

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Newsletter of Southwest Ranches

May 2023

HIGHLIGHTS



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Mayor Steve Breitzkreuz

Probably the three most common issues that residents bring to me are Traffic, Mail Theft, and Party Noise.

I will touch on each of those briefly.

First, Traffic: Traffic is always a concern. My goal is to get greater compliance, especially in the interior of our Town, meaning the internal residential roads. Traffic tickets are probably the most effective tool, but there is a common misconception that this is a money maker for the Town. It is not. The Town gets a very small portion of the fine and the revenue does not come near what it takes to have the police presence in the area. However, if it helps bring compliance, it is worth it. We have another very effective tool at our disposal now. It is a speed trailer that flashes to indicate that drivers are speeding. If you are concerned about speeding on your road, please contact me or contact the Town and request the speed trailer. It is a great tool for reducing speeding.

Second, Mail Theft: We had a significant spike in mail theft in the Green Meadows portion of Town, but Davie PD did an exceptional job in tracking down and catching the offenders. It still happens but it has now become a more significant issue in Sunshine Ranches. I know that Davie PD is focused on catching those offenders as well. In the meantime, I want to offer three recommendations that you can do to protect yourself.

First, get in the habit of getting your incoming mail out of your mailbox before sundown. The vast majority of the thefts are done at night. Let's not give them anything to steal. Second, don't place anything worth stealing in your outgoing mailbox. If you have anything such as a check to mail, drop it in the postal drop box either at Town Hall or at your closest Post Office. Finally, sign up for the Post Office "Informed Delivery." In the morning, at about 8:00 AM, it will show you an image of everything that is going to be delivered to you that day. So, you will know if something is missing. You can go to the Post Office main webpage and the "Informed Delivery" selection is that the very top of the webpage. Select that and sign up.

Third, Party Noise: The challenge here is that it is difficult for Davie PD to regulate, but they are doing their best and residents are being issued code violations for excessive noise. Having now spoken with MANY residents on this issue, I think

that it is time to revisit this ordinance again, and I will be doing that. Please forward to me any recommendations that you might have. The best way is to forward them to my email, sbreitzkreuz@southwestranches.org. Unfortunately, what we have in place today is simply not working. In the meantime, if you are having a party, please respect your neighbors. Enjoy your party have fun and celebrate but keep your music to a level that will not disturb your neighbors. They also want to enjoy their weekend and most residents I speak to are able to do that by enjoying the peace quiet that is the Southwest Ranches rural lifestyle. So please respect your neighbors' right to do just that.

Finally, just a quick note that I will be pausing my monthly Mayor phone calls for the summer. Enjoy your summer and I will forward out information when we are ready to restart the calls.

Thank-you as always for the opportunity to serve our Town as your Mayor. It is truly an honor.



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



Council Member David S. Kuczenski

Howdy Ranchers,

The month of May brings us Mother's Day on the 14th when

we honor the mother of our families. Remember to give your mother a gift, send a card, take her out for dinner or buy her some nice flowers to show her how special she is to you.

Over the past few months, many of our neighbors have been under an onslaught of mail thefts. I took this as a personal attack against one of the freedoms that we treasure by living in this special small Town. I pressured administration to further pressure law enforcement to increase surveillance. Last month in a dramatic full presence, our law enforcement apprehended a suspect. The capture involved a late-night high-speed chase, crashing the suspect's vehicle in a canal, running away from the scene, releasing the Davie police K9 unit and even spotlighting from a Broward Sheriff's Helicopter. As of this writing no mail thefts have been reported. I must reiterate, if you are a victim, you must make a report. Without a report, it is as if the crime never happened. As your law-and-order Council Member, this apprehension is good news.

On another note: Attending homeowners associations helps me get the ambiance of the neighbors. One issue that has come up concerns parties. Our Town has required homeowners to obtain a permit to hold a party or a "Special Event" and has required so for quite a while. The Town categorizes residential special events as residential gatherings, and wayside stands.

