

# SOUTHWEST RANCHER

*Preserving Our Rural Lifestyle*



SOUTHWEST RANCHES  
RESIDENTS GET  
**DISCOUNT**  
ON FLOOD INSURANCE  
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**BUDGET  
WORKSHOP**  
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**BINGO  
AT THE BARN**  
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**AUGUST 2023**

## 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@SWRGOV

### 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) 801-1758	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	eamceti@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	
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@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	
	(754) 224-0877	Facebook@SWRLostandFoundAnimals

### 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	
Cheryl Danner, <i>Police Services Coordinator</i>	(954) 693-8290	evelazquez@davie-fl.gov
<i>Davie Fire Rescue Station 112</i>	(954) 693-8352	cdanner@southwesttranches.org
<i>Volunteer Fire Rescue - Chief Bennett</i>	(954) 952-4608	

#### 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

– Waste to Energy Plant

Over the last couple of years, we have been hearing about an effort

from Broward County Officials who are proposing to develop a central plan for waste disposal for Broward County. This has been triggered by an overall understanding that we need to have a better plan moving forward, and we need to work together to come up with that plan. Also, there was a mandate at the State level that something be done by 2030. Based on this effort, the Town was requested, and the Town Council agreed to, an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Broward County and the participating municipalities that would develop a task force to address this issue by creating a unified Solid Waste Authority.

While no specific solution is proposed in the ILA, the preferred option currently is to have a Waste to Energy (WTE) plant. You may be familiar with this solution as Broward County has seen these in the past. One was in Pompano Beach and the other was on 441 just south of I-595 under the "Wheelabrator" moniker. While the proposed WTE would be the same type of plant, we are being told it would be a much cleaner and more efficient plant.

By approving this ILA, the Town will be a part of the discussion. Beyond that, because one of the locations, and by all accounts the primary location, will be near US 27 and Sheridan Street, the Town was able to secure the ability to provide our concerns up front, prior to any decisions and to participate in decision-making meetings.

Certainly, it is good to see this issue being addressed. This is not a problem that will be going away any time soon as Broward County continues to grow. The problem will only grow more acute. However, there are significant issues with potentially having the incinerator on this property near US 27.

There are major challenges with building an incinerator here in Western Broward County. Much of the drinking water in western Broward County comes from out west. Contaminating that water supply would be catastrophic. Another issue is getting the waste from eastern Broward County to western Broward County, so it could be burned. Since most of the population is in the east, hauling it out west would be highly inefficient. Finally,

placing it next to the Everglades, and putting that treasure at risk, is not something that anyone should be doing.

So, the question then is where this plant (WTE) should be located. Certainly, a place that is closer to the population center and where drinking water is not involved seems like a clearly better solution. Even better might be focusing on a true recycling effort whereby this plant would not be needed at all. Other areas are working at making this a reality. It would be exceptional if Broward County could also take the lead in this effort.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback on this and other issues. I am blessed and honored to serve as your Mayor.

Steve (954) 296-6018



## Vice Mayor Jim Allbritton

Good day Southwest Ranches,

Here we are in the middle of The Dog Days of

Summer, where the temperatures reach the high 90's, but it feels like temperatures are over 100 degrees. When outdoors remember to stay hydrated to help prevent the possibility of heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

I feel that our Town is in the middle of their own Dog Days with several hot button issues before us. The first is the Broward County Interlocal Agreement (ILA). With this agreement Broward County is looking for ways to reduce the amount of waste going into our landfills. The Town signed the ILA, which gave Southwest Ranches a seat at the table when any discussions or meetings about this issue take place. By signing the ILA, in NO WAY does this mean the Town is in favor of any Waste to Energy Plant (Incinerator). The Town Council recently passed a resolution opposing the placing of any waste to energy plant adjacent to or nearby the Town. Many of our residents have joined with the Town Council and the Town Staff in voicing our concerns about the future of the surrounding environment in southwest Broward if a waste plant is built. I am sure the Town's newsletter, which is mailed to every residence, and the Town's webpage will be used to help keep everyone informed. This is something with which we all need to get involved.

The second hot button issue deals with NOISE. The Mayor held a special workshop in May and

asked the residents for their input on what new provisions could be instituted within our current ordinance. The Council is currently working to bring forth a revised ordinance that better deals with this topic.

