

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Newsletter of Southwest Ranches

March 2023

HIGHLIGHTS



Front Cover	Happy St. Patrick's Day
Page 2	Mayor's Message
Page 2-3	Council Member News
	Social Media, Town Talk, Clerk's Corner
	Fill Excavation & Site Grading Permits
Page 4	Happy Birthday Corner, Hazardous Waste, How to Do Business with the Town
	Sikh Youth, The 5th Annual 5K Run/Walk
	2nd Annual Country Fair Pictures
Page 5	Coyotes in Southwest Ranches
	Mayor's Monarch Pledge
Page 6 - 7	Flood Safety
	Mail-in Ballots - Robin Bartleman
	Did You Know
Page 8	Marty Kiar - Property Tax
	Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue
	Town Council
Page 9	American Robin, School Calendar
	Town Council Congratulates Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy
	WM/Waste Management
Page 10	March Calendar
	CodeRed
	Reflective Address Markers
	Mini-Flow
Page 11	In-Touch Town Contact Info
Back Cover	Southwest Ranches Country Fair 2023





Mayor Steve Breitzkreuz

The one thing that unites us here in the Ranches is our desire to live out, and preserve for the next generation,

our rural lifestyle. I want to commend Council Member Hartmann for his work, along with our Administration, to pull together a workshop focusing on this topic. It was very interesting to hear everyone's thoughts on this topic. There were recommendations on how to improve and enhance it as well as thoughts on the best way to protect it. While I will leave much of the details to Council Member Hartmann, I want to make two observations from the meeting.

First, it was interesting, and the residents at the meeting also noted this observation and smiled a bit, there is a fine line that we are walking with code and how they enforce our ordinances. I believe that we have an excellent Code Department and very much appreciate all of Julio's and his Team's efforts. They have a really tough job! But the interesting observation is that to protect our Rural Lifestyle, some residents want code to be more proactive. However, to protect our Rural Lifestyle, some residents want less intrusion by code into our lives. Frankly, I could see both points. I think the lesson here is that we as a Council need to think twice, maybe three times before implementing new ordinances. Any new ordinance needs to protect our freedoms as well protect our residents from the abuse of those freedoms. But it was a great conversation.

The second observation is that we had a really great crowd out that evening. That tells me that we, as a Town, are still in good shape. I know that I can safely say that your Council is unanimous in its desire and efforts to preserve our Rural Lifestyle. However, it is even more dependent on the residents. It is you who provide the Council with the backing when other interests apply pressure on the Town to back off our stance. We have not backed off in the past, and I know this Council will not back off in the future. But future Councils will still need this strong resident support to continue our efforts.

Finally, I am looking for feedback from you on a potential proposal. One thought that I had to be proactive and promote our Rural Lifestyle was to provide a minimal financial incentive for non-Ag properties that have a working Ag structure on their property and are using it for an Ag use. If it

is a true Ag property, then those properties are already getting a significant tax concession. However, many of us are not in the Ag business, but still enjoy the Ag lifestyle in one fashion or another. This potential change still needs a lot of work, but pro or con, I would very much like to hear your thoughts. If you have thoughts, concerns, recommendations on this topic, I would like to hear from you!

Thank-you as always for the opportunity to serve our Town as your Mayor. Sincerely, it is a huge honor. Please feel free to contact me should you have any concerns or recommendations for improvements.

FOLLOW US ON THE TOWN'S OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook page: @SWRGOV
- Twitter account: @SWR_gov
- YouTube: Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel

COMMENT FOLLOW

• Watch Town Council meetings
 • Get updated information on Town events
 • Quick notification to followers on emergency management issues

Town Talk

Want to stay in touch and receive information on TOWN EVENTS?

Send your email address to:
druesga@southwestranches.org



Council Member David S. Kuczenski

Howdy Ranchers,

I want to wish everyone a happy March.

During the past two

years, probably the number one complaint I hear concerns the speeding in our Town. Except for Mather Blvd. (SW 178th Ave), Volunteer Road (SW 148th Ave) and SW 172nd Ave the maximum speed within the Town on internal roads is 25 MPH. The speed limit is not just for the enjoyment of our residents; more importantly, it gives motorists ample time to stop in the event an animal runs across the street not knowing the dangers of a passing car. Well, Davie Police has responded to our requests, and they are doing so in an aggressive manner. During my Council Member comments, I have discussed the number of traffic citations issued by Davie Police district by district. I have learned that the overwhelming issue cited is speeding. I really hope the increased enforcement will act as a deterrent to future speeding.