A residential gathering permit is required anytime there is a gathering of 30 people or more, there is an expectation of loud noise, or any impact to the neighborhood such as high traffic or temporary structures. Examples of gatherings include birthday celebrations, graduation celebrations, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, weddings, religious gatherings, political meetings, and non-profit fundraisers to name a few. These types of events cannot be open to the public and cannot charge an entrance fee. Let me reiterate, a "for-profit" gathering with an entrance fee is strictly prohibited.

The other category is called wayside stands. This type of event is generally for commercial



sales related to Holidays such as Independence Day, Halloween and Christmas. Any site that is proposing the sale of items related to the Holidays must obtain approval from the Town and provide all the proper documentation, such as licensing and insurances to obtain a permit. Finally, regardless of the type of residential gathering, all noise must be turned off at 11:00 pm, and if the music is unreasonably loud, call Davie Police. Nothing can be done without a police report. Most of the time, the host will agree to lower the music. If you are the host, an invitation to your neighbors may diminish the likelihood of a report.

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 –

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE MARCH 23, 2023 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Ordinance 2023-004 amending the Town Code of Ordinances pertaining to dangerous dogs.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-038 establishing a policy and procedure for all future Transportation Surface Drainage Ongoing Rehabilitation (TSDOR) projects to prescribe standards and criteria for eligible projects and for the procedures to be used for public notice.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-039 authorizing CPZ Architects, Inc. to utilize the services of Osborn Engineering Co. as an approved subconsultant for continuing architect and/or engineer consulting services.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-040 approving a Purchase Order with CPZ Architects Inc. for architectural services for the ARPA funded Southwest Meadows Sanctuary Park Restroom Facilities project.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-041 approving a purchase order to E. Gomez Construction for the Country Estates Fishing Hole Park Play Field Fence project.

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.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & BULK DROP OFF EVENT

Saturday, July 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

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

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

MAY 2023



May is a special month because we celebrate important holidays such as Mother's Day and Memorial Day. May is also an opportunity to focus on first responders and other integral members of our local communities.

HB 101 and CS/CS/HB 239

Each year on May 4th, the world observes International Firefighters Day. At noon local time on the first Sunday in May, around the world, fire sirens sound for 30 seconds followed by a minute of silence in memory of past firefighters who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty in service to their communities.

May 11th – 15th is known as Police Week. This nation-wide event is dedicated to honoring America's law enforcement officers who have also lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

Firefighters, police, and other first responders dedicate their lives to the protection and safety of our communities. In my capacity as a legislator, it is important for me to honor all of these professionals for their critical sacrifices.

Last session, I co-sponsored a bill that provided a full exemption from property taxes for first responders who are totally and permanently disabled as a result of an injury sustained in the line of duty. This exemption also carries over to the surviving spouse of the first responder. This session, I am proud to co-sponsor HB 101,

Homestead Exemption for First Responders, filed by Representative Woodson. This legislation revises the definition of "first responder" to include federal law enforcement officers. This revision came about after two brave FBI agents were killed in the line of duty; their spouses deserve the same benefits.

This Session, I co-sponsored CS/CS/HB 239, Florida Retirement System, which passed the House Floor. It restores the pre-2011 normal retirement age and years of service for Special Risk Class members (age 55 or age 52 after completing 25 years of creditable service). This bill also restores the pre-2011 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for eligible FRS Pension Plan members to 3%. This bill will be headed to the Governor's desk.

HB 271

National Teacher Appreciation Day is Tuesday of the first full week in May. HB 271, the "Save Our Teachers Act" filed by Representative Edmonds, aims to raise the minimum base salary for all teachers in Florida from \$47,500 per year to at least \$65,000 per year. As a former teacher and mother of a teacher, I felt duty-bound to co-sponsor this bill because I know firsthand that it is critical we fairly compensate teachers, who give so much to the students in our communities, so that those professionals may afford to live in Florida. Unfortunately, this bill was not heard and we will need to try again next year. I will continue to support and fight to ensure that teachers get a living wage.

