

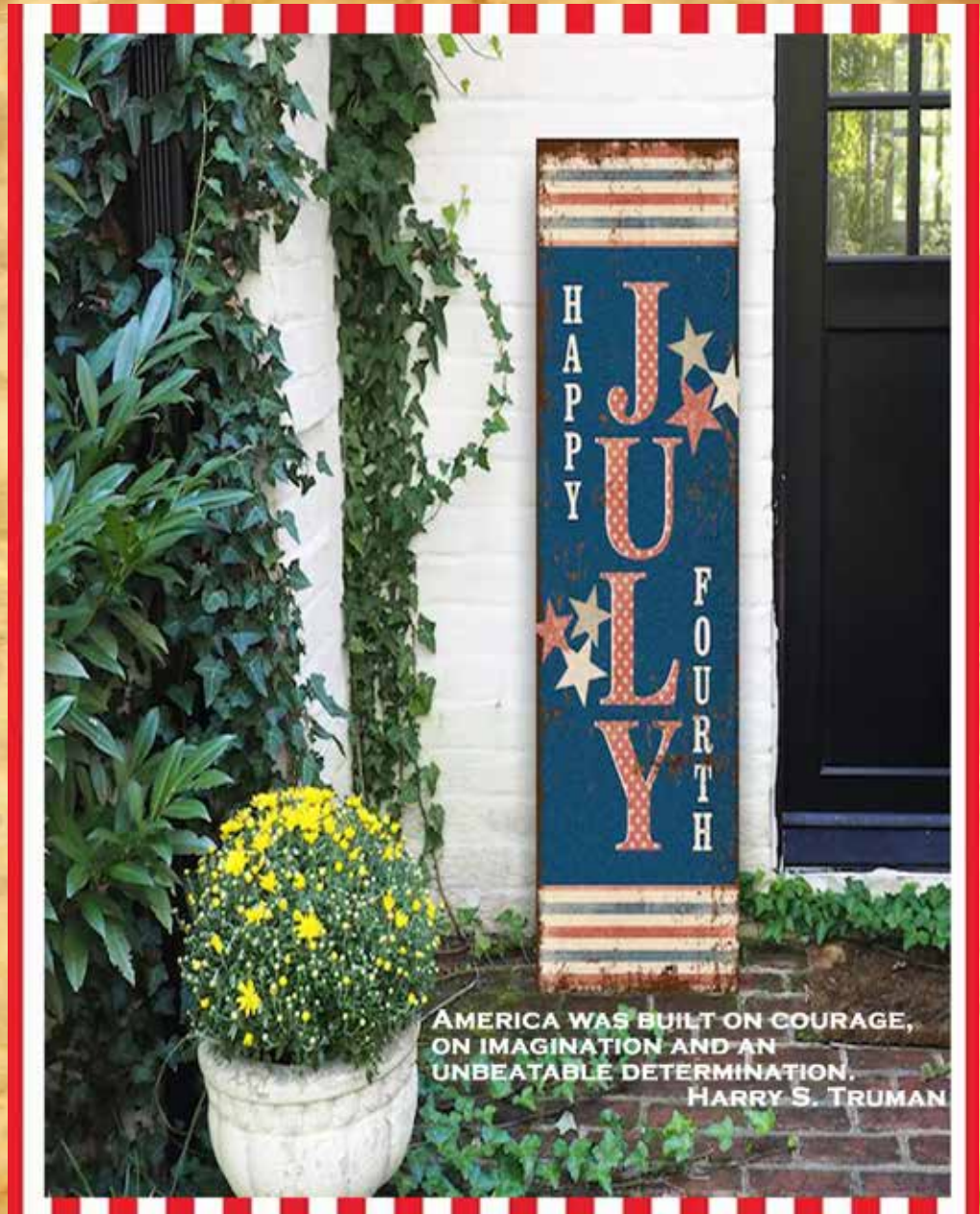
# SOUTHWEST RANCHER

*The Official Newsletter of Southwest Ranches*

## July 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



- Front Cover Independence Day
- Page 2 In-Touch Town Contact Info.
- Page 3-4 Mayor's Message, Council Member News, Stay in Touch With Engineering, Town Talk, Clerk's Corner.
- Page 5 Message from Robin Bartleman, Photo Contest Entry Form.
- Page 6 Pollinator Partnership.
- Page 7-8 How to Do Business with The Town, Flood Safety, Show Your Town Spirit.
- Page 9 Marty Kiar - Property Tax, Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue, Town Council Districts.
- Page 10 Did You Know, WM Quick Access, School Calendar, Word Search.
- Page 11 July Calendar, Hazardous Waste, Reflective Address Markers, Be a Good Neighbor Message.
- Back Cover Photo Contest, SWR Fair and Carnival.





