

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Newsletter of Southwest Ranches

April 2023

HIGHLIGHTS



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Back Cover	Photo Contest, Earth Day



Photo submitted by 12 year old Juliette Coley for the 2023 Town of Southwest Ranches Rural Public Arts and Design Board Photo Contest.





Mayor Steve Breitzkreuz

April Article -

Back in my February article for the Rancher, I mentioned how critical and at times frustrating communication in both directions it can be between the Residents and the Town / Council. Everyone wants better communication, but it takes action to achieve. I won't go back over the details of that article, but suffice it to say, that this is an area that can always be improved. I really want to thank the residents that reached out to me. Some were with affirmation, and some indicated areas where we could improve. Thank-you! It was great to get the feedback and you absolutely answered my question if anyone was reading the articles!

I want to call out one individual in particular who took the message and ran with it. That individual is Rose Allbritton, wife of Vice Mayor Jim Allbritton. She is the Chair on the Rural Public Arts and Design Advisory Board. She took that message and tasked this Town Board to take a fresh look at the Rancher Newsletter, the newsletter you are reading right now. They are looking at new ways to make it more readable (Some residents pointed out that as we get older the brown-on-brown printing can be tougher to read.) and also ways to make it more appealing like adding more color and additional content. I am very excited to see what they come up with. Also, Susan Kutz is the Staff Liaison for this board. She has done an amazing job for many years in putting together our newsletter, and I can't express my thanks enough for all of her past efforts and how she is partnering with the Board to now make the newsletter even better. I can't wait to see the final product. My thanks to Susan, Rose and the entire board. As well as all those that forwarded me suggestions.

One other area that I specifically wanted to call out is our Email notifications. If you want to keep up with what is going on in Town, please go to our website and sign up for our event email blast. We promise that we will not flood your inbox. Generally, you will get one maybe two emails a week and they are very quick and targeted toward specific events in Town that you may want to be aware of or participate in. To sign up:

- Go to our Town website: www.southwestranches.org
- Scroll down the main page till you see the tile

with the beautiful tree scene and the title "New Resident Resources". Click on that tile.

- In the lower right-hand corner of the page that appears, you will see where it says "Sign up for Email Updates". Below that is a place to enter and submit your email address.

- Please double check that you enter the email address correctly.

- That's it!

Of course, should you decide you no longer want the emails you can always unsubscribe. Let's keep working on our communication. This is one of the keys to being a strong close-knit community. Finally, as I do occasionally, I wanted to pass on my personal phone number, 954-296-6018, for direct communication. As always, if you feel something is going on and normal channels are not working, please feel free to call me so that we can work to get things done right.

Thank-you as always for the opportunity to serve our Town as your Mayor. I never cease to appreciate what an honor it truly is. Please feel free to contact me should you have any concerns or recommendations for improvements.



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 leasee 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**



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

**Send your email address to:
druesga@southwestranches.org**



Vice Mayor Jim Allbritton

Good day Southwest
Ranchers

Let me start by
reminding everyone

that the Town has two traffic calming speed trailers, and we are looking for input as to where they should be placed. The trailers are usually in position for a two-week period to remind the residents of the appropriate speed limit in their area. If you would like a speed trailer in your area, please send me an email stating the location, and I will pass it on to Town Hall.

There are several drainage projects and street repaving projects coming up in the near future. I know that in the past, some of these projects have been a real problem for the residents by taking almost two years to complete. Hence, the Town has made a commitment to better communicate with the residents, about what is being done along with approximate completion times.

Florida Power and Light's storm hardening project is being implemented throughout the Town. They are putting up new poles, doing underground boring to bring power off the overhead poles and installing new ground mounted transformer boxes. There will be heavy equipment on the streets blocking traffic lanes, so please be cautious in these areas.

The Rural Public Arts Advisory Board has been tasked with helping the Town develop a better communication outreach program for our residents. The Board is looking to revamp the Town newsletter to make it easier to read and more colorful. The newsletter currently is mailed to each household, making it a very valuable tool to disseminate information. Southwest Ranches also has a Town messaging email called "TOWN TALK." If you want to stay in touch with what is happening around Town and receive email notifications, please send your email address to druesga@southwestranches.org. In addition, The Town currently has several media outlets including Facebook, You Tube, and Twitter that residents can use to stay informed.