CS/HB 635

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), only 15% of veterans are eligible to access dental services through the VA system.

For the remaining 85% who are ineligible, they typically receive dental care through employer-sponsored insurance, the Federal Dental and Vision Insurance Program provided by the VA, or self-pay. Unfortunately, 41% of veterans rated their oral health as either "fair" or "poor" in the National Survey of Veterans.

In honor of Military Appreciation Month in May and the large community of veterans in South Florida, I am proud to co-sponsor HB 635, Dental Service for Veterans, filed by Representative Maney. This bill creates the Dental Service for Veterans Program to provide veterans with access to routine dental care. The bill directs the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs to contract with a statewide direct-support organization to administer the program, which will in turn distribute grants to eligible nonprofits that have experience in providing dental care to veterans. Veterans will receive the treatment they deserve for their sacrifices. This legislation is headed to the House Floor.

My sincerest gratitude to current and past first responders, teachers, and military personnel for all your contributions to our community!

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.



AROUND THE TOWN

Springtime is Baby Animal Time: Mammals

(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. 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.

- 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 SQUIRRELS

A squirrel who is full-sized, has a full and fluffy tail and can run, jump and climb is independent. However, if a juvenile squirrel continuously approaches and follows people, their mom is gone. In this case, you should contact a rehabilitator because the baby is very hungry and needs care. There are a few cases where you might need to intervene: 1) a baby squirrel falls from a nest; 2) a nest falls from a tree; a felled tree contains an intact nest. If the baby and/or their nest fell from the tree today, give the mother squirrel a chance to reclaim their young and relocate them to a new nest. If the baby is uninjured, leave them where they are, leave the area, keep people and pets away and monitor them from a safe distance. If it is chilly outside or the baby is not fully furred, place them in a shoe-



box with something warm underneath (like a heating pad on a low setting or a hot water bottle). Be sure to put a flannel shirt between the baby and the heating device, or they could overheat. Do not cover them with anything or the mother might not be able to find them. If the babies are not retrieved by dusk, take these steps: 1) wearing thick gloves, gather the squirrels and place them inside a thick, soft cloth, such as a cloth diaper or fleece scarf or hat; 2)

place one of the following items beneath the cloth: A chemical hand warmer inside a sock, a hot water bottle (replace the hot water every 30 minutes) or a heating pad set on the lowest setting. (If the heating pad has no cover, put it inside two pillowcases so the babies do not overheat.); 3) place the baby squirrels, cloth and warmer inside a small cardboard box or carrier. Call a wildlife rehabilitator.

TIPS FOR OPOSSUMS

Baby opossums are born as embryos, barely larger than a bee, and spend about two months nursing in their mother's pouch. When they get to be about three to four inches long and start riding around on their mother's back, they may fall off without the mother noticing. As a rule, if an opossum is over seven inches long (not including the tail), they are old enough to be on their own. If they're less than seven inches long (not including the tail), they are orphaned and you should contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.



TIPS FOR RACCOONS

If a baby raccoon has been alone for more than a few hours, they are an orphan. Mother raccoons don't let their young out of their sight for long. Put an inverted laundry basket over the baby (with a light weight on top so they cannot push their way out) and



monitor them until well into the nighttime hours (raccoons are nocturnal, so the mom should come out at night to reclaim her baby). You can also put the cub in a pet carrier and close the door. Instead of latching it, prop it closed with an angled stick. When the mother returns, she will run in front of the

carrier, push over the stick and the door will pop open. If the mother does not return, contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. In spring and summer, people often set traps in a misguided effort to resolve garbage and other "nuisance" issues. Unfortunately, this approach leads to trapped and killed mothers who leave their starving young behind. If anyone in your neighborhood is setting traps, persuade them to use more humane and effective methods instead.



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



AROUND THE TOWN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Mansur (Manny) Husain - May 28th



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

"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



- **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.



AROUND THE TOWN

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

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 rlay@swranches.org.