On another note, many of you have visited the Town of Southwest Ranches Farmers Market located at the Southwest Meadows Preserve (Dykes Road at Griffin Road). While walking the Market one day, I was asked about where are the resident vendors. So, I asked the Rural Public Arts and Design Board to come up with a way to recognize resident vendors. The Board came up with a nice decorative placard that can be placed on a vendor's table. Each is not so overwhelming that it distracts from the resident vendor. I also want to thank our Rural Public Arts and Design Advisory Board for willingly accepting direction from the Council to work on changes to the Southwest Rancher newsletter. My vision for this is to update the publication. One item I believe the Council is quite interested in improving is creating more of a full color product. Overall I believe that having full color pictures (thanks to the hard work of Council Member Bob Hartmann) will bring a more attractive product to our residents.

Lastly, if you drive eastbound on Griffin Road towards Flamingo Road, just before the traffic signal to the right is the Town of Southwest

Ranches' Poliakoff Founders Park. On the eastern side of the park is a wall separating the pharmacy and our park, which over the years has appeared quite lackluster. A few years ago, I brought to the Council from the Board a vision to beautify the park with a mural. Initially the project consisted of six panels. That project looks great; however, since the dividing wall is much larger, it appeared incomplete. So, with the financial help of the Sunshine Ranches HOA, the Board moved forward with adding twelve more panels to the beautification project. Recently, the Board approved the suggestion from Laura Warren, so the park will have a beautiful mural facing the West.

Our goal as a Town is to keep what we have and do very little to change what we have. There is no other Southwest Ranches, and together we can protect and preserve our lifestyle.

Very Truly Yours,

David S Kuczenski

Council Member District 4

Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permits

Any activity or project involving fill, excavation, dredging, or grading will change the topography of a property. The changes in elevation warrant the need for a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit. This requirement is in accordance with Chapter 4, Code of Ordinance of the Town of Southwest Ranches. Elevation change can affect the conveyance of stormwater as well as altering drainage patterns inside and adjacent to the property. As a result, it is essential for the Town of Southwest Ranches and the respective Drainage District to be able to review and monitor such activities.

There are three levels of Fill Permits – Level One, Level Two, and Level Three. The level is determined by the amount of fill being brought in and the size of the property the fill is being brought to. Please note that one large truck of fill is approximately 18 cubic yards.

Some examples of activities that require a permit include the construction of a berm or retaining wall, excavation to create a pond, site grading, impacting wetlands, and filling in low areas. Please note that fill will not be allowed in any surface water management areas or within the swales in the Town's right of way.

Fill material brought in shall not contain any pollutants or toxic chemicals as they will contaminate the land and ground water. Fill material that is not sufficiently permeable is also not recommended.

There are exceptional cases where it will not be necessary to obtain a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit. Projects with an active development permit such as the construction of a new home, residential addition, pool and deck, etc., will not require a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit. Routine maintenance activities such as fill for an existing horse arena or stall, tree planting or removal, and water well repair will also not require a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit. Please note that properties that have Agricultural Exemption are not exempt from the requirements of a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit for material brought in.

For more information please view the application for a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit at <http://www.southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/development-permits-2/> or call Susan Kutz at skutz@southwestranches.org.



Clerk's Corner –

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE JANUARY 26, 2023 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Ordinance 2023-003 adopting the 5-year schedule of Capital Improvements for fiscal years 2023-2027.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-029 assigning the Town's planning, zoning and land use services to Transystems Corporation d/b/a Transystems Corporation Consultants.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-030 accepting and approving an agreement with Cypress Foundation Solutions LLC to complete the foundation encapsulation of the Volunteer Fire Department modular.

Brief legislation from the February 9, 2023 Town Council Regular Meeting:

- Adopted Resolution 2023-031 approving a site plan modification for Shiva Vishnu Hindu Temple to allow for demolition of the existing structure to construct a new multi-purpose structure.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-032 opposing any efforts to signalize the eastern portion of the I-75 interchange by the Florida Department of Transportation.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-033 approving a participation agreement for Mision Vida for utilization of its soccer fields by Weston FC Soccer Club.

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.

Amount of Fill (CY)	Property Size (Acres)			
Cubic Yards (CY)	Up to 2 Acres	Over 2 but not more than 5 Acres	Over 5 but not more than 10 Acres	Over 10 Acres
Up to 36 CY (2 trucks)	Level 1	Level 1	Level 1	Level 1
>36 CY up to 72 CY	Level 2	Level 1	Level 1	Level 1
>72 CY up to 144 CY	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	Level 1
>144 CY up to 288 CY	Level 3	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
>288 CY up to 360 CY	Level 3	Level 3	Level 3	Level 2
Over 360 CY	Level 3	Level 3	Level 3	Level 3

AROUND THE TOWN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Hunter Trontz - March 2



We hope your special day is filled with happiness and that all your wishes come true.