Our Comprehensive Planning Advisory Board is currently working on language for a fireworks ordinance to present to Council. This proposed

ordinance would prohibit the use of fireworks, except on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and the Fourth of July, which are protected by State Law. During the Broward Days Session in March, Council Members Jablonski and Kuczenski, and I had the privilege of speaking to our State Representatives in Tallahassee about this ordinance as well as other Town issues. We will be looking forward as to the outcome of this legislative session.

Furthermore, our Drainage and Infrastructure Advisory Board is looking at ways to address the illegal fill issues that have been a significant problem for quite some time.

In closing, I would like to say congratulations to the School & Education Advisory Board for another successful start to the "Flamingo Flocking Season." The Barn Dance was a real HOEDOWN, with line dancing, great food, an amazing auction and GREAT FELLOWSHIP that was enjoyed by ALL.

If I can be of any help, please reach out by email (jallbritton@southwestranches.org) or by phone # 954-343-7461 / # 305-903-7043.

JIM ALLBRITTON



Council Member David S. Kuczenski

Howdy Ranchers,

When I was elected, the leading complaint that residents had was about speeding. Whether the family lived on 127th Ave or 188th Ave, it was the same story. In response, the Council Members and the Town Administration aggressively implemented several new traffic control measures. A very close second complaint concerned trash pick-up, whether it was garbage, bulk or recycling. Beyond any doubt, the quality of service received from the last vendor was unacceptable. In February 2022, we scheduled a meeting to discuss various options to solve the solid waste issue, including looking at the issue from different perspectives and weighing the options. The residents who attended preferred a lower annual solid waste rate using mechanical bin pick-ups as opposed to a higher annual solid waste rate with two people per truck. Overall, the results from the decision to contract with WM has been positive. I'm delighted to share that I have had less than five calls for missed pick-ups since we began service under the new contract. This brings me to one aspect of solid waste disposal where your actions can reduce pressure on future rate increases: recycling. First, the blue bins that have been provided for your use are for recycling only. At times residents have come to me claiming that the garbage and recycling are mixed: This simply is not totally accurate. If the recycling is "clean" recycling, meaning not contaminated, the materials are separated and sold on the commodity markets for re-use. If, on the other hand, recycling materials are mixed with garbage, or otherwise contaminated, those items have no other option than to be transferred to the garbage facility. This causes an increase to WM's costs. What I mean to say is WM must pay for the mixed recycling pick-up from the residence, pay for the sorting where the contamination is discovered, and then pay to transfer to regular garbage processing. Conversely, if the recycling is "clean," WM can process the recycling for a profit. In the end, if WM can minimize excess expenses by processing clean recycling, future cost increases will likely not be as significant.

Items that are considered always recyclable include plastic bottles and plastic containers (rinsed), dry paper, glass bottles and containers (neither window glass nor mirrors), flattened cardboard and paperboard, and clean food and beverage cans. Conversely, items that are not recyclable and do not belong in the blue recycling bin include, but are not limited to, food or liquids, foam containers (take these to the supermarket recycling), green vegetation (that should be in bulk pick-up), batteries, plastic shopping bags (these clog the sorting machines, causing a shut-down of the large sorting machine), clothing, furniture, carpet, wire, oily pizza boxes, and coat hangers. This list is by no means exhaustive. If each of us follows these guidelines, we can keep our costs low and help the environment. When in doubt, simply put it in the trash.

As your Town Council Member, I aim to preserve Southwest Ranches' unique rural lifestyle and to minimize any changes to it. Together, let's protect and maintain what makes our community special.

Very Truly Yours,

David S Kuczenski

Council Member District 4

Clerk's Corner by Russell Muñiz Clerk's Corner – BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE FEBRUARY 23, 2023 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2023-034 approving a purchase order with Carnahan Proctor and Cross, Inc. for civil engineering services for the Dykes Road piping project.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-035 approving a purchase with Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc. for professional engineering services for the next phase of the Transportation Surface and Drainage Ongoing Rehabilitation (TS-DOR) roadway improvements.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-036 approving a purchase order with Craven Thompson and Associates, Inc. for professional surveying services for the next phase of the Transportation Surface and Drainage Ongoing Rehabilitation (TSDOR) roadway improvements.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-037 approving the 2023 amendments to the two (2) interlocal agreements with Broward County providing for the division and distribution of the proceeds of the Broward County fifth-cent local option gas tax, and the additional third-cent local option gas tax.

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.