# IN TOUCH

**TOWN HALL:** 13400 Griffin Road / Southwest Ranches, FL 33330 • **PHONE:** (954) 434-0008 • **FAX:** (954) 434-1490  
**TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS:** Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm • **TOWN WEBSITE:** [www.southwesttranches.org](http://www.southwesttranches.org)  
**TOWN HALL TWITTER ACCOUNT:** @SWR\_Gov • **YOUTUBE:** Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel • **FACEBOOK:** facebook@SWRG0V

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	(954) 343-7462	sbreitkreuz@southwesttranches.org
Vice Mayor Jim Allbritton	(954) 343-7461	jallbritton@southwesttranches.org
Council Member Bob Hartmann	(954) 343-7447	bhartmann@southwesttranches.org
Council Member Gary Jablonski	(954) 343-7456	gjablonski@southwesttranches.org
Council Member David S. Kuczenski	(954) 343-7472	dkuczenski@southwesttranches.org

## TOWN STAFF

Andy Berns, <i>Town Administrator</i>	(954) 434-0008	aberns@southwesttranches.org
Danielle Caban, <i>Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7474	dcaban@southwesttranches.org
Russell Muñiz, <i>Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7450	rmuniz@southwesttranches.org
Debra M. Ruesga, <i>Deputy Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7451	druesga@southwesttranches.org
Dan Stewart, <i>Records and Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7443	dstewart@southwesttranches.org
Tom Holste, <i>General Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7476	tholste@southwesttranches.org
Angelica Arosemena, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 434-0008	aarosemena@southwesttranches.org
Emil C. Lopez, <i>Town Financial Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7473	elopez@southwesttranches.org
Rich Strum, <i>Town Controller</i>	(954) 343-7442	rstrum@southwesttranches.org
Venessa Redman, <i>Senior Procurement &amp; Budget Officer</i>	(954) 343-7467	vrredman@southwesttranches.org
Arianna Durbeej, <i>Town Accountant</i>	(954) 343-7477	adurbeej@southwesttranches.org
Keith Poliakoff, <i>Town Attorney</i>	(954) 909-0580	kpoliakoff@southwesttranches.org
Rod Ley, <i>Public Works Director</i>	(954) 343-7444	rley@southwesttranches.org
Emily McCord Aceti, <i>Community Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7453	eaceti@southwesttranches.org
Susan Kutz, <i>Administrative Specialist, Newsletter Editor &amp; Graphic Designer</i>	(954) 343-7460	skutz@southwesttranches.org
Joyce Marques, <i>Engineer Inspector</i>	(954) 343-7441	jmarques@southwesttranches.org
December Lauretano-Haines, <i>Parks, Recreation &amp; Open Space Manager</i>	(954) 343-7452	dlauretano@southwesttranches.org
Melinda Stringer, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 343-7454	mstringer@southwesttranches.org

## TOWN SERVICES / BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING – (CAP GOVERNMENT)

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

## PLANNING

Jeff Katims	(954) 475-3070	jkatims@sepiinc.com
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## ZONING/PERMITTING

Julio Medina	(954) 343-7458	zoninginfo@southwesttranches.org
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## CODE

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

## WASTE/BULK/RECYCLING SERVICES

WM (Waste Management)	(954) 974-7500	
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## REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS – Chief Bennett

<b>MOSQUITO CONTROL</b>	(954) 868-2057	lbennett@southwesttranches.org
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LOST AND FOUND ANIMALS	(954) 765-4062	Facebook@SWRLostandFoundAnimals
	(754) 224-0877	

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### EMERGENCY

<i>Non-Emergency</i>	<b>911</b>	
<i>Davie Police Department</i>	(954) 764-4357 (HELP)	
Eddie Velazquez, <i>Detective</i>	(954) 693-8200	evelazquez@davie-fl.gov
Cheryl Danner, <i>Police Services Coordinator</i>	(954) 693-8290	cdanner@southwesttranches.org
<i>Davie Fire Rescue Station 112</i>	(954) 693-8352	
<i>Volunteer Fire Rescue - Chief Bennett</i>	(954) 952-4608	
	(954) 868-2057	

## TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES

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

## OTHER

### WATER DISTRICTS - CANALS

Central Broward Water Control District	(954) 432-5110	<a href="http://www.centralbrowardwcd.org">www.centralbrowardwcd.org</a>
<i>East of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)</i>		
South Broward Drainage District	(954) 680-3337	<a href="http://www.sbddd.org">www.sbddd.org</a>
<i>West of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)</i>		



## Mayor Steve Breitzkreuz

First, let me wish you and your family a very special Independence Day. We are so very fortunate to call these United States our home.

There are always things that need to be improved, but no country defends freedom as our country does, and we are blessed to call America our home. As we celebrate this day, let's also give thanks for those that have made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy these freedoms.

One of the topics that I am hearing more and more about is the disruption caused by noise, generally loud parties. In May of this year, I called for a special workshop so that I could hear directly from our residents about what they felt was good with the current ordinance and what needed to be fixed. I was pleased that we had a good number of individuals attend and I also received more feedback via email.

Clearly there are two sides to the issue. On the one hand, we should all be able to enjoy the quite enjoyment in our own homes. On the other hand, life is also all about celebrating those special events in our lives and in the lives of those that we love. So, that is the balancing act. Both are VERY legitimate points of view. There are no good or bad guys here, we just need to determine the middle ground that will adequately accommodate both of these views.