The third hot button issue deals with fill. There have been several fill violations where residents bring in fill without a permit or bring in more fill than their pulled permit allows. Our Drainage and Infrastructure Advisory Board is currently looking at ways to improve the process of getting a permit and to define what can be done when a violation occurs.

The fourth hot button issue deals with FIREWORKS. The State allows fireworks to be legally displayed on three days of the year, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and The 4th of July. As we saw during the 4th of July Holiday there were days before and after the 4th that fireworks were heard. The Town's Comprehensive Planning Board has proposed fireworks regulation that would put policies in place to regulate the other three hundred sixty-two days. This Ordinance is currently being drafted for action by the Council. This would give our police the ability to enforce violations.

In closing I would like to send my condolences to the Epps family for the passing of Mr. Curtiss W. Epps. RIP My Friend.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [jallbritton@southwesttranche.org](mailto:jallbritton@southwesttranche.org) or 954-343-7401 / 305-903-7043



## Council Member David S. Kuczenski

Howdy Ranchers,

This month, I would like to share a brief explanation of the upcoming

renewal of the Public Safety contract. The 10-year contract, valued at approximately \$113 million, will be the largest contract the Town has ever committed to. Before I get into the details, let me begin by stating that Public Safety is the greatest expense for every municipality. While this contract comes at a cost, extending the agreement to ten years will allow the administration to effectively plan and budget the expenses. In the future, and if feasible, I am hoping the administration can provide a breakdown on the annual TRIM notice detailing the part of the millage that goes towards public safety. I believe this will provide more transparency regarding the allocation of your tax dollars for Town-related services.

The idea of forming our own professional Fire, EMS, and Police force has been suggested as an alternative. However, this would be cost-prohibitive due to the lack of available resources, such as equipment, vehicles, facilities, and other administrative costs. Each department would require chiefs, assistant chiefs, command staff, as well as human resources expenses for recruiting, training, and dealing with union issues.

Our spending on Public Safety is targeted toward having active personnel on the ground rather than excessive administrative roles. We typically have two to four police officers on shift at all times, with a target of three officers. Furthermore, if a situation arises where additional police presence is needed, Davie always provides the necessary support. Davie has assigned our Town fourteen total road patrol officers and Eddy Velasquez, a highly respected and experienced detective, who serves as our liaison. Additionally, we have access to command staff and other units when needed.

Our analysis of another Broward municipality with a similar population (but smaller land mass) revealed that they are paying more than \$7.2 million for public safety per year for their own police and the BSO contract for fire, and they also expect that cost to significantly increase in Fiscal Year 2024. Town staff did have an exploratory meeting with BSO, but this did not prove to be a viable option.

Additionally, the contract includes a provision to construct an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This was already high priority for the Town Council. We expect a fully operational EOC in approximately five years or sooner if all goes well. This will require at least two additional rescue personnel.

Lastly, after experiencing a ride-along with a Davie police officer, I am even more convinced that Davie is a great partner. Chief Kinsey is a veteran of both BSO and the Fort Lauderdale police department. It was relayed to me that he has implemented many highly effective crime reduction programs in the community.

Now to the issue that we need your input on: methods of paying the contract. Currently, residents who are not exempt are paying approximately \$740 per household per year for their fire assessment. There will be an increase in the fire assessment portion of your tax bill, and the question is: How do you wish to pay for the services? These are the available options:

1: Pay the contract costs annually and assess residents for the cost of the service each year as we progress. This will increase every year as contract costs increase.

2: Divide the full value of the contract by 10 so that the payment is the same every year. This option will result in a very large increase up front, but it will be the same for the following ten years. (This option is being reviewed by the legal department)

3: Consider a smoothing option, where the annual payment increase is gradual at first and steeper towards the end. This alternative would be a mix of the first two options.

I urge you to discuss these alternatives with your family and reach out to me regarding your preferred payment method. Also, in accordance with Sunshine Law, I kindly request that you refrain from sharing any discussions you've had with one Council Member with another Council Member. I can assure you that not one cent of the increase will go to the Town for the general operation of our government.

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, please 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



## Council Member Bob Hartmann

Hi Neighbors,

About four years ago, a group of elected officials visited a Southwest Ranches Council meeting to educate our community about plans to meet a solid waste goal set by the Florida Legislature to increase recycling to 75% of the solid waste generated in Broward by 2030. At that point, the Council was skeptical but supportive of the goal, given our challenges with increasing recycling across town.