Facebook
YouTube
Twitter

**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

AROUND THE TOWN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Madison Mansur - April 5th
Jillian Coley - April 6th
Jovana Coley - April 24th



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. 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

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 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 Size Propane
 Cleaners
 Fluorescent Tubes/Bulbs
 Garden Chemicals
 Latex/Oil-Based Paint
 Pesticides
 Pool Chlorine
 Tires (Up to 4 tires per household no rims)
 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

For more information call Town Hall (954) 434-0008

"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 \$2,500	Department Head and written approval by Town Administrator 2 written or verbal quotes to the extent practicable.
LEVEL 3: Equal to or greater than \$2,500 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

Spring Word Search



APRIL

BEEES

BIRDS

BLOOM

BLOSSOM

BUTTERFLY

DAFFODILS

EGGS

FLOWERS

GREEN

GROWING

HATCH

MARCH

MAY

RAIN

ROBINS

SPRING

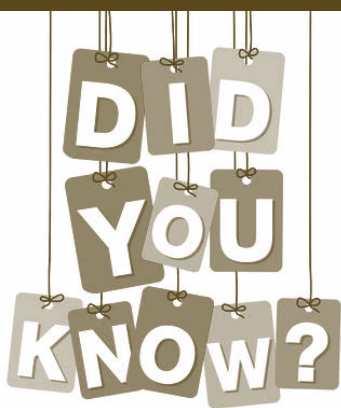
SPROUTING

SUNSHINE

TULIP

<http://natashah.com>

AROUND THE TOWN



ENJOY YOUR PROPERTY WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHILE REMAINING MINDFUL OF YOUR NEIGHBORS WITH THE TOWN'S PERMITTING PROCESS

The Town seeks to preserve the rural lifestyle of the

Town by limiting noise disturbances caused by loud parties and gatherings. There are additional impacts to the community such as increased traffic, bright lights, and in some cases leftover trash and debris. The Town has implemented a permitting process to help regulate parties and large gatherings. The permit grants the applicant the ability to host a party or large gathering without the worry of facing repercussions from Code Enforcement if the host adheres to the conditions of approval. The permit also serves to minimize any adverse effects to the community by regulating the hours allowed. It also ensures the property has enough parking space to account for the number of intended guests. You are allowed a total of six parties or large per calendar year to ensure the frequency of the gatherings are not excessive.

This right is reserved for property owners or renters of a developed property. It is not available to a property that does not have a principal structure or is being utilized for short term rentals. The gatherings must consist of friends, family and acquaintances and their guest(s). The gathering may not be held for profit, nor can it be advertised or open to the general public.

This permitting process provides a means to enjoy a party, and still be a respectful neighbor. Permits are processed quickly and the cost of \$75.00 for the first event and \$25.00 for any reoccurring event.

Severe penalties, which can be up to \$5,000, can be imposed for an unpermitted event that results in a disturbance to the neighborhood and violates the noise ordinance.



Area Agency on Aging
of Broward County



CONNECTING SENIORS TO SERVICES

- HELPLINE - REFERRAL SERVICES
- MEDICARE COUNSELING
- MEDICAID LONG-TERM CARE PROGRAM, SCREENING, BENEFITS AND ELIGIBILITY ASSISTANCE
- FOOD ASSISTANCE
- CONNECTING WITH U TELEPHONE REASSURANCE
- EMERGENCY HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE
- IN-HOME ASSISTANCE
- MINOR HOME REPAIRS
- HEALTH & WELLNESS CLASSES
- CAREGIVER SUPPORT
- LEGAL ASSISTANCE
- GRANDPARENT SUPPORT
- SENIOR CENTERS & DAY CARE CENTERS
- TECHNOLOGY, ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA SERVICE

CALL

954.745.9779 (HELPLINE)

WEBSITE

ADRCBROWARD.ORG



Department of
ELDER AFFAIRS
STATE OF FLORIDA



The Southwest Ranches Town Council thanks Judi Parker and Sally Brokken for their years of service to the Sunshine Ranches community

AROUND THE TOWN

APRIL 2023



HB 223

April is World Autism Month – it is an opportunity to increase the understanding of autism and foster the acceptance of people with the developmental

disorder. Florida has one of the highest autism diagnosis rates in the country for children between 3-17 years of age. About 1 in 44 children have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. It is characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. If you or someone you know is concerned about signs of autism or a child's development, it is imperative that testing be conducted by a healthcare provider. Signs of the disorder usually appear by age 2 or 3, but can appear as early as 18 months. Research shows that early intervention leads to better outcomes for people with Autism.