Out of the workshop, I heard several great recommendations. I am going to list them below. The reason why I am listing them is to continue to get your feedback. Please DO NOT take these as the final word. They are not. They are ideas that I believe merit consideration.

- 1) Use SaferWatch: great way to report non-emergencies.
- 2) It's a violation if it can be heard inside the reporting party's house.
- 3) Exception would be by permit:
  - a. Mostly daylight hours on weekends and holidays.
  - b. Reduced number of permits a year from the current six (6).

c. I definitely want to hear your feedback on this: Too much or too little?

4) There would be exemptions such as animals, construction, and maintenance etc.

5) Vacation Rentals (These have become some of our worst repeat offenders.)

a. Register with the Town

b. Clearly spell out the rules with consequences

I would very much like to continue to hear your feedback on these ideas and other ideas that may not be included here. We are our very best as a Town when we have an open dialog with the spirit of compromise. The best way to contact me on this topic so that I can keep a record of the recommendation is to email me at sbreitzkreuz@southwestranches.org.

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

Steve (954) 296-6018



## Vice Mayor Jim Allbritton

Good day Southwest Ranches,

Here we are six months into 2023 and our Town

is doing well. The year started off with the Carnival being a huge success, the Farmers' Market is going strong with new vendors being brought in, the Schools and Education Advisory Board with Flocking and all their other great events and Rolling Oaks Civic Association with the Town Easter Egg Hunt just to mention a few.

Our new trash collection company is doing a good job. The bulk trash pickup needed a few tweaks to get all the bugs out and things are running smoothly now.


The two mobile speed trailers are being moved, randomly around town, because we are not receiving enough input from the residents as to where they feel the trouble spots are. If you would like to see a speed trailer in your neighborhood, please contact Tom Holste (954-343-7476) at Town Hall or me with the address of where you would like the trailer. A new fixed position Traffic Control sign has been purchased and is being prepped for installation on 186th Ave.

There are several drainage projects, in various planning stages, that will be starting soon. The Town will be notifying the residents in the areas where the work is to be done and a workshop will be held to answer any questions about the project.

The Town is moving forward with plans of putting a restroom/pavilion/storage building at the Southwest Ranches Meadows Sanctuary Park. This will be a great addition to the park so that more Town events can be held there.

The Town recently passed a vicious dog ordinance that I believe will help protect our residents and our livestock. This ordinance will allow the Town to address this issue when it comes up.

A workshop was held before the last Council meeting in May to discuss the noise problems that seem to be plaguing our Town. There were some good recommendations from the residents for the Council to consider.



**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](mailto:publicworks@southwestranches.org)**



**Want to stay in touch and receive  
information on TOWN EVENTS?  
Send your email address to:  
[druesga@southwestranches.org](mailto:druesga@southwestranches.org)**

I would like to say Thank You the Davie Police Department for inviting me to participate in their Ride Along Program. I saw our police officers are faced with several different situations when called out. I was very impressed with the professionalism of Officer Todd Avery, with whom I was partnered with, in the way he handled each call.

Lastly, I would like to Welcome Detective Eddy Velazquez as he is replacing Detective Jeff Hobales who retired. Enjoy Your Retirement JEFF!!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at

[jjallbritton@southwestranches.org](mailto:jjallbritton@southwestranches.org)

or 954-343-7461 / 305-903-7043



## Council Member David S. Kuczenski

Howdy Ranchers,

With July we celebrate our Republic's independence, which is my favorite holiday. This national holiday always brings the excitement of fireworks. Please be safe and be aware of your neighbors' peace of mind when it comes to using fireworks. On one hand, some of our neighbors who served in the military now suffer from PTSD from their service, while on the other hand many animals experience anxiety from the loud noises associated with large fireworks. Over the years, I have been sent photographs of horses who were so fearful from the loud fireworks that they sustained fatal injuries. The only days the state allows fireworks are July 4th, December 31st and January 1st. Our Town Council is considering an ordinance that makes it a code violation for using fireworks on any day other than the state approved days. From the equestrian perspective, owners or stable hands must administer one of a few different medications to calm their horses. The medications often used to calm horses include trazadone, acepromazine or sedavet. Trazadone pills usually need time to build up in the system, and this medication takes several hours for the calming medication to take effect. With acepromazine or sedavet, the reaction time is usually shorter but must be administered long before the loud noises begin. Additionally, these medications must be administered in the stall or in a quiet environment to have the maximum effect. Finally, if the horse is already scared, none of these calming medications will work. The horse(s) will be terrified from the loud booms. This is why just allowing fireworks at any time presents a problem in our Town.