Have a birthday you would like to share with us in a future Town newsletter? Send your name and birthday to: Skutz@southwestranches.org

Household HAZARDOUS WASTE Disposal Days

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & BULK DROP OFF EVENT

Saturday, April 29th, 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. Proofs of residency is required.
NOTE: Event may be cancelled due to rain, excessive winds or other hazardous conditions as determined by the Town.

ACCEPTABLE HHW ITEMS

Aerosol Cans Antifreeze/Coolant/Paint
Batteries & Auto Batteries
BBQ & Camp Stove Propane
Cleaners
Fluorescent Tubes/Bulbs
Garden Chemicals
Latex/Oil-Based Paint
Pesticides
Pool Chlorine
Tires - 4 tires (no rims) per household
Used Oil & Filters

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Computers, Cables, DVD Players,
Key Boards, Mice, Adapters,
Monitors, Printers/Scanners,
Radios, Stereo Components, TVs,
Tape Players, VCRs

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Appliances
Asbestos
Explosives or Ammunition
Medical/Infectious Waste
Non-Residential Waste



**Sikh Youth
ASSOCIATION**

HEARTWAY
WWW.HEARTWAYCHURCH.COM
@weareheartway



MISSION VIDA CHURCH



SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA
FOUNDED JUNE 2004
Preserving Our World's Heritage

THE 5TH ANNUAL "A RACE FOR UNITY IN DIVERSITY" 5K RUN/WALK

**FUNDS BENEFIT THE TOWN COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**



Leap into diversity with us on
April 1st, 2023 at 7:30 A.M.
Rolling Oaks Park
17630 SW 56 St, Southwest Ranches, 33331

Website: www.thesikh youthassociation.org
For any questions, please contact
Manmeet Gulati at (561) 445 - 7987

EARLY BIRD IS \$15 AGES 6-12,

\$20 AGES 13 & UP

TILL JANUARY 15

"HOW TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE TOWN" FROM FINANCE & BUDGET

The Town welcomes participation from all vendors qualified to do business with the Town. The Procurement page on the Town's website explains the steps for completing a Vendor Application.

Below are the processes used by the Town when soliciting goods and services.

QUOTES

An informal competitive process which solicits pricing information from several sources that does not require a formal sealed bid or proposal, public opening, or other legal formalities.

BIDS

All goods or services above \$25,000 must be competitively bid as per the Town procurement policy (ORD 2022-005). All bid meetings are open to the public and posted on the Town's website.

Town of Southwest Ranches purchasing thresholds and authority levels are below:

Amount	Authority
LEVEL 1: Less than \$1,000	Department Head No quotations are required.
LEVEL 2: Equal to or greater than \$1,000 But less than \$25,000	Department Head and written approval by Town Administrator 2 written or verbal quotes to the extent practicable.
LEVEL 3: Equal to or greater than \$25,000 But less than \$25,000	Town Administrator 3 written quotes are required.
LEVEL 4: Equal to or greater than \$25,000	Town Council Competitive Procurement



SOUTHWEST RANCHES 2nd ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR

The Carnival was one of the most popular events this year thanks to Aster Knight the Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation. Residents and visitors flocked to the Carnival for entertainment, food and a variety of attractions geared toward the entire family. This year's fair ran from January 12th thru January 16th.

AROUND THE TOWN

COYOTES IN SOUTHWEST RANCHES

In Southwest Ranches, coyote sightings are beginning to be more commonplace. Many Southwest Ranches residents view these animals unfavorably and often fear their presence. There are many measures residents can take to protect livestock, pets, and family from unwanted coyote interactions. Perhaps the most important action we can take to avoid conflict is to become familiar with this adaptable predator now thriving in our midst.

NATIVE SPECIES

Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are native to North America. They arrived in Florida as part of natural range expansion linked to human urbanization, and have been documented in every county in our state for years.

This medium-sized canine is a close relative of the domestic dog, and can even procreate with our domestic dog species. Controlling the roaming of non-neutered pets is an important step in the control of hybridization of coyotes.

Coyotes range in weight from 15-46 pounds, and hold their bushy tails down (even when running), while dogs curl their tails upward. Hybrid coyote/dog progeny have been known to grow larger.

Like raccoons and other wildlife, coyotes are extremely adaptable and can be found in rural, suburban, and urban landscapes. Coyotes are experts at catching rodents, raccoons, foxes, chickens, baby sheep and goats, and other small animals. They bring live mice for their young to practice hunting. Their hunting helps maintain balance in the ecosystem.

keeping populations at bay. Omnivorous, they enjoy berries, fruits, and vegetables, as well.