In order to ensure that students with developmental disabilities and autism have the best education outcomes, I filed HB 223 entitled Public School Student Progression for Students with Disabilities, after meeting with the mother of Ana, a student with Down Syndrome. Ana is fortunate because her mother focuses on her abilities, not her disabilities, and gives her every opportunity to reach her full potential. As a special needs educator, I am aware of our pupil progression policies in state law based upon my experiences.

Ana's story opened my eyes to how damaging the inflexibility of the law is concerning exceptional student education (ESE) progression, and I am determined to change it for students like Ana. After meeting with a larger group of parents, we found a solution to create an additional pathway for their children. This bill changes the statute so that if a parent chooses to retain their child with a disability in ESE prekindergarten, that retention will count towards a good-

cause exemption from mandatory retention criteria, so that the child does not have to be retained twice prior to fourth grade. This is a complicated area of education law, and worthy of attention.

Students, like Ana, with a disability or with a global developmental delay, do not reach their developmental milestones at the same rate as their peers. They are behind in their fine and gross motor skills, as well as their speech and communication skills. Despite being served in an ESE prekindergarten (Pre-K) classroom, many students still have not caught up and do not have the foundation or prerequisite executive functioning skills needed to enter kindergarten. Parents like Ana's are faced with a tough decision: whether or not to hold their child back in prekindergarten for another year, which may be the most educationally sound decision because it sets the foundation for future learning, but comes at the risk of knowing that under current law their child can be retained again before the fourth grade. Under current law, a child cannot be promoted to the fourth grade without passing a third-grade standardized reading test. However, there are good cause exemptions in the law that make exceptions for students with disabilities if their individual education plan (IEP) reflects intensive reading instruction for more than 2 years and the student was previously retained in kindergarten, first, second or third grade. A student with a disability must be retained at least once to qualify for a good cause exemption from mandatory retention. This bill amends existing law to include Pre-K as a spot where that retention can occur so as to count towards good cause exemption from mandatory retention. Studies

show that there are better educational outcomes the earlier a retention occurs. Any retention impacts the social-emotional well-being of a child and can be very traumatic when they are separated from their friends, and told they cannot go into the next grade. This bill creates an additional option for parents. It will not be the right decision for every family. This is just another tool in the box for parents like Ana's. Parents will work with their IEP team to make the best decisions for their child. Special education is not a one size fits all, and this legislation will help each child reach his or her full potential. I am grateful to the members of the Education Quality Subcommittee, who unanimously passed HB 223 through this first Committee stop.

HB 873

April is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Last Legislative Session, I passed Serena's Law to protect children from sexual predators. In February, I filed HB 873, Victims of Sexual Violence or Sexual Exploitation, for the 2023 Legislative Session. This is a bi-partisan bill that is prime co-sponsored by Representative Fernandez-Barquin and filed in the Senate by Senator Berman.

The bill gives victims of sexual violence or exploitation the ability to prevent the spread of any legally sealed information or records that could identify them as a victim. The bill also empowers survivors of sexual assault to begin civil proceedings and ask a Court for an injunction against anyone who violates their privacy by disclosing sealed information or records. Sexual assault survivors should not have to fear opening

up social media and finding their identity and traumatic stories on display for public consumption. When this has happened, victims have had no recourse. Many survivors are retraumatized and many sexual assault victims do NOT report the crime because of embarrassment and fear of public exposure. This bill provides an additional layer of protection to Marsy's Law.



Chag Sameach to District 103's Jewish Community!

AROUND THE TOWN

Ricou Browning Obituary



Ricou Browning, Sr, The Creature from the Black Lagoon, passed away peacefully at his home in Southwest Ranches, Florida, on February 27, 2023, at the age of 93.

Ricou was a Florida native born in Fort Pierce. He moved to Southwest Ranches in 1981 and absolutely loved living here, and loved his SWR family. He also enjoyed the Everglades ever so much spending hours out there.

He is lovingly remembered by his sons: Ricou Browning, Jr, and Kelly Browning; his daughters: Renee Le Feuvre and Kim Browning; his ten grandchildren; and his eleven great-grandchildren.

