

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

Preserving Our Rural Lifestyle



11th annual **photo contest**

Theme this year is
BEAUTY IN THE RANCHES

See page 11

HAPPY LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 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.southwestranches.org

TOWN HALL TWITTER ACCOUNT: @SWR_Gov • **YOUTUBE:** Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel • **FACEBOOK:** facebook@SWRGOV

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	(954) 343-7462	sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org
Vice Mayor Jim Allbritton	(954) 343-7461	jallbritton@southwestranches.org
Council Member Bob Hartmann	(954) 801-1758	bhartmann@southwestranches.org
Council Member Gary Jablonski	(954) 343-7456	gjablonski@southwestranches.org
Council Member David S. Kuczenski	(954) 343-7472	dkuczenski@southwestranches.org

TOWN STAFF

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

TOWN SERVICES / BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING – (CAP GOVERNMENT)

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

PLANNING

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

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

WASTE/BULK/RECYCLING SERVICES

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY	911	
Non-Emergency	(954) 764-4357 (HELP)	
Davie Police Department	(954) 693-8200	
Eddie Velazquez, <i>Detective</i>	(954) 693-8290	evelazquez@davie-fl.gov
Cheryl Danner, <i>Police Services Coordinator</i>	(954) 693-8352	cdanner@southwestranches.org
Davie Fire Rescue Station 112	(954) 952-4608	
Volunteer Fire Rescue – Chief Bennett	(954) 868-2057	
TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES		
Potholes and Signs Down – Public Works		publicworks@southwestranches.org
Illicit Discharge – Environmental Response Line:	(954) 519-1499	online complaint form at: http://www.broward.org/Environment/Resources/Pages/EnviroComplaint.aspx

OTHER

WATER DISTRICTS - CANALS

Central Broward Water Control District	(954) 432-5110	www.centralbrowardwcd.org
East of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)		
South Broward Drainage District	(954) 680-3337	www.sbddd.org
West of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)		

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz



Waste to Energy and Davie Public Safety Contract

Well, schedules are getting back into full swing again. I hope that everyone had a great summer and for those of you who were able to get away and travel. Welcome back!

I wanted to touch briefly on a couple of items. One is in progress. The other just recently was completed.

- First, I want to give an update from last month's article where I focused on our efforts to steer the county away from building a waste to energy plant near Stirling and US 27. As I outlined in my last newsletter, this is not the proper choice for so many reasons such as location. This impacts our well water protection, Everglades protection, and the general safety of our animals and residents. Also, it is a bad location as most waste generated in the County is generated in the east. Trucking to the west just does not make sense. But mostly it is a bad idea because burning waste is not a recycling solution. Zero waste is a recycling solution, and we should be more forward thinking then just creating another site to burn our waste.

The efforts to work with our neighboring communities is ongoing. Others and I have had a number of meetings. It was all about education and building a coalition to do the right thing. But most critical, we have an amazing group of residents in our Town. I can't express how proud I am of them including Debbie Green, Marianne Allen, Richard Ramcharitar, and so many others. They have been an inspiration, and I do believe that together we are starting to make progress. We live in a truly special Town and if you are interested in getting more involved on this topic, I encourage you to reach out to one of these leaders or reach out to me. We would be grateful for your assistance.

- Secondly, I wanted to touch on the newly passed Public Safety contract with Davie. This contract covers our Fire, Rescue, and Police services for the next 10 years. We have been working on this contract for over 2 years. There is a lot that goes into a contract like this because it is so critical to everyday life and concerns of our residents. It is also the single largest operating contract that the Town has ever signed. So, to say that it is important is an understatement.

I think that it is safe to say that we did not get everything we wanted in the contract. However, it is also safe to say that this contract is one that will be critical to controlling the costs of our Town over the decade to come. I have spoken to a number of residents and there are a number of areas of concerns. However, the area that has most often been brought to my attention is the length of the contract. They ask, "Steve, why 10 years?"

“*Burning waste is not a recycling solution. Zero waste is a recycling solution and we should be more forward thinking then just creating another site to burn our waste.*”

There are a number of reasons. This contract impacts long term capital purchases such as a public safety building, fire response equipment and rescue response equipment. So, both sides of the contract would be hesitant to make that commitment without the contract being written for an extended contract term. Another item that was considered is that inflation and costs are not nearly as locked in as we once thought. This allows for both Davie and Southwest Ranches to lock in cost and revenue without the temporary inflation swings impacting our taxes and assessment. But finally, Davie has proven itself to be the preferred vendor. Their costs are significantly less than the rates we have seen with other communities that use BSO. BSO



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is a quality organization and in fact we did contact them regarding a contract because they did a great job for us in the past. But Davie has been an exceptional partner as well. And their costs to the Town are much lower. So, I am comfortable with the 10-year term. Yes, it is long. But I believe that it will serve the Town well.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback on these and other issues. I am blessed and honored to serve as your Mayor. We live in an incredibly special Town. Let's enjoy our open spaces and rural lifestyle together. Steve (954) 296-6018

Vice Mayor Jim Allbritton



Good day Southwest Ranches.

As many of you know, I sit through most Code Enforcement Hearings. This is one

way for me to stay in touch with what is happening around Town. Over the last few hearings, I've noticed that approximately seventy-five percent of the violations are residents cited for illegally filling their properties. There are several steps that a resident must take to obtain a fill, excavation or site grading permit. The Town has created a fill permit process that is intended to be easy to follow, while also helping to prevent residents from getting into trouble with other governmental agencies.