Lastly, it has come to the attention of the Council and many residents of our Town that Broward County is proposing to construct a solid waste incinerator on Sheridan Street in Pembroke Pines, and less than a few miles from homes within Southwest Ranches. The concept being proffered by Broward County is

for the entire county to send their solid waste to this one location, which is presently used as a landfill. This incinerator is by no means an issue being suggested by the Council, and as I have been advised, it is a serious concern for many residents. A large incinerator at this location will cause significant changes to the area. I feel it will be one of the biggest issues affecting our Town to date. Concerns expressed from residents include but are not limited to, increased traffic from every garbage truck in the County travelling upon either Sheridan Street or the already severely congested Griffin Road, the loud noise from the incinerator operating 24 hours a day, light pollution affecting nearly properties, ash emanating from the smoke stack(s) covering everything for miles around the smoke stack(s), and last but certainly not the least, many residents have expressed apprehension concerning chemical contamination of our surface and/or drinking waters. For most residents, our drinking water comes from wells that tap into either the Biscayne aquifer or the much deeper Floridian aquifer. Many years ago, Sunshine Ranches residents experienced chemically contaminated drinking water from the Vista View landfill, just north of Griffin Road at SW 148th Street. Some residents were forced to connect to municipal water because the ground water is contaminated from seepage from the old landfill. These memories do not fade away. Be assured that I will follow this issue very closely, discuss these concerns during Council meetings and if any decisions on this issue calls for a vote of the Council, I will put a great deal of weight behind the concerns of affected residents.

As your Town Council Member, I aim to preserve Southwest Ranches' unique rural lifestyle and minimize any changes to it. Together, let's protect and maintain what makes our community special. I also strive to return all phone calls within 24 to 48 hours. If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me. As always, it has been an honor to serve as your voice on the Council.

Very Truly Yours,

David S Kuczenski

Council Member District 4



### BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE MAY 25, 2023 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2023-049 approving a service order with ClearGov, Inc. for budget cycle management software.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-050 approving a use agreement with the Cioli Group, LLC for the Southwest Ranches Community Farmer's Market.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-051 approving an interlocal agreement (ILA) with Broward County regarding solid waste.

### Brief legislation from the June 8, 2023 Town Council Regular Meeting:

- Adopted Resolution 2023-052 approving an extension to the existing TD Bank emergency line of credit (LOC) in the amount of \$20 million.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-053 awarding a contract to Sun Up Enterprises, Inc. for Town Hall parking lot improvements.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-054 amending Resolution Number 2023-045 to correct an ownership error with the water agreement for 12550 Luray Road.

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.



## APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISTRICT 103 ON THE GOVERNOR'S DESK



This session, we passed the largest budget in Florida's history - \$117 billion. I am proud that four of my sponsored appropriation projects were included in the budget and are awaiting the Governor's approvals.

Southwest Ranches will receive **\$340,200** to construct a stormwater conveyance system. Stormwater runoff floods the SW 185th Way and SW 57th Court right-of-way. This leads to a large area of standing water through which many vehicles cannot safely drive. This will improve the level of service of the roadway.

The South Broward Drainage District (SBDD) will receive **\$262,500**. The funds requested here will be used for the SBDD to rehabilitate three, large drainage culverts - so large that you can drive a truck through them. These culverts are critical infrastructure to convey all of the stormwater runoff for a 4160-acre drainage basin affecting thousands of homes and businesses in the cities of Hollywood, Pembroke Pines, Miramar, and parts of Davie and Southwest Ranches. If they failed, the results would be catastrophic.

The Dellenbach Foundation will receive **\$50,000**. They provide critical financial aid, essential supplies, and volunteer services to Veterans, First Responders, and sick and injured children. These individuals are struggling with homelessness, substance abuse, and a range of mental and physical challenges. This money will be used directly for services to those in need.

The Weston Music Society will receive **\$12,000**. The Weston Music Society will hold assemblies featuring professional musicians to promote appreciation of the field of music. Sub-grants will be provided to the music programs of Weston secondary schools to cover costs not funded in full by funds provided by the local school districts for band programs, uniforms, instruments, travel, and other music program and music student expenses. This will help families

who are facing financial hardships and are unable to secure the funds necessary to participate fully in a band program.

**CS/HB 881, My Safe Florida Home Program**, also passed this Legislative Session. This program provides grant money to **Florida homeowners** to retrofit their single-family homes and make them less vulnerable to hurricane damage. The bill increases the overall grant award for recipients from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Some of these improvements include:

### Roofs & Structure:

- Reinforce roof-to-wall connections
- Install secondary water resistance for the roof
- Upgrade roof covering
- Improve the strength of roof deck attachments

### Openings:

- Exterior door upgrades
- Garage door upgrades
- Window upgrades

For more information on the guidelines, eligibility, and to apply for a free home hurricane inspection, visit: My Safe Florida Home – Florida Department of Financial Services ([mysafehome.com](http://mysafehome.com))

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](mailto:robin.bartleman@myfloridahouse.gov) or our office at (954) 424-6828. You can also reach me on my personal cell at (954) 668-3662

### TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES

### 2024 PHOTO CONTEST CALENDAR ENTRY FORM

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



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

I UNDERSTAND, ACKNOWLEDGE, AND AGREE THAT THE SUBMISSION OF PHOTOGRAPHS TO THE TOWN CONSTITUTES A "WORK MADE FOR HIRE," AND I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO THE WORK AND THE WORK PRODUCT, INCLUDING MORAL OR OTHERWISE. THIS STATEMENT SHALL CONTROL OVER THE PROVISIONS OF 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106A(a) AND SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER BY ME OF ANY RIGHTS IN THE WORK SET OUT IN OR OTHERWISE GRANTED BY 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106A(a), VISUAL ARTISTS RIGHTS ACT OF 1990. ALL OTHER RIGHTS IN AND TO THE WORK, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ALL RIGHTS IN THE NATURE OF "DROIT MORAL" RELATING TO ANY CONTINUING INTEREST I MAY HAVE IN THE MAINTENANCE OR MODIFICATION OF THE WORK, ARE EXPRESSLY WAIVED AND, INsofar AS SUCH RIGHTS ARE TRANSFERABLE, ARE ASSIGNED TO THE TOWN. MY WORK IS ORIGINAL AND IT COMPLIES WITH ALL APPLICABLE PATENT, TRADEMARK AND COPYRIGHT LAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND CODES. I UNDERSTAND, ACKNOWLEDGE, AND AGREE THAT THROUGH THE CONVEYANCE OF MY SUBMISSION THE WORK WILL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE TOWN AND MAY BE USED, REPRODUCED, SOLD, OR MODIFIED BY THE TOWN IN THE TOWN'S SOLE DISCRETION.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

SIGNATURE OF GUARDIAN FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18: \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)



# CREATING POLLINATOR POTS

(Information adapted from <https://www.pollinator.org/pollinators>)

## POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

Landscaping with Florida's native wildflowers and plants provides refuge for birds, bees and butterflies while creating "habitat highways" through urban settings. The insects which pollinate our food crops and natural areas are in steep decline. Our suburban landscapes are more important than ever in supporting them. Even slight changes in your landscape and neighborhood can help build native, natural corridors which provide food, nesting, and other resources for insect pollinators. No place for a garden? No problem! You can create a small oasis for pollinator insects planting pots with Florida's native wildflowers.

### Easy and fun!

Starting your own pollinator pot is an easy and fun way to provide a stopover for local pollinators while helping to "connect the dots" to nearby wildflowers and natural areas. Your pots can be seasonal or may offer year-round benefits through plants that bloom at various times. When you use Florida's native wildflowers, your pollinator pot will attract a variety of insects, including butterflies, native and honeybees, flies, and beetles. When they feed on a flower's nec-

tar, they inadvertently pick up pollen on their legs and body parts. As they visit new areas, this pollen will be distributed to other plants of the same species to complete the pollination process, resulting in seeds and fruit.

### GETTING STARTED

#### Container selection

Use a variety of pot sizes, from one gallon to 5 to 7 gallons. Drainage in container gardens is especially important in order to avoid plant root rot, so look for pots with a large hole in the bottom or five to seven smaller holes. Look for pots that have saucers or purchase them separately to place under pots to catch runoff and extend soil moisture. If you plan to grow moisture-loving species, choose pots with limited drainage.

#### Site selection

Plan to group your pollinator pots to create a visual "hotspot" that is easily seen by potential insect visitors. Sunny pollinator gardens need four to six hours of direct or indirect light daily. Shady pollinator gardens also can attract pollinators, but plants will bloom best if they get two to three hours of filtered sunlight.

#### Soil

Use potting soil made with crushed pine bark and peat or media designed for vegetable grow boxes. A light mulching of pine straw or leaves can help the soil retain moisture. Fill the pot with soil then water to saturate it before planting.

#### Plant selection

A complete pollinator garden will provide blooming wildflowers in spring, summer, and fall, so plan to mix plants in large pots or use a single species per separate pot for each season. If mixing plants in large pots, it is important to choose plants with similar moisture needs. Select three to five species of varying heights for large pots. You also can add low-growing groundcovers, grasses, or a vine. Consult your local native plant nursery for wildflowers which grow well in pots throughout Florida.