Ricou Browning's movie career included being a stuntman, writer, director, animal trainer, and producer; on over 50 movies and television shows. He was best known for his work as the Creature in The Creature from the Black Lagoon, and the two Creature movie sequels. His favorite accomplishment was his work on Flipper, both the movie and the television series, which he created, wrote, trained the animals, and directed. His underwater direction of Thunderball (a James Bond movie) earned the director an Academy Award. He was also the underwater director of Never Say Never Again (another James Bond movie).

Ricou loved his fans and he continued to do appearances all across the country and all over the world all the way into his nineties.

Ricou was always very caring and loyal. He was ever concerned about the wellbeing of his children.

He was a living example of hard work and determination. He will be greatly missed.



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=pnv5iKB2hI4>

(CREATING A TOWN FLAG-ROMAN
MARS 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



SOUTHWEST RANCHES TAKES THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S

MAYORS MONARCH PLEDGE

Southwest Ranches is taking action to help save the monarch butterfly, an iconic species whose eastern populations have declined by 90% and western populations by 99% in recent years. Through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, our Town is committing to create habitat for the monarch butterfly and pollinators, and to educate residents about how we can make a difference at home and in our community.



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.

AROUND THE TOWN



MARTY KIAR
BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

Low-Income Senior Exemption Income Requirement Clarification

To qualify for the 2023 Low-Income Senior Exemption, an applicant must be 65 years or older as of January 1, 2023 with a combined household adjusted gross income not exceeding \$35,167 for 2022. Many seniors believe they do not qualify for this exemption because their social security payments exceed this amount; however, applicants who file income taxes should look at their adjusted gross income amount (*line 11 on the IRS 1040 form*) to see if they do qualify for this additional exemption. If you are not required to file an income tax return based on your age and income, you would qualify for this exemption. To apply for the additional Low-Income Senior Exemption, please visit our website at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/SeniorExemption>.

Owner Alert Text Notifications Are Now Available

BCPA is excited to announce the implementation of text notifications for property owners who are registered for Owner Alert. Over 185,000 property owners have registered for our Owner Alert early notification system. Owner Alert notifies registered property owners if a change of ownership has been processed by our office. This same day alert allows property owners to review the document recorded to ensure they authorized the change.

To register for Owner Alert or to subscribe for text notifications, please visit our website at <https://web.bcpa.net/owneralert>. If you need assistance with registering for this important service, please email me at martykiar@bcpa.net.

2023 Property Exemptions – It Is Not Too Late to Apply

While the timely deadline to apply for any 2023 exemption was March 1, applicants can late file until September 18, 2023. If you both owned and made the property your permanent residence as of January 1, 2023, you can still apply for 2023 Homestead Exemption and any other exemptions. You can apply for all exemptions online at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Homestead>.

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

Take care,

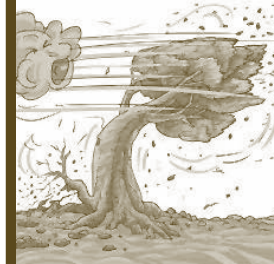
Marty Kiar

Marty Kiar, CFA
Broward County Property Appraiser



MartyKiarBCPA
@MartyKiarBCPA

Southwest Ranches FIRE RESCUE



HOW HURRICANES AFFECT YOUR HOME ELECTRICITY

I am a little ahead of time. However, Hurricane Season is June 1st - November 30th. Hurricanes can strike at anytime! Trees

are vulnerable to hurricane force winds. Branches can snap, and shallow-rooted trees can be easily uprooted, knocking overpower lines causing fires. Have your trees cut away from the power lines.

Be proactive, don't wait, to cut your trees away from electrical lines. Once the power is knocked out, the heat rapidly follows.