TAKE UP THE WELCOME MAT!

Being as adaptable as they are, coyotes are intelligent and can often frustrate human efforts to exclude them from livestock areas.

In recent years, as people have become more interested in raising small livestock, Southwest Ranches has become a prime attraction for predators such as coyotes. Southwest Ranches is now an ideal hunting environment, with large numbers of backyard chickens, goats and sheep, as well as small pets, roaming our yards. Naturally, coyote populations have grown in response to this abundance of "prey" animals.

Providing a less welcoming environment will help to discourage coyotes from hunting in our backyards.

DO NOT FEED THEM, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Clean-up fallen fruit from underneath trees, and seed from around the base of bird feeders. Clean up pet feeding stations. Keep garbage bins secured. By minimizing the available food sources, predator populations can be expected to reduce.

PROTECT SMALL LIVESTOCK AND PET ANIMALS

Coyotes can and do prey on domestic cats and small dogs. While most attacks occur either at night or in the early evening or morning hours (dusk and dawn), Coyotes are opportunistic feeders, and will hunt in daytime, as well.

To protect your pets and livestock, do not allow them to roam unsupervised. Provide shelter and supervision for animals kept outside.

For chickens, goats, sheep or other small animals kept in a



coop or fenced yard, be aware that fences at least 6 feet high deter coyotes better than 4 or 5 foot fences, because coyotes can jump and climb. Check the bottom of the fence regularly, and bury a portion of the wire below ground level as coyotes can also climb under fences. Installing coyote rollers or hot wire, and burying fences below the ground can prevent them getting in.

Be extra careful when walking your pet in areas with heavy foliage, where coyotes may rest.

Free-roaming cats are at a high risk of being preyed on by coyotes and other animals. Keep cats indoors.

COEXIST SAFELY - AVOID CONFLICTS

Remember that all wildlife will attempt to protect themselves or their young if threatened — keep your distance.

Coyotes are typically shy and elusive but encounters between people and coyotes in Florida are occurring more often as habitat loss and fragmentation continue due to land development for human use. Rarely posing a threat to people, they can be curious, but generally will run away if challenged.

Do not attempt to hurt a coyote -- injured animals are more likely to defend themselves. The goal should be to scare the coyote away.

"GIT, VARMINT!"

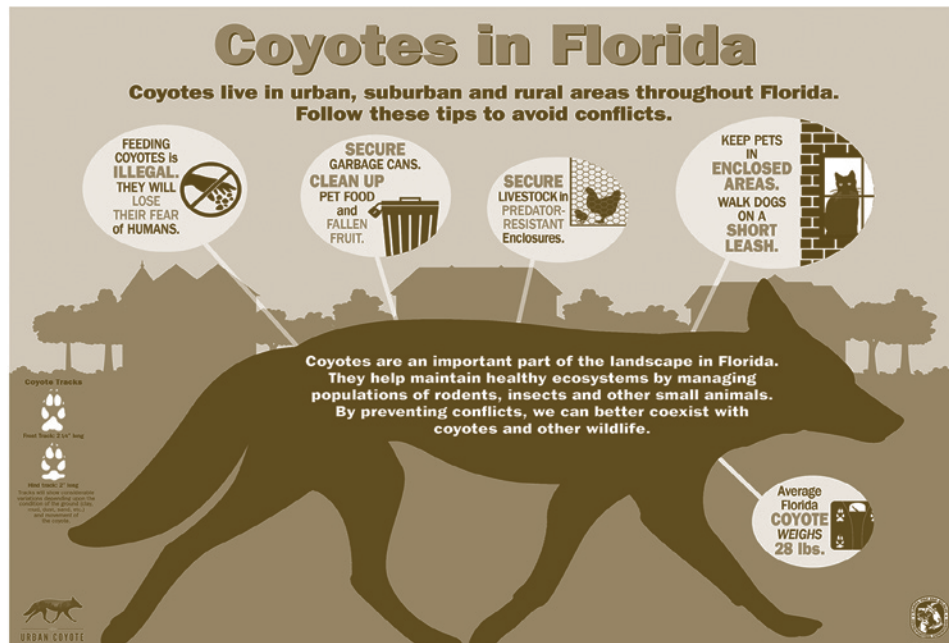
Methods used to deter and frighten away coyotes that approach human habitat are called "hazing."

Making loud noises and acting aggressively will typically cause a coyote to leave an area. A "coyote shaker" made from placing pebbles or coins in an empty drink container can be an effective noisemaker. Spraying water from a hose or using bear repellent can also be effective hazing methods.