The group of officials made a recent trip to our Council meeting again to persuade our community to approve the County interlocal agreement (ILA) to create the new Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Materials Processing Authority (SWDRMA). An ILA is a written contract between local government agencies such as a town, a county, a school board, or a constitutional office. Any time a public service involves the joint operations and budgets of two or more local government agencies, one of the agencies must draft an ILA among the parties. It must be approved by all sides, with each government's gov-

erning body—a school board, a town council, a county commission—enacting the agreement by vote. We decided to approve the interlocal agreement because, with our approval of the contract, we will have a seat on the Authority to make the ongoing decisions. Otherwise, we would be locked out of the new county-wide solid waste authority and could not provide feedback on their direction. Given our proximity to the Pines Landfill, Mayor Steve Breitkreuz also successfully negotiated our seat to be with the large cities group. Due to its population size, SWR is often given a back seat to Pines, Fort Lauderdale, Pompano and Hollywood, and other large cities. The mayor recognizing this barrier, asked for and received this concession.

At the meeting, the officials highlighted a change since the inception of the original concept. Now their position is that they can only make the 75% recycling goal by 2030 and more stringent 2030 and 2050 goals by building incinerators. When asked where these facilities would be built, the representatives responded that it had yet to be decided. We learned that the County has two sites that may be used. One is called Alpha 250, and it's located adjacent to the WM Pompano Landfill (Monarch Hill Renewable Energy Park) east of the Turnpike between Wiles and Sample Road. The other identified potential site is the **Broward County Landfill between Sheridan Street and Stirling Rd and abutting US-27, bordering Southwest Ranches** on the southwest side of town. A few days later, we learned from a former county commissioner that the County can only make its recycling goals by 2050 by constructing at least three incinerators.

At June 8th Council Meeting, the Council responded to these plans accordingly. We collectively consider this a threat to our health, lifestyle, animals, property values, and the environment. The Council also took action to get started. The Council is drafting a resolution to be circulated to the Authority and its members, endorsing a zero-waste strategy. Zero-waste means nothing goes into the air, water, or ground; everything must be recycled.

Real solutions must focus on producing less waste, manufacturing less plastic, and using effective and proven mechanical and organics recycling methods—not finding new ways to incinerate these materials. We need to move towards a truly circular, sustainable, recycling economy based on materials that don't pollute, don't contain toxic chemicals, or come from fossil fuels.

For all these reasons, following the lead of environmental and environmental justice groups that have voiced strong opposition to policies supporting waste incineration, the County should not give the chemical and fossil fuel industries another opportunity to pollute the world, harm the public, and foist the costs of their products on communities.



Whatever green-washing euphemism the incineration industry uses—be it “waste to energy,” “chemical recycling,” or something else—waste incineration is a false solution that will ultimately leave Broward County, our communities, and the public feeling burned.

With the finite space for landfills running out, discovering ways to deal with our waste problem is imperative. The trash incineration (a.k.a. “waste-to-energy” or WTE) industry wants to persuade the public that they’re the answer. However, incinerators cause more problems than they solve and are the most expensive way to manage waste or to create energy. Incineration reduces every 100 tons of trash to 30 tons of toxic ash that must be disposed of in landfills.

The Council has asked the presidents of the SWR HOAs and civic associations to form a President’s Council to track the action of the Authority, help formulate a defensive strategy to eliminate the incinerators, and provide resident feedback on the town’s approach and residents’ views on the issue. Our residents have used the Presidents Council approach in the past to address and block actions by other government agencies. These meetings are expected to be held at least monthly and open to our residents to attend and participate. These meetings will be publicized by the Town and participating HOA.

We don’t want to be accused of “Not in my backyard” (NIMBY) syndrome. That argument is only

part of the concern. In an age where we are seeing climate change happening year-round, such as more and stronger hurricanes, frequent 100-year storms, flooding, and sea-level rise, as well as being forced to own lower emission vehicles or to switch from fossil-fuel powered to electric vehicles, lawn maintenance equipment, and other essential features of modern life, why would we agree to construct at least three \$1 billion incinerators that pollute on an industrial scale. The SWDRMA replaces the Broward Resource Recovery Board, which made similar commitments over 20 years ago and failed when China stopped buying recycling. We are going down the same Waste-to-energy path by giving up on recycling and building incinerators rather than focusing over the last four years on furthering recycling.