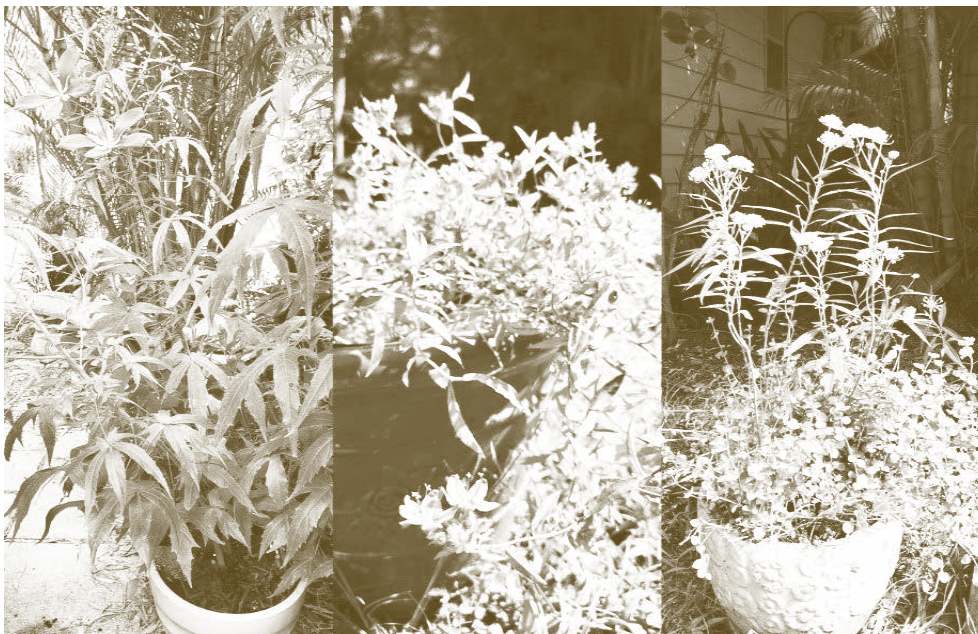
#### Maintenance

Potted plants dry out faster than in-ground plantings, so give pots a good watering once or twice a week as needed. Larger pots may need less-frequent watering. As your potted garden matures, it will go through natural cycles. After flowers mature and seed sets, perennials can be cut to their base for regrowth or replaced with fresh plants. Promote repeated flowering by deadheading flowers. Trim sparse plants to increase new leaf growth. Wildflowers in nature and in-ground gardens do not require fertilizer, but a low concentration of a balanced liquid or solid fertilizer can be applied if your pollinator pot plants appear undernourished.

#### Observe pollinators

Learn to identify visitors to your pollinator garden. Some helpful resources are:

- Florida Wildflower Foundation's "Know Your Native Pollinator" profiles
- Florida Museum of Natural History
- iNaturalist



Examples of pollinator pots. Photos by Jen Tyson



# 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](mailto:eaceti@southwestranches.org).**

## " BUDGET WORKSHOPS AND BUDGET HEARINGS "



The following publicly held Budget workshop/meetings will be in Council Chambers

**Tuesday August 15, 2023 at 7PM**

- Budget Workshop on Proposed Budget

**Thursday September 14, 2023 at 6PM**

- First Public Hearing for Tentative Milage (via resolution) and
- Budget Adoption for FY 2023-2024 (via ordinance – First Reading)
- Final Fire Protection and solid waste special assessment adoption (via resolution)

**Thursday September 28, 2023 at 6PM**

- Second Public Hearing for Final Milage (via resolution) and
- Budget Adoption for FY 2023-2024 (via ordinance – Second Reading)

## " HOW TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE TOWN "

The Town welcomes participation from all vendors qualified to do business with the Town.

Please visit the Procurement page on the Town's website and complete the Vendor Application.



- **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](http://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](http://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](http://FEMA.gov/flood-insurance-reform).



### Get a Flood Insurance Policy

Replacing household contents damaged by floods could place a significant financial burden on a homeowner or renter without flood insurance. Just a few inches of water from a flood can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Homeowner's insurance policies do not generally cover damage from floods. However, because the Town of Southwest Ranches participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy from an insurance agent and benefit from the premium discount available to all Southwest Ranches residents. Flood insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded previously. Please note that unless there is a special condition of the mortgage, there normally is a 30-day waiting period between the time flood insurance is purchased and the time coverage is in force. Though all home and business owners in these areas with mortgages from federally regulated or insured lenders are required to buy flood insurance, all residents should consider flood insurance to protect against significant financial losses.

If your property is in the SFHA and you have a mortgage from a federally regulated or insured lender, flood insurance is required. Even if you do not have a mortgage and you live in the SFHA or you live outside of the SFHA, all property owners and renters should carefully consider the benefits of flood insurance to protect against significant financial losses from floods. For more information visit the following sites: [Floodsmart.gov](http://Floodsmart.gov) and [FEMA.gov/national-flood-insurance-program](http://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 [rlley@swranches.org](mailto:rlley@swranches.org).

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



## 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.





# MARTY KIAR

BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

## Veterans with a Service-Connected Disability

Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 10% - 99%, or their surviving spouse, are eligible to receive a \$5,000 exemption on their homesteaded property's assessed value. Florida law also provides a full exemption for veterans with a 100% service-connected disability rating or the veteran's surviving spouse.

If your service-connected disability rating has increased to 100% since you initially filed for your Veteran's Exemption, please provide our office with a certificate indicating your 100% service-connected disability rating from the US Government or US Department of Veterans. You can email a copy of this certificate to [exemptions@bcpa.net](mailto:exemptions@bcpa.net). The deadline to file for all 2023 exemptions is September 18, 2023.

## Helpful Resources Available Online at [web.bcpa.net](http://web.bcpa.net)

Property owners who need proof of residency for school applications or proof of Homestead Exemption can easily print a copy of their property record directly from our website. Simply visit our website at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Record-Search>. Search for your home by name or address. Once you find your property record, you can print or save the property record page as a PDF (last icon on the tool bar).