Teach children to recognize coyotes. If children are approached by a coyote, have them move slowly inside and yell loudly — teach them not to run, approach, or feed coyotes.

THE TAIL END

Coyotes are a part of the South Florida ecosystem. By arming ourselves with information and being proactive, we may find it more possible to coexist with native wildlife species.



Excerpted and adapted from information at <https://myfwc.com/conservation/you-serve/wildlife/coyotes/>

AROUND THE TOWN



- **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 insured lenders are required to buy flood insurance, all residents should consider flood 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

AROUND THE TOWN

continued from page 6

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 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.

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



March 2023 MAIL-IN BALLOTS

Be sure to request your vote-by-mail ballots for the upcoming election cycle! Under a new law passed last year, all previous vote-by-mail requests have expired. You must now request a mail-in ballot every election cycle. If you fill out the request form, you must use the identification method you originally used to sign up: either your driver's license number or the last four digits of

your Social Security number.

New requests can be sent at browardvotes.gov and will be valid through December 31, 2024. Please contact the Supervisor of Elections at (954) 357-VOTE (8683) or at browardvotes.gov to request a vote-by-mail ballot.

Appropriations

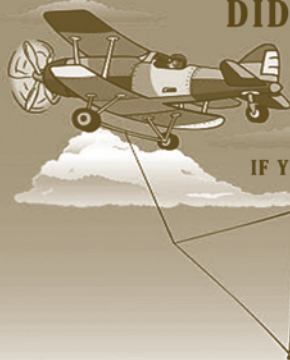
Before the start of this year's legislative session, my office and I have been working around the clock to fight for appropriations for District 103. Below are some of the appropriations we filed specific to the Town of Southwest Ranches:

SW 57 Court Drainage Improvements: During storm events, stormwater runoff floods the SW 185 Way and SW 57 Court right-of-way. Constructing a stormwater conveyance system on SW 185 Way and SW 57 Court right-of-way to outfall into an existing South Broward Drainage District secondary canal to the east will improve the road's usability during storm events. I have filed a funding request for \$300,000 to fix this.

Sunshine Ranches Drainage Improvements: The intersection of SW 136 Avenue and SW 66 Street experiences frequent flooding. This proposed \$175,000 project consists of constructing a drainage collection system inclusive of underground piping, drainage inlets, and swale (the space in between the street and the sidewalk) re-grading along the SW 66 Street right-of-way in the Sunshine Ranches neighborhood. This project will better protect the intersection from storm events.

Rehabilitation of triple 96-inch metal drainage culverts. A \$262,500 request would, if granted, allow South Broward Drainage District to fix three large drainage culverts which serve a 4,160-acre drainage basin, providing drainage, flood protection, and water management services.

It is an honor to serve you and we are here to assist with any issues or concerns you may have. I welcome ideas and suggestions. Feel free to contact me anytime 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.



DID YOU KNOW...
THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES DOES NOT HAVE A TOWN FLAG?
THE RURAL PUBLIC ARTS AND DESIGN BOARD WOULD LIKE YOUR INPUT AND IDEAS FOR A TOWN FLAG..
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE WATCH THIS YOUTUBE VIDEO...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnv5iKB2hl4>
(CREATING A TOWN FLAG-ROMAN MAKES WHY CITY FLAGS MAYBE THE WORST DESIGNED THING YOU'VE NEVER NOTICED.)

Email your ideas to skutz@southwestranches.org and please subject the email: Town flag

AROUND THE TOWN



MARTY KIAR
BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

2023 Homestead Exemption/Save Our Homes Cap Set by the State

The Florida Department of Revenue has set the 2023 Save Our Homes (SOH) cap at 3%. This SOH assessment cap limits increases to the Assessed/SOH Value for properties receiving Homestead Exemption to no more than 3% per year or the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) regardless of increases to the just value of the property. This cap results in considerable property tax savings over time for properties with Homestead Exemption. It is important to remember this is not a cap on the actual taxes, but rather a cap on the amount the Assessed/SOH Value of the property may increase annually.

Important: The Save Our Homes cap begins the year after you receive Homestead Exemption. This cap does not cover new construction or construction that was not taxed before the "Save Our Homes" limit applied to a particular property. When buying/acquiring real estate, do not assume the property taxes will remain the same as the current owner's taxes. Under Florida law, a change in ownership will reset the assessed value of the property to full market value, which could result in higher property taxes. To help property owners better prepare, our office offers a New Homebuyer's Tax Estimator on our website at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#!/Tax-Estimator>.