This action by the County has created the greatest risk to our Town since it was formed in 2000. At some point, we need your support as we fight the SWDRMA to change its approach to a sustainable method. Please follow this issue via the Sun Sentinel, the Town Newsletter, and social media. These are existential threats to our town and lifestyle. When we need your help to express our concerns to the Authority or protest these massive pollution generators, please answer the call to action.


If you have any questions on this topic or any town-related issues, please call me at 954-801-1758.

Bob Hartmann



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(submitted for the 2016 Photo Contest)
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### Clerk's Corner

by Russell Muñiz

**Clerk's Corner –**  
**BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE JUNE 2023 TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

- Adopted Resolution 2023-055 approving an extension of a phasing agreement for Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School, relating to its amended site plan.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-056 approving the purchase and installation of a galvanized steel dome roof shade structure for the Country Estates Fishing Hole Park.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-057 consenting to the City of Cooper City providing water services to 6125 Stallion Way.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-058 approving a settlement with the City of Pembroke Pines in connection with Broward County Circuit Court Case 12-28819, for attorney’s fees.

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.



### Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation presents

## AT THE BINGO THE BARN

**Saturday, August 26th, 2023**  
**Dinner 6-7**  
**BINGO 7-9**

Rolling Oaks Park  
17630 SW 56 Street  
SW Ranches, FL 33331

Tickets \$25.00 in advance or \$35.00 at the door.  
Ticket price includes dinner, first 2 BINGO cards  
and a chance to win door prize.

More BINGO cards available for \$2.00 each.

Call: 954-343-7452  
Email: dlauretano@swranches.org







**August 2023**

## **KidCare**

**Now Signed into Law!**

Florida's working families have been facing serious financial demands. Families struggle

to feed their kids and put a roof over their heads. They have also been struggling to afford healthcare for their children – their most precious asset.

After 3 years of advocating for the expansion of the Florida KidCare Eligibility Program, **my bipartisan bill finally passed both Chambers during this past Legislative Session.** Furthermore, on June 22nd, Governor Ron DeSantis signed this bill into law.

The Florida KidCare Program provides health insurance coverage for families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid. Before this legislation, KidCare eligibility sat at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Now, working families up to 300% of the poverty level can qualify for healthcare coverage. This law creates a glide path with different premium tiers for families. As they make more, they will contribute more. This is a hand up for working families, not a hand out. This change will go into effect January 1, 2024.

For too long, working families feared losing their comprehensive healthcare coverage should they make a few extra dollars from a promotion or pay raise. Now, these parents and guardians who have struggled can breathe knowing they can protect their children in the years to come. As they earn more, they will contribute more, and the new system will set families up for economic prosperity. This bill is projected to help over 77,000 families in its first year and hundreds of thousands of families thereafter.

## **Back-To-School!**

**Florida Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance Program**

As many of you may know, I was a school teacher and a member of the Broward School Board for many years. Now, my eldest daughter, Emma, is a teacher as well. Too many times we have had to pay out of pocket for necessary classroom materials. As a teacher,

all we want is to provide the best learning environment for students, but have struggled to do so with our financial limitations.

This year, the Legislature passed the largest budget in state history topping out at over \$117 billion. A portion of the budget was allocated to the Florida Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance Program. This will provide school teachers with funds to purchase classroom materials and supplies for their students. A minimum of \$300 per classroom teacher was rolled into this program in what is known as the "base student allocation" (BSA). These funds will enrich our schools even further by providing for the students and families who may struggle to make ends meet when factoring in the costs of these classroom materials. Additionally, Teachers employed less than full-time are able to receive a prorated portion of the supply assistance grant.

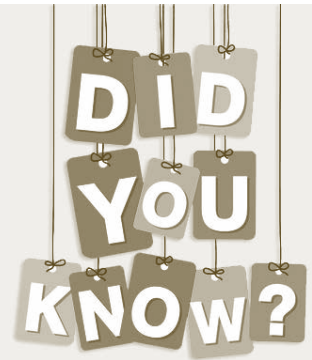
## **HB 733 - Middle School and High School Start Times**

This past session, the Florida Legislature passed a bipartisan bill that will require changing start times for middle and high schools beginning in 2026. This bill will push back instructional start times to 8:00 a.m. for middle schools and 8:30 a.m. for high schools, allowing for more optimal sleep times for teenagers amongst other health benefits according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). This bill also appropriates a non-recurring \$5,000,000 to award grants given to school districts that implement these changes before July 2026, and to conduct surveys of superintendents regarding the costs of these changes.