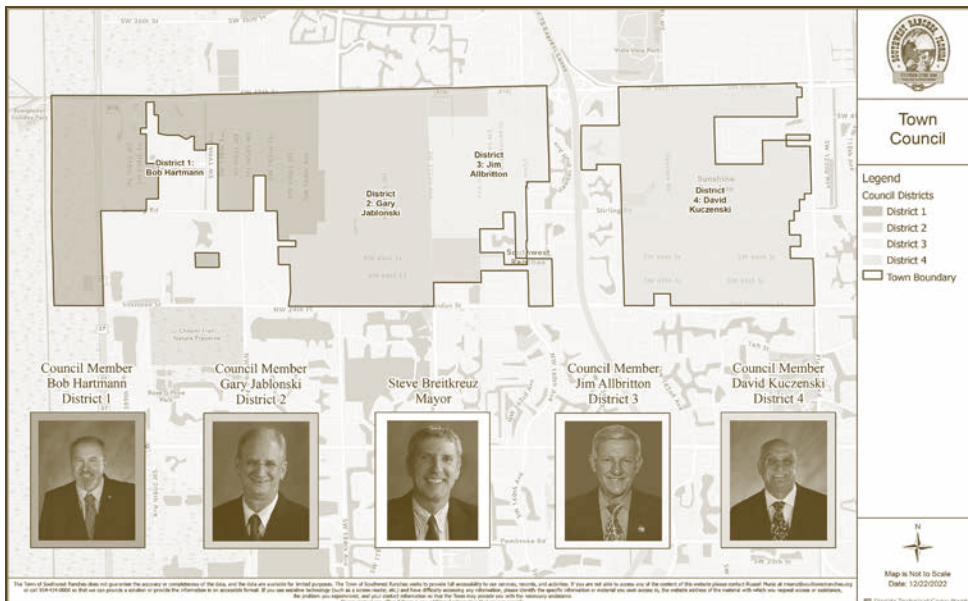
Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue Training

The Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue has been training on medical scenarios, vehicle extrication, hose evolution's, and car fires. We utilize the Broward Fire Academy for live fire scenarios.

Additionally, the Department continues Driver Engineer training, spotting and hooking up to fire hydrants and wells, flowing water with multiple fire lines and to other fire apparatus.

We continue to train with our partners Davie Fire Rescue. Joint training is on-going throughout the year.

Stay Safe,
Fire Chief Lee Bennett



PROTOTYPE BARN

In furtherance of the Town's goal of preserving its rural lifestyle, the Town Council has given residents a simpler mechanism to build a barn that is in compliance with Florida statutory requirements. As such, the Town contracted with an architect who agreed to create a prototype barn drawing, in compliance with the Florida Building Code, which can be permitted for residents throughout the Town. The plans are for a three stall barn with a tack room.

A Town resident looking to build a barn can simply purchase a pre-drafted architectural plan from the Town, which they then can submit, at a reduced cost, and on an expedited basis, to get a permitted barn that will be in compliance with both state and local regulations. **Please call or email Emily Aceti for more information: eaceti@southwestranches.org**



AROUND THE TOWN

Springtime is Baby Animal Time: Birds

(As adapted from The Humane Society of the United States)

It is common to see baby wild animals outside during spring, as a new generation makes its way into the world. Baby wild animals might seem like they need our help, but unless the animal is truly orphaned or injured, there is no need to rescue them. These tips can help you decide whether to act.



- The animal is brought to you by a cat or dog.
- There's evidence of bleeding.
- The animal has an apparent or obvious broken limb.
- A bird is featherless or featherless and on the ground.
- The animal is shivering.
- There is a dead parent nearby.
- The animal is crying and wandering all day long.

If you see any of these signs, find help for the animal. If necessary, safely capture and transport them to the appropriate place for treatment.

TIPS FOR BIRDS:

Baby birds: If baby birds are clearly injured or in imminent danger, contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. If featherless or featherless baby birds have fallen from their nest but appear unharmed, put them back in the nest if you can do so without danger to yourself. (It is a myth that birds will abandon their young if a person touches them.)

Fully feathered birds: If the original nest was destroyed or is too high to reach, hang a small, shallow wicker basket close to where the original nest was. Woven stick baskets from garden stores or supermarket floral departments work well; they resemble natural nests and allow rain to pass through so the birds will not drown. Adult birds will not jump into anything they cannot see out of, so make sure the basket is not too deep. Put the fallen babies into the new nest and keep watch from a distance for an hour to make sure the parent birds return to the new nest to feed their chicks. Watch closely because parent birds can be quite stealthy. If they definitely do not return, contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Mostly featherless birds: These birds will become too cold in a makeshift nest, so you must place them in the original nest. If that's not possible, take them to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Remember that baby birds do best when raised by their parents or other birds, so try to reunite them with their parents before calling a rehabilitator.