Late Filing Exemption Deadline - September 18, 2023

Homestead Exemption automatically renews each year provided there is no change in the ownership or use of the property. If you are already receiving Homestead Exemption on your current home, you do not need to reapply. If you have not yet applied for your 2023 Homestead Exemption, Low-Income Senior Exemption, or any other exemption, you can still late file until September 18, 2023. To apply for any of these exemptions, please visit <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#!/Homestead>. Once the September statutory "late-filing" deadline has closed, we cannot accept any more 2023 exemption applications regardless of any good cause reason for missing the late filing deadline. Property owners who moved to a new home in 2023 can pre-file for tax year 2024 at https://bcpa.net/homesteadonline_with_portability/web/index.aspx.

If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 954-357-6830 by email at martykiar@bcpa.net.

Take care,

Marty Kiar

Marty Kiar, CFA
Broward County Property Appraiser



There have been several dogs found wandering throughout Southwest Ranches. It is alarming to see lost dogs running along Griffin Road. Some of the dogs found were very skinny and dehydrated. They appeared to be groomed, so they have a family somewhere. We are the voice for our animals, they depend on us to care for them and protect them. Please make sure to secure and protect your animals.

Furthermore, make sure your pet(s) wear tags and collars with up-to-date information and identification. Microchipping your pet(s) is one the best ways to reunite your pet with your family. Make sure to keep the information current and accurate.

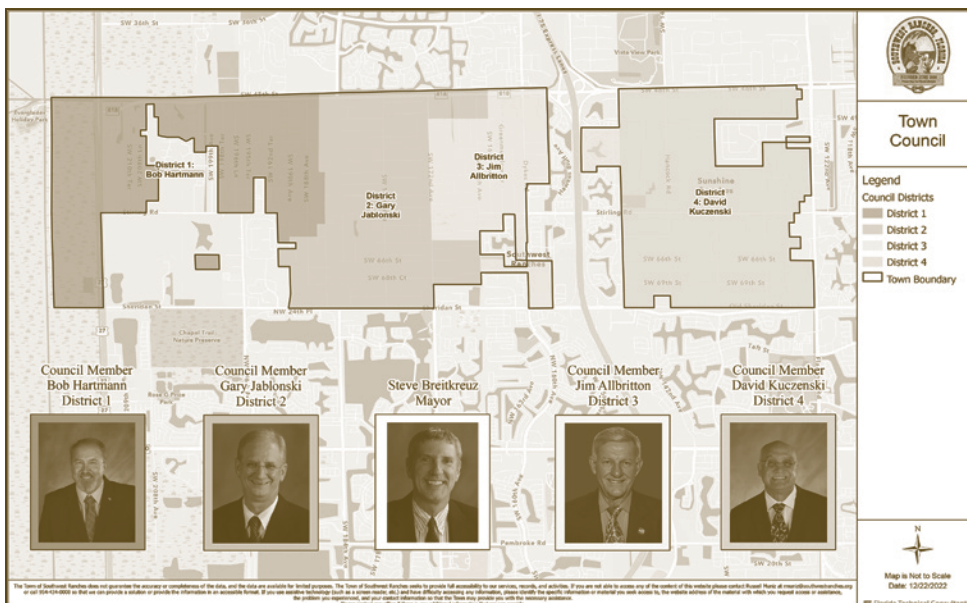
Unfortunately, there were several dogs that the owners could not be found, and the dogs were picked up by the Broward County Animal Control (954) 359-1313.

The Humane Society of Broward County (954) 989-3977.

The Southwest Ranches Firefighters have been training on the vehicle extrication a process of removing a vehicle from around a person who has been involved in a motor vehicle accident and is trapped or when conventional means of exit are inadvisable or impossible.

What a grand day for the birthday girl. Karen surprised her mother, Marcella, at her 96th birthday party with a visit from the SW Ranches Volunteer Fire Department. She couldn't believe how much of a fuss that the Fire Department and all the family and friends made over her. She was so elated!! All the party goers loved to see the fire truck. Especially the little ones!

Stay Safe,
Fire Chief Lee Bennett



AROUND THE TOWN

Earth's Best Natural Pest Management



AMERICAN ROBIN

(Turdus migratorius)

The Florida Robin Migration

American Robins are common winter visitors to Florida. Between October and April, you can hear their characteristic chattering vocalizations as they gather in flocks around fruit trees and along roadsides. In spring, most robins migrate north to breed, but a few have recently begun to nest in north and central Florida. You may have noticed they are now in your South Florida backyard!