This bill will prioritize the health of our children by allowing them to get the sleep they need to succeed physically, mentally, socially, and academically. Specifically, it creates start times that are more consistent with our teenagers' changing sleep cycles. This bill will also cover the costs of making this as seamless of a transition for our students and schools as possible.

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



## **SOUTHWEST RANCHES RESIDENTS GET A 15% DISCOUNT ON FLOOD INSURANCE?**

Flooding causes millions of dollars' worth of damage to homes and businesses around the country every year. Standard homeowners and commercial property insurance policies do not cover flood losses. To meet the need for this vital coverage, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP offers flood insurance to all properties in communities that comply with minimum standards for floodplain management.

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary program for communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program. The CRS offers flood insurance policy premium discounts in communities that develop and execute extra measures beyond minimum floodplain management requirements to provide protection from flooding.

Under the CRS, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reward community actions that meet the three goals of the CRS, which are: (1) reduce flood damage to insurable property; (2) strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP; (3) encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

The Town implements measures and is audited annually to maintain a CRS Class 7 community rating in the program. This means residents of Southwest Ranches enjoy a 15% discount on flood insurance. Contact your insurance company if you do not believe you are receiving this discount.

For more information visit: <https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/community-rating-system>







# NO LAWNs

(Source: <https://www.nolawns.org/p/why-no-lawns.html>)

Lawns movement seeks to mitigate these negative impacts by encouraging the adoption of more sustainable and low-maintenance alternatives.

## Monoculture Lawns:

Monoculture lawns, consisting of a single grass species, lack the biodiversity that healthy ecosystems require. These lawns can create a fragile environment susceptible to pests, diseases, and other issues, often requiring the use of harmful pesticides and herbicides to maintain their uniformity. The No Lawns movement promotes the use of native plants, wildflowers, and diverse plantings that support a rich ecosystem and reduce the need for chemical inputs.

## Water Conservation:

Maintaining a traditional lawn can require an enormous amount of water, especially during periods of drought or in arid climates. The No Lawns movement emphasizes the importance of water conservation by advocating for the use of drought-tolerant plants, xeriscaping, and rainwater harvesting techniques. These approaches can drastically reduce water consumption while still providing visually appealing landscapes.

The No Lawns movement is a growing environmental and social initiative that challenges the traditional concept of lush, green, and manicured lawns as the ideal for residential and public spaces. Advocates of this movement aim to promote more sustainable, eco-friendly, and diverse alternatives to conventional lawns, which often require intensive maintenance, excessive water usage, and the use of harmful chemicals. By understanding the reasons behind the No Lawns movement and the benefits of adopting alternative landscaping practices, we can create healthier, more sustainable, and beautiful outdoor spaces.

## Environmental Impact:

Traditional lawns often demand a significant amount of water, energy, and chemical inputs to maintain their pristine appearance. This not only depletes valuable resources but also contributes to pollution, ecosystem degradation, and climate change. The No



## Wildlife Preservation:

Monoculture lawns often lack the necessary resources to support local wildlife, such as food, shelter, and nesting sites. By replacing lawns with more diverse and native plantings, the No Lawns movement aims to create habitats that support pollinators, birds, and other beneficial wildlife, ultimately fostering a healthier and more balanced ecosystem.

## Health Concerns:

The use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides on traditional lawns can pose health risks for humans, pets, and wildlife. These chemicals can contaminate soil, water sources, and air quality, leading to a range of health issues. The No Lawns movement advocates for organic and chemical-free landscaping practices to protect the health of communities and the environment.

## Time and Resource Efficiency:

Maintaining a manicured lawn can be time-consuming, labor-intensive, and expensive. By adopting more sustainable landscaping practices, homeowners can save time, effort, and money while contributing to a healthier environment.



## MARTY KIAR

BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

### 2023 TRIM Notices

The Broward County Property Appraiser's Office mails the TRIM (proposed tax) Notices in August of each year. This is NOT a tax bill but shows your property's 2023 Just/Market Value, exemptions, and proposed taxes as set by the various taxing authorities. The TRIM Notice is your opportunity to review your 2023 Just Value and ensure you are receiving all the tax-saving exemptions you are eligible for.