To find the property taxes paid on a property, search for your property record and click on the "Tax" icon to link to the Tax Collector's website or visit their website at <https://county-taxes.net/broward>

Property owners who would like to view sales in their subdivision can click on the "Map" icon. An aerial view of the property will appear and a layer list box on the left side enables you to click on the "No Sales" drop down box to select sales you would like to view. Any sales you select will then populate on the aerial map. You can also view this information in the "Recent Sales in this Subdivision" section on the property record page (click on "More Sales" to view additional sales in your subdivision).

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

Take care,

*Marty Kiar*

Marty Kiar, JD, CFA  
Broward County Property Appraiser



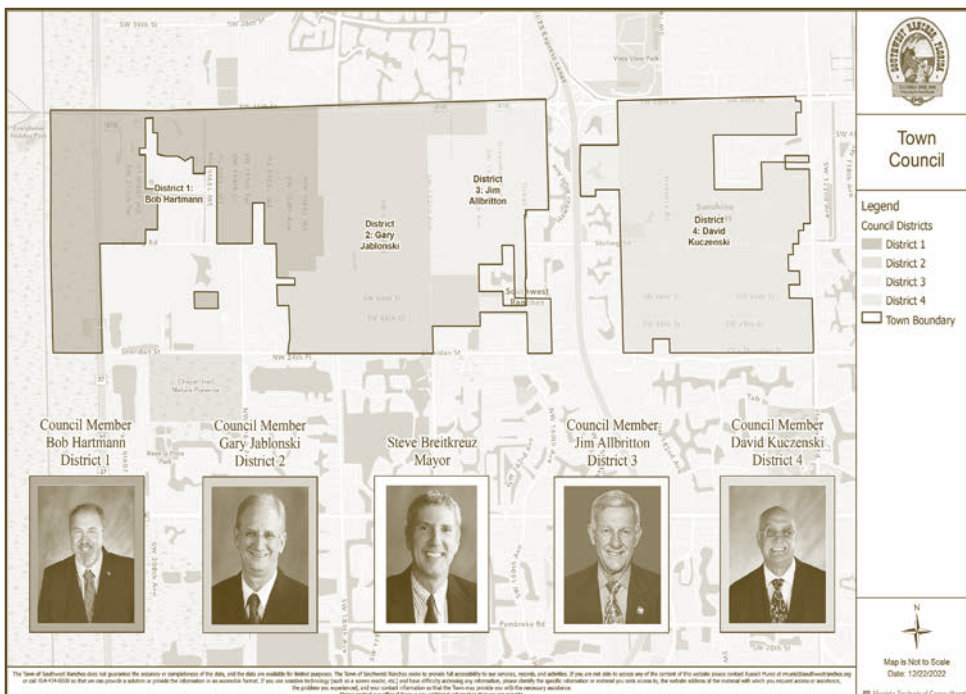
MartyKiarBCPA  
@MartyKiarBCPA

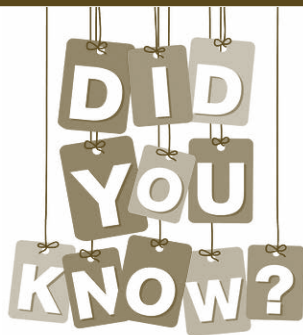
# Southwest Ranches FIRE RESCUE



The Southwest Ranches Volunteer Fire Rescue has been training at the Broward Fire Academy as mentioned in previous news articles. Training is the key to success in safely mitigating emergency incidents. The SWR Training Division consistently develops new training programs to keep our personnel updated on their fire and medical duties.

Stay Safe,  
**Fire Chief**  
**Lee Bennett**





Are you looking for a copy of a survey or building plan? Did you need information on when an Ordinance or Resolution passed or maybe you just have a question and don't know who to ask. The Town of Southwest Ranches Town Clerk's Office is here for you. We are the official records custodian for the Town

and we are here for you as its residents. The Town Clerk's Office has many responsibilities such as:

- Maintains Public Records
- Attests Town Contracts and Official Documents
- Administers and Records Oaths of Office
- Serves as the Liaison for Various Advisory Boards
- Prepares Town Council Meeting Agendas and Minutes
- Administers Town Elections

We also act as the Town's Public Information Officer. We work very hard to keep Town residents informed utilizing various information platforms, such as Town Talk, the Southwest Rancher Newsletter, Facebook, Twitter, Code Red as well as the Town's website. We invite you to follow us on our Social Media Platforms as well as subscribe to our email notification systems.

- Town Website – [www.southwestranches.org](http://www.southwestranches.org)
- Code Red – <http://www.southwestranches.org/codered/>
- Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/SWRGOV/>
- Twitter – [https://twitter.com/SWR\\_Gov](https://twitter.com/SWR_Gov)
- YouTube - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP8bzn6TdSC5Tvo\\_oNZTY7g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP8bzn6TdSC5Tvo_oNZTY7g)
- Town Talk - <https://www.southwestranches.org/town-talk-self-registration-form/>



## 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 WEBSITE

[www.southwestranches.org](http://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.