Robins can withstand extremely cold temperatures, adding warm, downy feathers to their plumage. The real motivation is food, or the lack of it. As their warm-weather diet of earthworms and insects wanes, robins begin searching for fresh supplies. First, they change their diet. They are transitioning from protein-rich invertebrates to vitamin-rich winter fruits and berries, including junipers, hollies, crabapples, and hawthorns. They also begin moving. In the spring and summer, robins aggressively defend their territories and raise young. In the winter, they become nomadic, searching widely for their favorite cold-weather fare. Weather also influences robin movements. A heavy snowfall that persists for more than a few days may send them on their way, searching for better conditions.

Attracting robins to your yard.

While it may be true that having a garden will automatically attract wildlife, it is best to install

plants that will attract the kind of wildlife you want to see in your garden. To have greater success at attracting robins to your garden here are a few plants to consider. To start with, consider sunflowers. While a bad cold snap may stunt them, they should still grow to a decent size and produce seeds if you plant them in the fall. These giant flowers attract seed-eating birds of all kinds.

In addition to planting edible berries and fruits, robins will also need access to plants that are able to provide shelter and protection. While these birds are known to nest in many separate places, taller trees offer even more options during nesting season. If you are unable to plant trees in your location, nesting ledges (specifically for robins) are another great option for homeowners wishing to experience the nesting process. Remember, never disturb the robins' nests: they can become very protective and territorial of nests. It is best to place nesting ledges where they will not be bothered. Beyond nesting, robins will need protection from inclement weather, as well as from predators. In regions where the birds overwinter, evergreen trees and shrubs are extremely valuable in terms of protection from wind, cold, and even snowy conditions. Plants with heavy, thick foliage also help deter attacks from neighborhood cats and flying predators. Do not forget...be sure to include a water source for our northern friends.



<https://insectfree.com/articles/green-tips-and-tricks/florida-robin-migration/>

March 2023 Broward County School Calendar

MARCH				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

Thursday, March 16th
Early Release Day

Friday, March 17th
Employee Planning Day - No School For Students

Monday, March 20th thru March 24th
School Closed



QUICK ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS TO TRACK AND GET
INFORMATION ABOUT BULK,
GARBAGE AND RECYCLE SERVICES

The Town has developed a way for everyone to verify the dates for solid waste services at your residential property in Town.

PLEASE VISIT THE TOWN WEB SITE

www.southwesttranches.org,

click on Town Resources, Garbage and Recycling, and once the page opens click on solid waste, bulk waste, and recycling service lookup.

Once the page opens, type in your address and you will be able to determine your bulk zone, bulk collection day, bulk dates for 2023, garbage and recycling collection days of the week and the Council District and representative.

Town Council Congratulates Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy



Town Council congratulates Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School with a Proclamation on its 25 years of Catholic education in our community.

Picture by: Angelica Ng



PHOTO BY: Young Sirota

CALENDAR

March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10-3 pm
			BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
5	6 • Code Hearing - Town Hall 9 am • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm • Country Estates HOA - Grace Baptist Church - 19200 Griffin Rd - 7 pm BULK ZONE 1	7 • Broward County Property Appraisers Town Hall 10:30-12:30 pm BULK ZONE 2	8 Q&A with the Mayor 7 pm BULK ZONE 3	9 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 4	10 BULK ZONE 5	11 • Barn Dance Rolling Oaks Barn • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10-3 pm BULK ZONE 6
12 SPRING Forward Daylight Savings Time	13 • Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 7	14 • Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 8	15 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 9	16 • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 10	17 Saint Patrick's Day BULK ZONE 11	18 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10-3 pm BULK ZONE 12
19	20 • Rural Public Arts & Design Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 1	21 • Drainage Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 2	22 • Flow Mobile - DMV Service 10 am - 2 pm - Town Hall by appt only BULK ZONE 3	23 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 4	24 BULK ZONE 5	25 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10-3 pm BULK ZONE 6
26	27 District 3 Civic Assoc Meeting 2 - 7 pm - Zoom BULK ZONE 7	28 • Rolling Oaks Civic Assoc Meeting Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56 Street, 7 pm BULK ZONE 8	29 • Sunshine Ranches HOA Election 7:30 - 9 pm Drive thru BULK ZONE 9	30 BULK ZONE 10	31 BULK ZONE 11	

CodeRED™ Emergency Notification System REGISTER NOW

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 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.
Get notified immediately via telephone, text message or email.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
HOME PHONE: _____
CELL PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____

Please indicate your contact preference by entering a 1, 2, or 3 in the boxes below.

☐ Home phone ☐ Cell Phone ☐ Email

REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS

HIGHLY VISIBLE DAY OR NIGHT

Order today...

this could help save your life or someone you love.