Fledglings: Birds with fully feathered bodies, but short or non-existent tail feathers may be fledglings (adolescent birds who have left the nest). You might see them hopping on the ground, unable to fly. This is normal; birds learn to fly from the ground up! Fledglings might remain on the ground for a few days or even a week, supervised and fed by their parents a few times each hour before they get the hang of flying. You can tell if the fledglings are being fed by watching from a distance to see whether a parent bird flies over to them, usually a few times an hour. You can also look for white-grey feces near the fledgling. Birds defecate after being fed, so the presence of fecal material means that the birds are being cared for. Be sure to keep cats indoors and dogs leashed until the fledglings are old enough to fly. If you are positive that the parents aren't returning to feed the babies, contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

INJURED WILDLIFE

South Florida Wildlife Center - (954) 524-4302

Sawgrass Nature Center and Wildlife Hospital - (954) 752-9453

Pelican Harbor Seabird Station - (305) 751-9840

BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOL CALENDAR



APRIL 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

Friday, April 7th - Schools and Administration
Offices Closed

Friday, April 14th - Report Cards Issued

Thursday, April 20th - Early Release Day

Friday, April 21st - Schools 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.



PHOTO BY: Geoff Cohen

CALENDAR

April 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						5K Run/Walk 17630 SW 56 Street Rolling Oaks Barn 7:30 - 9 am Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10-3 pm BULK ZONE 12
Palm Sunday 2	• SWR Parks Foundation Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm • Country Estates HOA - Grace Baptist Church - 19200 Griffin Rd - 7 pm BULK ZONE 1	• Code Hearing Town Hall 9 am • Broward County Property Appraisers Town Hall 10:30-12:30 pm BULK ZONE 2	HAPPY PASSOVER Passover Begins 5 BULK ZONE 3	6 BULK ZONE 4	GOOD Friday 7 BULK ZONE 5	Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10-3 pm BULK ZONE 6
HAPPY EASTER 9	• Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 7	• Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 8	Q&A with the Mayor 7 pm BULK ZONE 9	Passover Ends TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 10	14 BULK ZONE 11	Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10-3 pm BULK ZONE 12
16	• Rural Public Arts & Design Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 1	• Public Meeting - SW 63rd St. Drainage Project Town Hall 7 pm Advisory Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 2	• Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 3	• Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 4	21 BULK ZONE 5	Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10-3 pm EARTH DAY BULK ZONE 6
23	District 3 Civic Assoc Meeting Zoom BULK ZONE 7	• Rolling Oaks Civic Assn Meeting Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56 Street - 7 pm BULK ZONE 8	• Sunshine Ranches HOA Meeting 7:30 - 9pm Zoom BULK ZONE 9	27 BULK ZONE 10	HAPPY ARBOR DAY 28 BULK ZONE 11	Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10-3 pm BULK ZONE 12
30						<i>Homemade</i>

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

THE FOLLOWING TWO
 UPCOMING CAPITAL
 IMPROVEMENTS TOPICS
 WILL BE DISCUSSED AT
 THE APRIL 18TH
 DRAINAGE AND
 INFRASTRUCTURE
 ADVISORY BOARD
 MEETING.

• SW 54th Place Drainage from
 Dykes Road west to Ivanhoe Canal

• SW 63rd Street Drainage from
 SW 185th Way to SW 188th Avenue.

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	aarosemena@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
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ZONING/PERMITTING

Julio Medina	(954) 343-7458	zoninginfo@southwestranches.org
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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	
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REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS – Chief Bennett

MOSQUITO CONTROL	(954) 868-2057	lbennett@southwestranches.org
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LOST AND FOUND ANIMALS

	(754) 224-0877	Facebook@SWRLostandFoundAnimals
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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:

	(954) 519-1499	publicworks@southwestranches.org online complaint form at http://www.broward.org/Environment/Resources/Pages/EnviroComplaint.aspx
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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)

	(954) 432-5110	www.centralbrowardwcd.org
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	(954) 680-3337	www.sbddd.org
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Town of Southwest Ranches

13400 Griffin Road

Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

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Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel



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@SWR_Gov

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WWW.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG



The Town of Southwest Ranches
Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board presents...

11th Annual Photo Contest

GET YOUR CAMERA READY...
and send in your favorite photo!

Pictures must be submitted no later than September 5th., 2023.

- One photo per person in household.
- Please provide a photo caption (limit 74 characters).
- Photos must be at least 8 x 10 (landscape).
- Photos must be in the highest definition (resolution) possible.
- No previous photos will be accepted.
- To be considered, all entries must be submitted with the Town's Entry Form.
- Email your photo to: Skutz@southwestranches.org.

This could be your picture!

Call Susan for additional information (954) 343-7460

Picture by: George Morris

*Work for a better earth
and a better tomorrow.*