Florida Statutes require our office use January 1 as the date of assessment each year. The 2023 Just Values are based on the market data from 2022 with January 1, 2023, as the date of assessment. Our office must consider changes in market conditions – up or down – when developing the Just/Market Values each year.

The Property Appraiser's Office does not set or collect property taxes. If you have questions about the proposed tax rates, the contact information and public hearing dates for the individual taxing authorities are listed to the right of each agency name on the TRIM Notice.

### I Recently Applied for Homestead Exemption—Why Is It Not Showing on My TRIM Notice?

Florida Statutes require our office use January 1 as the date of assessment and to determine exemption eligibility each year. If you purchased your home after January 1, 2023, you are eligible for 2024 Homestead Exemption. The 2024 exemptions will show online in December and be included for the 2024 tax year.

### I Had Homestead Exemption Last Year - Where Did My Exemptions Go This Year?

If you purchased your home in 2022, you may have "inherited" the previous owner's exemptions last year. These 2022 exemptions were removed at the end of 2022, so are no longer showing on your TRIM Notice for tax year 2023. Fortunately, you can still file for 2023 Homestead and any other exemptions you may qualify for until September 18, 2023. To apply online, please visit our website at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Homestead> or scan the QR code below.

### I Am a Senior Citizen – Why Isn't the Senior Exemption Showing?

The Senior Exemption is both an age and income-based exemption that is not automatically applied to a property because of the income requirement. To be eligible for this exemption, an applicant must be age 65 or older as of January 1, 2023 and have an adjusted household gross income for 2022 not exceeding \$35,167. If you believe you qualify for this additional exemption, you can still file until September 18, 2023. To review the exemption requirements and to apply for this exemption, please go to our website at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/SeniorExemption>

If my office can be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact me at [martykiar@bcpa.net](mailto:martykiar@bcpa.net).

Take care,

Marty Kiar, CFA  
Broward County Property Appraiser



Scan for All  
Tax-Saving  
Exemptions



Scan for  
BCPA website



Scan to Apply for  
Homestead  
Exemption

## - MEMORIAM -

Curtiss W. Epps

Loving and devoted husband and father, Curtiss W. Epps SR (85), of Southwest Ranches, FL passed away on June 22nd, 2023. He leaves behind his wife Nancy, daughter Pamela Ivey, husband Michael, son's Curtiss II, wife Cheryl, Charles, wife Lisa, Craig, wife Kascey, Christopher wife Julia, 14 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Curtiss was a devoted Christian strong in his faith, committed to his church (Grace Baptist) and his community of Southwest Ranches.