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



AROUND THE TOWN



MARTY KIAR
BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

Copies of Deeds are Public Records and Free

Every year our office hears of new mailings aimed at Broward County property owners offering to provide the owner with a "certified deed" for their property. The company will provide this service for a fee; however, most documents are available for free through Broward County Records Division.

Your deed is a document or written legal instrument which, when executed and delivered, conveys an interest in or legal title to a property. Deed recordation is the process of registering a transfer of real property with the Broward County Records, Taxes & Treasury Division. Once the deed is recorded with County Records, it is provided to the Property Appraiser's Office so the property record can be updated. If a property owner is registered with our Owner Alert notification service, the owner will receive an email notification of this change. Property owners can register for the Owner Alert notification service online at <https://web.bcpa.net/owneralert>

Deeds and many other important documents are already available online and free on Broward County's Records, Taxes & Treasury Division's website and linked from our office's website. Deeds recorded prior to January 1, 1978 and recorded deeds utilizing social security numbers must be ordered in person or by written request. The county charges a nominal fee for reproduction (\$1.00 a page/\$2.00 certified) along with a \$2.00 search fee per name, per year. County Records can be reached at 954-831-4000.

Reviewing and obtaining a copy of your deed on County Records website is simple: go to <https://officialrecords.broward.org/AcclaimWeb> and select your search criteria. Documents matching these criteria will be displayed and you can print a copy of the document you select. To search for a recorded deed on the our website, search for the property record at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Record-Search> and click on the blue "Book/Page or CIN" number located under the "Sales History for this Parcel" on the property record page.

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



As warmer weather approaches, beaches, pools and water parks become go-to spots for families. Make sure your children are safe and know how to swim. Contact your local YMCA - they have classes for children and adults.

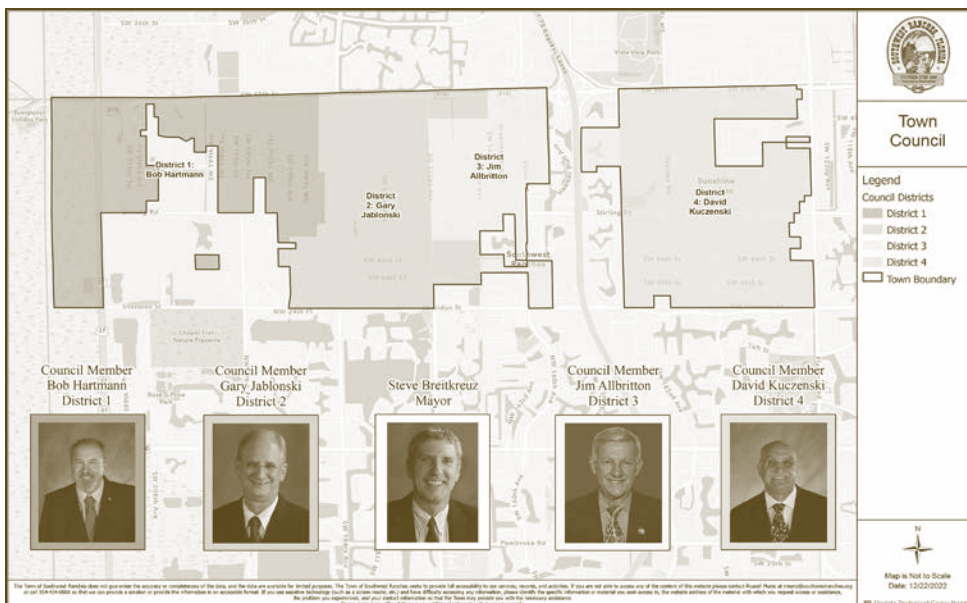
A COUPLE OF SAFETY TIPS:

- Never swim alone.
- Even when a lifeguard is present - Watch your children.
- Stay away from pool drains.
- Before diving in a pool, check to make sure it is deep enough.
- Avoid distractions and cell phone usage when watching children swimming.
- Never let anyone swim during a storm or when there is lightening, even from a distance.
- Take a medical class, First aid-CPR, for basic knowledge. Be prepared for sudden emergencies.