## NBA basketball teams



C	A	V	A	I	N	E	L	C	A	N	S	7	S	G	G	A	A	E	L	I
K	O	W	6	C	J	L	T	P	H	B	T	W	S	A	Z	H	S	R	7	N
K	O	W	6	C	J	L	T	P	H	B	T	W	S	A	Z	H	S	R	7	N
S	I	C	I	N	S	T	S	U	N	B	E	L	U	K	A	I	E	7	E	S
B	A	M	O	H	S	V	O	6	Z	N	L	I	E	7	E	S	I	K	P	Z
W	M	N	K	S	I	E	K	W	H	E	7	E	S	I	K	P	Z	I	V	
U	S	J	U	T	R	B	A	H	P	G	E	O	7	6	E	6	D	V	A	
A	M	A	V	E	R	I	C	K	S	R	R	A	G	R	I	Z	Z	L	I	E
B	7	J	D	S	N	7	H	C	O	R	M	U	S	W	T	W	K	E	A	J
S	Z	M	J	W	Z	C	O	C	I	A	W	S	C	7	I	D	G	G	B	M
M	A	K	W	I	H	R	H	C	T	M	K	O	H	E	L	M	M	Z	J	V
A	M	C	W	M	O	T	K	O	I	H	U	N	E	R	A	C	H	B	K	A
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G	Z	H	R	R	E	T	R	P	N	E	A	P	G	T	K	K	I	N	G	S
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suns  
mavericks  
bucks  
raptors  
heats  
lakers

grizzlies  
jazz  
spurs  
hawks  
nets  
celtics

nuggets  
blazers  
timberwolves  
kings  
knicks  
cavaliers

rockets  
wizards  
thunders  
76ers  
hornets  
warriors

pacers  
pistons  
clippers  
pelicans  
bulls





PHOTO BY: Robin Ditzian

# July 2023

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

25	26	27	28	29	30	1 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 8:30-1:00 pm <b>BULK ZONE 6</b>
2 • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm • Country Estates HOA - Grace Baptist Church - 19200 Griffin Rd - 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 7</b>	3 <b>BULK ZONE 7</b>	4  <b>BULK ZONE 8</b>	5 <b>BULK ZONE 9</b>	6 • Code Hearing Town Hall 10 am <b>BULK ZONE 10</b>	7 <b>BULK ZONE 11</b>	8 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 8:30-1:00 pm <b>BULK ZONE 12</b>
9 • Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 1</b>	10 <b>BULK ZONE 1</b>	11 <b>BULK ZONE 2</b>	12 <b>BULK ZONE 3</b>	13 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Town Hall 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 4</b>	14 <b>BULK ZONE 5</b>	15 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 8:30-1:00 pm <b>BULK ZONE 6</b>
16 • Rural Public Arts & Design Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 7</b>	17 <b>BULK ZONE 7</b>	18 Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 8</b>	19 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 9</b>	20 Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 10</b>	21 <b>BULK ZONE 11</b>	22 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 8:30-1:00 pm <b>BULK ZONE 12</b>
23 <b>BULK ZONE 1</b>	24 <b>BULK ZONE 1</b>	25 • Rolling Oaks Civic Assn Meeting Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56 Street - 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 2</b>	26 Flow Mobile - DMV Service 10 am - 2 pm - Town Hall by appt only • Sunshine Ranches HOA Meeting 7:30 - 9pm <b>BULK ZONE 3</b>	27 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Town Hall 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 4</b>	28 <b>BULK ZONE 5</b>	29 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 8:30-1:00 pm • HHW Event Off- 8am-2pm • Shred-A-Thon 10am-1pm • Drug Drop Off 10am-2pm Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56 St. <b>BULK ZONE 6</b>
30 <b>BULK ZONE 7</b>	31 <b>BULK ZONE 7</b>	1	2	3	4	5 

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & BULK DROP OFF EVENT

Saturday, July 29th, 2023. 8:00am to 2:00pm

Location: Rolling Oaks Barn - 17630 SW 56th St., Southwest Ranches, 33331

Document shredding from 10-1pm. prescription drug drop off 10-2pm

This service is provided for Town residents only. 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

## 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

## LIVESTOCK AREA

The 4th of July holiday is coming  
up. Please be mindful of our  
neighbors with livestock.  
Please do not use fireworks that  
would cause undue harm or stress  
to our friends with animals.

Be a good neighbor.



**Town of Southwest Ranches**

13400 Griffin Road

Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MIAMI, FL  
PERMIT #622



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YOUTUBE:  
Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel



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**

The theme this year is...  
**BEAUTY IN THE RANCHES**

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

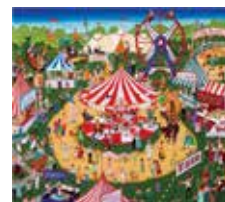
Picture by: George Morris

# SW RANCHES COUNTRY FAIR & CARNIVAL

**FOOD & CRAFT  
VENDORS WANTED**

**SPONSORSHIPS  
AVAILABLE**

**CONTACT:  
SWRCOUNTRYFAIR.COM**



**WHEN**  
JAN 12th-15th

**WHERE**  
SW Meadows  
Sanctuary  
Park

**16290 Griffin  
Road, SW  
Ranches, FL**

**BENEFITING  
SW RANCHES  
PARKS  
FOUNDATION**