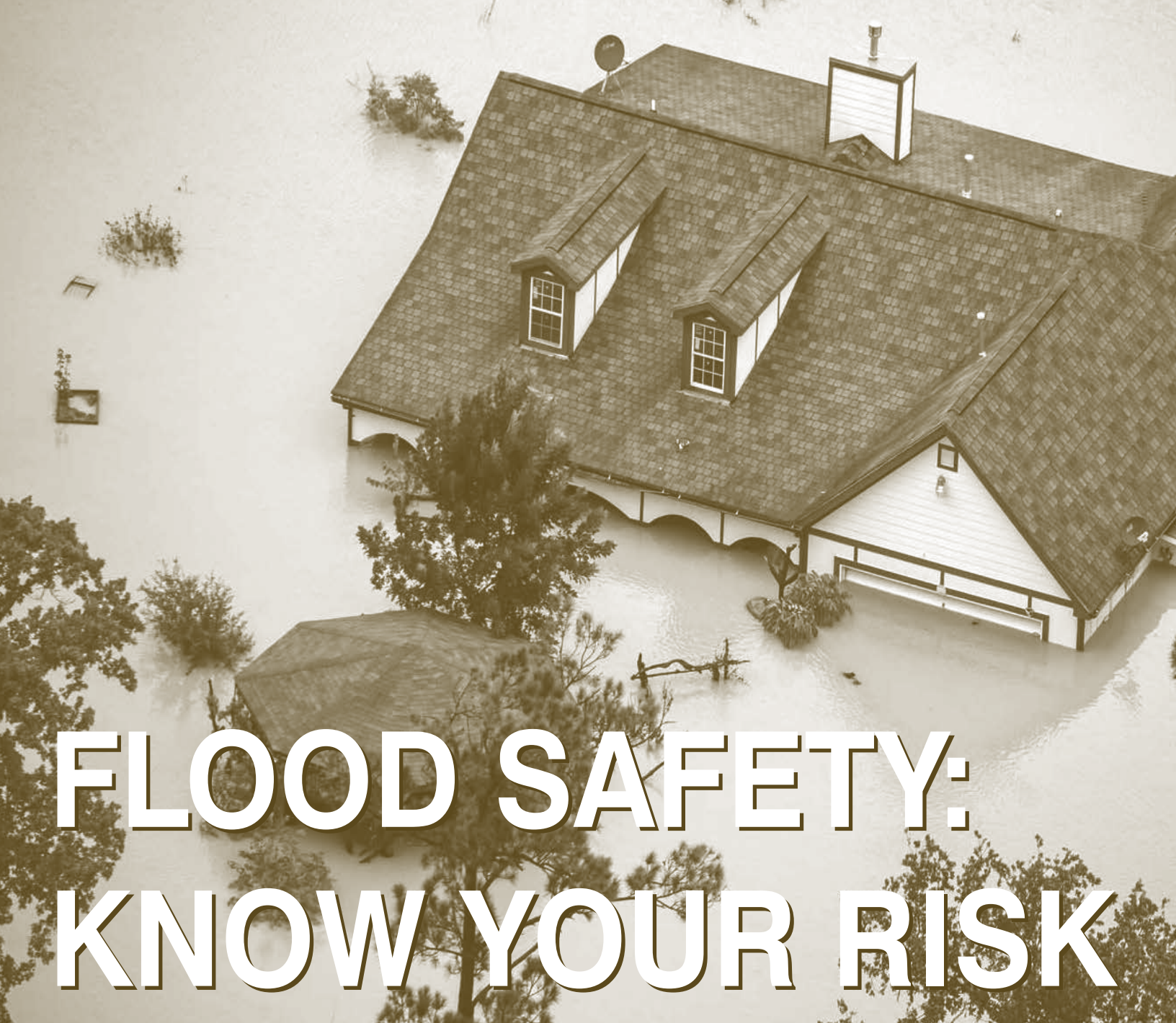
Curtiss took interest in the development of Southwest Ranches and attended most if not all homeowner association meetings.

Curtiss and Nancy started attending Grace Baptist Church in 2010, where Curtiss became a church deacon and a Sunday morning staple. He was placed as one of the Board of Directors for Grace Baptist and Family Ministries of America.

Curtiss will be remembered, loved and dearly missed by his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Grace Baptist in Curtiss' name.





# FLOOD SAFETY: KNOW YOUR RISK

- **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://southwestbranches.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





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 and provide your address and zip code.

#### **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 regula-

tions. 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 could also get flood hazard information for your property by calling (954) 434-0008 and providing your address and zip code.

#### **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.

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

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.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY...**

**Nicklas Hugdahl - August 1st**  
**Pamala Wallace - August 25th**  
**Kayla Wallace - August 26th**



**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**


**School Time**

**Broward County School Calendar**  
**Welcome back students...**

AUGUST				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

**Monday, August 14th thru Friday, August 18th -**  
 (Employee Planning - no school for students)

**Monday, August 21st**  
**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**



**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 106(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 106(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) \_\_\_\_\_

**" 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 SW 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.

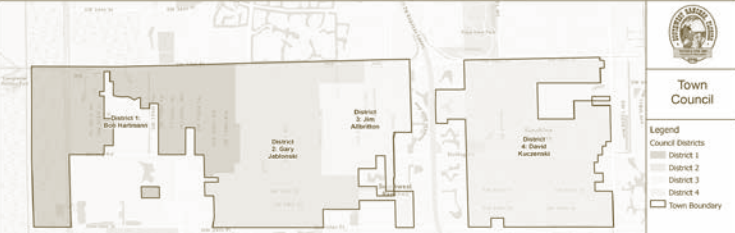
**PROTOTYPE BARN**



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.**



**Town Council**

**Legend**  
 Council Districts  
 District 1  
 District 2  
 District 3  
 District 4  
 Town Boundary


**Council Member**  
 Bob Harrison  
 District 1

**Council Member**  
 Gary Jablonski  
 District 2

**Steve Breckhaus**  
 Mayor

**Council Member**  
 Jim Albritton  
 District 3

**Council Member**  
 David Kaszinski  
 District 4



Map is not to scale. Date: 10/20/2022

**SWR** **SHOW YOUR TOWN SPIRIT**

SWR stickers are made for residents by the Country Estates Homeowners Association. Sticker's are \$1 each and are available at Town Hall, 13400 Griffin Rd.