Your Southwest Ranches Firefighters continue training as always. Training enables firefighters to respond more efficiently reducing property damage by fire.

Medical Training - the bottom line - gives the patient a better chance for patient survival.

Stay Safe,
Fire Chief Lee Bennett



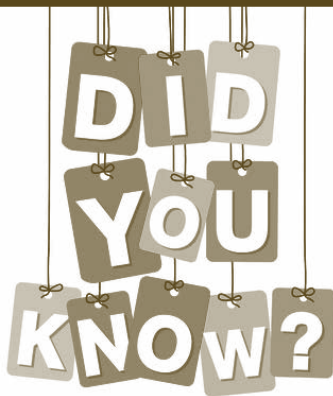
PROTOTYPE BARN

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



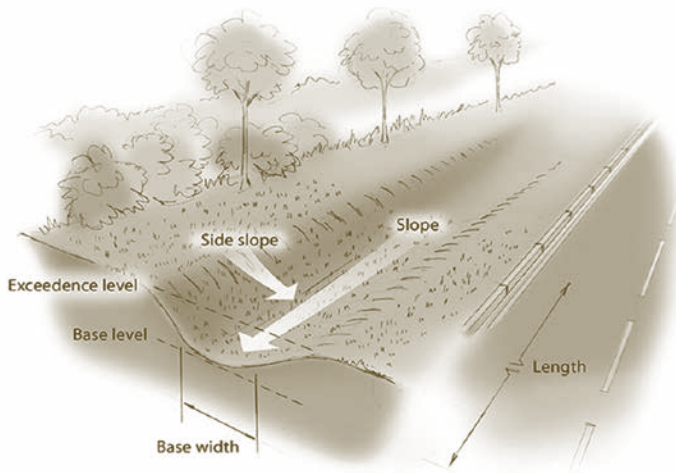
MAINTAIN YOUR SWALE

In Southwest Ranches, swales can be found along the front of your property and are there to contain water runoff. The centerline of the swale is typically 12 inches below the edge of pavement. This ensures that the roads are clear after a rain event.

Do not fill them in or plant in these areas. The swale should be clear of all obstructions in order to work efficiently. You should keep your

swale well-mowed and free of litter and debris so water can flow freely. Check swales periodically for both erosion or natural build-up of sediments. If water collects in the swale, leave it alone - it means the system is working!

A swale is one of the most common type of stormwater best management practice (BMP). Swales not only convey stormwater but also help to treat runoff by reducing nutrient loading. Because swales have a wide and relatively flat profile, rainwater collected within them is slowed significantly. The reduction in the velocity of the runoff promotes temporary ponding. Reducing the water's speed allows for suspended solids such as heavy metals, eroded soil particles, and other pollutants to settle and filter into the swale's vegetation cover. Stormwater staging in the swale allows the water to percolate into the soil, helping to reduce the volume and amount of pollutants transported downstream. The pollutant reduction will improve the water quality in surrounding water bodies.



MAINTAIN YOUR SWALE

- Mow the swale.
- Remove and then compost leaves and grass clippings.
- Keep good grass growth.
- Minimize use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.
- Aerate soils to restore percolation rate.
- Inspect for erosion. Any damaged sod should be replaced immediately.

DO NOT MISUSE YOUR SWALE

- Do not pile garbage, trash, leaves, limbs or debris in swales - this adds pollutants, which can wash into downstream waters.
- Do not park vehicles in the swale - this compacts the soil so less runoff is absorbed.
- Do not plant trees or shrubs or place obstructions within the swale.

LET THE WATER POND

- Runoff should temporarily pond in the swale for up to 72 hours.