IF WE CAN'T FIND YOU...
WE CAN'T HELP YOU.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____

MOUNTING PREFERENCE:

vertical (up/down) _____ horizontal (left/right)

COLOR PREFERENCE:

_____ green w/white letters _____ blue w/white letters

Make Checks payable to:
Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue
17220 Griffin Rd,
Southwest Ranches, Fl. 33331

For additional
information contact
Chief Bennett at 954.868.2057

\$20.00

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, MARCH 22nd
By Appointment Only

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

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 Jim Allbritton	(954) 343-7461	jallbritton@southwestranches.org
Council Member Bob Hartmann	(954) 343-7447	bhartmann@southwestranches.org
Council Member Gary Jablonski	(954) 343-7456	gjablonski@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, <i>Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7474	dcaban@southwestranches.org
Russell Muñiz, <i>Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7450	rmuniz@southwestranches.org
Debra M. Ruesga, <i>Deputy Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7451	druesga@southwestranches.org
Dan Stewart, <i>Records and Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7443	dstewart@southwestranches.org
Tom Holste, <i>General Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7476	tholste@southwestranches.org
Angelica Arosemena, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 434-0008	aaosemena@southwestranches.org
Emil C. Lopez, <i>Town Financial Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7473	elopez@southwestranches.org
Rich Strum, <i>Town Controller</i>	(954) 343-7442	rstrum@southwestranches.org
Venessa Redman, <i>Senior Procurement & Budget Officer</i>	(954) 343-7467	vrredman@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, <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
Susan Kutz, <i>Administrative Specialist, Newsletter Editor & Graphic Designer</i>	(954) 343-7460	skutz@southwestranches.org
December Lauretano-Haines, <i>Parks, Recreation & Open Space Manager</i>	(954) 343-7452	dlauretano@southwestranches.org
Melinda Stringer, <i>Administrative 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, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446	jmarques@capfla.com
Jennifer McCarty, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7445	jmccarty@capfla.com

PLANNING

Jeff Katims	(954) 475-3070	jkatims@sepiinc.com
-------------	----------------	---------------------

ZONING/PERMITTING

Julio Medina	(954) 343-7458	zoninginfo@southwestranches.org
--------------	----------------	---------------------------------

CODE

Julio Medina, <i>Code Enforcement Director</i>	(954) 343-7458	jmedina@southwestranches.org
Code Enforcement Hotline	(954) 343-7449	
Concepcion Campos, <i>Code Enforcement Officer</i>	(954) 343-7457	ccampos@southwestranches.org
Jenna Anderson, <i>Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7459	janderson@southwestranches.org
Manfred Velette, <i>Assistant Code Enforcement Director</i>	(954) 343-7440	mvelette@southwestranches.org

WASTE/BULK/RECYCLING SERVICES

WM (Waste Management)	(954) 974-7500	
REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS – Chief Bennett	(954) 868-2057	lbennett@southwestranches.org
MOSQUITO CONTROL	(954) 765-4062	
LOST AND FOUND ANIMALS	(754) 224-0877	Facebook@SWRLostandFoundAnimals

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY

Non-Emergency	911	
Davie Police Department	(954) 764-4357 (HELP)	
Jeff Hobales, <i>Detective</i>	(954) 693-8200	
Cheryl Danner, <i>Police Services Coordinator</i>	(954) 693-8326	jeffrey_hobales@davie-fl.gov
Davie Fire Rescue Station 112	(954) 693-8352	cdanner@southwestranches.org
Volunteer Fire Rescue - Chief Bennett	(954) 952-4608	
	(954) 868-2057	

TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES

Potholes and Signs Down - Public Works		publicworks@southwestranches.org
Illicit Discharge - Environmental Response Line:	(954) 519-1499	online complaint form at http://www.broward.org/Environment/Resources/Pages/EnviroComplaint.aspx

OTHER

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.sbddd.org
West of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)		



Town of Southwest Ranches

13400 Griffin Road

Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI, FL
PERMIT #622



Printed on Recycled Paper

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!

facebook

FACEBOOK:
facebook@SWRGOV

YouTube

YOUTUBE:
Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel



TWITTER:
@SWR_Gov

CLICK ON QR CODE TO VISIT US AT
WWW.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG



~ SOUTHWEST RANCHES COUNTRY FAIR 2023 ~
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR HELPING MAKE THIS EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS!

FLORIDA COAST EQUIPMENT INC., VM ERECTORS, CHILLO GROUP,
GENTEL TEETH, AIR PROS USA, CAMP LINGUA, R & R NURSERY, M.C. DIRT MOVERS INC.,
MURPHY'S BED'S, ALPHA REALTY, JAYSON KAPIT