PHOTO BY: Lara Schwartzman

## AUGUST 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1 • Code Hearing Town Hall 9 am • Broward County Property Appraiser -Town Hall 10-12 pm <b>BULK ZONE 8</b>	2 <b>BULK ZONE 9</b>	3 <b>BULK ZONE 10</b>	4 <b>BULK ZONE 11</b>	5 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 8:30-1:00 pm <b>BULK ZONE 12</b>
6 • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm • Country Estates HOA - Grace Baptist Church - 19200 Griffin Rd - 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 1</b>	7 <b>BULK ZONE 2</b>	8 <b>BULK ZONE 3</b>	9 <b>BULK ZONE 4</b>	10 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Town Hall 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 5</b>	11 <b>BULK ZONE 6</b>	12 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 8:30-1:00 pm <b>BULK ZONE 7</b>
13 • Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 8</b>	14 Budget Workshop on Proposed Budget Town Hall 7 pm Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board - Town Hall 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 9</b>	15 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 10</b>	16 Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 11</b>	17 <b>BULK ZONE 12</b>	18 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 8:30-1:00 pm <b>BULK ZONE 1</b>	19 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 8:30-1:00 pm <b>BULK ZONE 2</b>
20 • Rural Public Arts & Design Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 3</b>	21 • Rolling Oaks Civic Assn Meeting Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56 Street - 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 4</b>	22 <b>BULK ZONE 5</b>	23 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Town Hall 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 6</b>	24 <b>BULK ZONE 7</b>	25 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 8:30-1:00 pm Bingo at the Barn Dinner at 6 pm Bingo at 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 8</b>	26 Bingo at the Barn Dinner at 6 pm Bingo at 7 pm <b>BULK ZONE 9</b>
27 <b>BULK ZONE 10</b>	28 <b>BULK ZONE 11</b>	29 <b>BULK ZONE 12</b>	30 • Sunshine Ranches HOA Meeting 7:30 - 9pm Zoom <b>BULK ZONE 1</b>	31 <b>BULK ZONE 2</b>	1 <b>BULK ZONE 3</b>	2 <b>BULK ZONE 4</b>

Homemade  
GIFTS MADE EASY

**ALERT!BROWARD SIGN UP**

**EMERGENCY ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

AlertBroward notifications will provide subscribers with important information in critical countywide situations such as hurricanes, evacuations, curfews, and open shelters.

By signing up you'll receive time-sensitive calls to your home, business or mobile phones.s or emails.

<https://www.broward.org/Emergency/Pages/AlertBroward.aspx>

**ALERT!BROWARD**

**SIGN UP**  
EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

**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

**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.



## Town of Southwest Ranches

13400 Griffin Road

Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

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



Printed on Recycled Paper

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!**

**facebook**

FACEBOOK:  
facebook@SWRGOV

**YouTube**

YOUTUBE:  
Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel



TWITTER:  
@SWR\_Gov

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



**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

## TROPICAL WEATHER TERMS TO KNOW

<b>TROPICAL DISTURBANCE</b> A non-frontal tropical weather system with thunderstorm activity that maintains its organization for 24 hours or longer	<b>INVEST</b> A weather system that the NHC is interested in collecting specialized data about; does not correspond to any likelihood of development into a tropical cyclone
<b>POTENTIAL TROPICAL CYCLONE</b> Describes a disturbance that is not yet a tropical cyclone, but poses the threat of tropical storm or hurricane conditions to land areas within 48 hours	
<b>TROPICAL CYCLONE</b> A non-frontal tropical system with organized deep thunderstorm activity and a well-defined center	<b>TROPICAL DEPRESSION</b> A tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained surface winds of 38 mph or less
<b>TROPICAL STORM</b> A tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained surface winds ranging from 39-73 mph	<b>HURRICANE</b> A tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained surface winds of 74 mph or greater

Monitor weather alerts and follow instructions from local officials.