire Rescue Station 112 Volunteer Fire Rescue - Chief Bennett TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES

Potholes and Signs Down - Public Works Illicit Discharge - Environmental Response Line:

OTHER

WATER DISTRICTS - CANALS

Central Broward Water Control District *East of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)* South Broward Drainage District *West of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)*

g jkatims@sepiinc.com

zoninginfo@southwestranches.org

jmedina@southwestranches.org

ccampos@southwestranches.org mgonzalez@swranches.org janderson@southwestranches.org

lbennett@southwestranches.org

Facebook@SWRLostandFoundAnimals

(954) 764-4357 (HELP) (954) 693-8200 (954) 693-8326 (954) 693-8352 (954) 952-4608

(954) 519-1499

(954) 868-2057

(954) 475-3070

(954) 343-7458

(954) 343-7458

(954) 343-7449

(954) 343-7457

(954) 343-7440

(954) 343-7459

(954) 974-7500

(954) 868-2057

(954) 765-4062

(754) 224-0877

911

(954) 432-5110 (954) 680-3337 jeffrey_hobales@davie-fl.gov cdanner@southwestranches.org

publicworks@southwestranches.org online complaint form at http://www.broward.org/ Environment/Resources/Pages/EnviroComplaint.aspx

www.centralbrowardwcd.org

www.sbdd.org