MAY				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

WM
WASTE MANAGEMENT

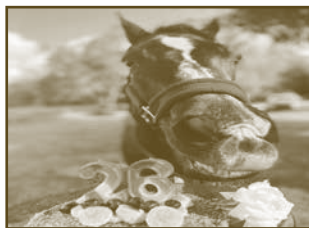
QUICK ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS TO TRACK AND GET INFORMATION ABOUT BULK, GARBAGE AND RECYCLE SERVICES

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.southwestranches.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.





May
2023

SUN

MON




TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

	1 • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm • Country Estates HOA - Grace Baptist Church - 19200 Griffin Rd - 7 pm BULK ZONE 1	2 • Broward County Property Appraisers Town Hall 10:30-12:30 pm BULK ZONE 2	3 BULK ZONE 3	4 • Code Hearing Town Hall 9 am BULK ZONE 4	5  BULK ZONE 5	6 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10-3 pm BULK ZONE 6
7	8 • Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 7	9 • Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 8	10 SWR Historical Society BULK ZONE 9	11 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 10	12 BULK ZONE 11	13 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10-3 pm BULK ZONE 12
14 	15 • Rural Public Arts & Design Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 1	16 Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 2	17 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 3	18 • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 4	19 BULK ZONE 5	20 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10-3 pm BULK ZONE 6
21	22 Mid-Town (District 3) Civic Association Meeting 7 pm ZOOM BULK ZONE 7	23 Ivanhoe Estates HOA Meeting - Town Hall 6pm • Rolling Oaks Civic Assn Meeting Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56 Street - 7 pm BULK ZONE 8	24 Flow Mobile - DMV Service 10 am - 2 pm - Town Hall by appt only BULK ZONE 9	25 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 10	26 BULK ZONE 11	27 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10-3 pm BULK ZONE 12
28  TOWN HALL CLOSED BULK ZONE 1	29 BULK ZONE 2	30 BULK ZONE 2	31 • Sunshine Ranches HOA Meeting 7:30 - 9pm BULK ZONE 3			

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



SOUTH FLORIDA CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

APRIL 28 - MAY 1

MONROE . MIAMI-DADE . BROWARD . PALM BEACH



FIND WILDLIFE

ANY PLANT, ANIMAL, FUNGI, OR EVIDENCE OF LIFE



TAKE A PHOTO

TAKE A FOCUSED PHOTO AND RECORD THE LOCATION



SHARE YOUR OBSERVATIONS

UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO TO NATURALIST FOR IDENTIFICATION

WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER?

UNEARTH NATURE THROUGHOUT SOUTH FLORIDA AND COMPETE WITH CITIES AROUND THE WORLD DURING THE 2023 CITY NATURE CHALLENGE. JOIN EVENTS ACROSS SOUTH FLORIDA OR MAKE OBSERVATIONS ON YOUR OWN!

LEARN MORE



CNCsoflo.com

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE IS ORGANIZED BY



CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY



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	jjallbritton@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
Joyce Marques, <i>Engineer Inspector</i>	(954) 343-7441	jmarques@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)

Brian Dillon, <i>Building Official</i>	(954) 665-4392	
Jennifer McCarty, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7445	
Derlin Guevara, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446	

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	(954) 765-4062	
	(754) 224-0877	Facebook@SWRLostandFoundAnimals

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY

<i>Non-Emergency</i>	911	
<i>Davie Police Department</i>	(954) 764-4357 (HELP)	
Eddie Velazquez, <i>Detective</i>	(954) 693-8200	
Cheryl Danner, <i>Police Services Coordinator</i>	(954) 693-8290	velazquez@davie-fl.gov
<i>Davie Fire Rescue Station 112</i>	(954) 693-8352	cdanner@southwestranches.org
<i>Volunteer Fire Rescue - Chief Bennett</i>	(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
<i>East of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)</i>		
South Broward Drainage District	(954) 680-3337	www.sbdd.org
<i>West of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)</i>		





Town of Southwest Ranches

13400 Griffin Road

Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

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TWITTER:
@SWR_Gov

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



lights camera... action!

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

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
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