The first step is to obtain a County Wetlands Delineation. This is required for any level of fill to be brought in. Through the environmental review process Broward County, not the TOWN, ensures that any environmental concerns are addressed. According to Broward County MOST properties located within the Town contain wetlands. If you are found to have destroyed a wetland area by bringing in fill, you not only hurt the environment, but it could cost you thousands of dollars to fix the violation through a Wetlands Mitigation Process, which could take years. You may obtain a "Wetland Delineation" online at: <http://www.broward.org/epermits> or obtain additional assistance by contacting, Ms. Linda Sunderland, AWRLicense@broward.org Ph# 954-519-1454, Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department.

The second step is to contact either Central Broward Water District for projects east of Volunteer Road (SW 148th Avenue) or the South Broward Drainage District for projects west of Volunteer Road for their approval or exemptions. NOTE: A Level One Fill Permit does not require a review or approval from either Drainage District.

Once you have obtained the approvals, contact the Town and request an application for a permit or visit <https://www.southwestranches.org/departments/public-works-engineering/development-permits/> to download the application. Complete the application and return it to Town Hall, along with a copy of the above approvals. Permit fees will be assessed based on the amount of fill being requested (Permit Level). After receiving the permit from the Town, you are required to post it on the property. The Town notifies adjacent properties of all Level 3 fill permits obtained.

I urge all our residents to get the proper permits before you bring fill onto your property, which starts with, GETTING A WETLAND DELINEATION LETTER from Broward County.

If you have any questions about how to get the proper permits, please contact Town Hall.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at jallbritton@southwestranches.org or call me at 954-343-7043 / 305-903-7043.

Council Member David S. Kuczenski



Howdy Ranchers,

I hope everyone is having a safe September. A few issues I wish to mention this month concern the discussion on

Broward County's suggestion to build a "waste to energy" incinerator just outside our Town boundary on Sheridan Street. Second, the proposed annual budget, which is being considered by the Council.

I first wrote about the proposed Incinerator back in the June issue of the SOUTH-WEST RANCHER, and since then the Incinerator Task Force has been organizing the

various aspects of opposing this massive facility. This is not simply getting a vote. The effort is far more challenging for us opposing the facility's construction. From my interpretation of what Broward County officials are saying, they are already considering this a done deal. My response is: they have not met our opposition. Every member of the Town Council has voiced opposition and has voted in favor of the resolution opposing the construction. As one resident told me, this will be the biggest clash our Town has ever opposed. My opinion is that if the incinerator is allowed, it will lead to many ailments for our children, our animals, and our very way of life. I cannot sufficiently emphasize how important it is to volunteer to join our efforts. There will be tasks everyone can help with, from organizing meetings to helping the meetings function without disruption, and even share in communicating our message. Contact Town Hall is you are interested.

Next, as I write you, the Council is analyzing the multitude of aspects of the proposed Town Budget. This annual endeavor sets the funding priorities for the Town primarily for the upcoming year, but also includes future planned spending. In addition to funding the administration of the Town, other parts of the proposed budget include funding allocation for Public Safety, Parks, Infrastructure, the Emergency Operations Center bringing a fully operational public safety facility for the west of I-75 parts of our Town, and Administration. I was elected to this seat in 2020, and fought to keep our taxes low while funding priorities important to Keep Us Rural. Since that time, we reduced the millage in FY2022-2023 from 4.25 to 3.9. For the upcoming FY2023-2024, the Town is proposing to maintain the same millage of 3.90. Importantly, the Town has maintained this same millage rate for over two years, and our financial department has been audited and awarded the highest level of integrity. This success can be attributed to our Town Administration's retaining and suggesting top notch staff, many of whom do not get the "thank you" they deserve.

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, Esq.

Council Member District 4

Council Member Bob Hartmann



We need your help to defend our families, neighbors, Town, and Broward County against actions by the newly created

Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Materials Processing Authority (SWDRMA).

On July 13, the Southwest Ranches (SWR) Town Council passed a resolution that opposes the placement of any Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plants on property adjacent to, or nearby, the Town's municipal boundary owned by the County or the SWDRMA, which was created under the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) and recently approved by most municipalities in Broward County. Additionally, the Town urges the County and any Authority created under the ILA to refrain from considering the placement of any WTE facilities anywhere else in the County until serious study and consideration are given to other options for final solid waste disposal, including Zero-Waste, recycling, and composting. We asked residents and neighbors to get involved, and you did.

On August 9th, about 40 residents of SWR, Pembroke Pines, Cooper City, and Davie met at Town Hall to get educated on the issue and begin organizing our citizens and the residents of our neighboring cities to help support zero-waste options that include newer waste management technologies that don't involve burning garbage.

Many communities across Florida, the country, and worldwide have achieved or are working towards zero waste. The Florida Legislature has set goals to help county and municipal governments reduce waste. The modern era of recycling in Florida be-

gan with the Florida Legislature's passage of the Solid Waste Management Act (SWMA) of 1988, which included a 30% recycling goal. Over the past 35 years, the goal and methodology used to calculate the recycling rate have been revised to reflect the changes in the waste stream, legislation, and technology. In 2008, the Legislature reasserted the importance of recycling through the Energy, Climate Change, and Economic Security Act of 2008. It established incremental, interim goals culminating in a recycling rate of 75% to be achieved by 2020. Florida achieved the interim goals set for 2012 and 2014; however, the 2016 interim goal of 60% was not met, and the statewide recycling rate has exhibited a general decline since that time. Florida's 2020 recycling rate was 50%, falling short of the 2020 recycling goal of 75%. Suppose Broward had engaged the available local, national, and international zero-waste resources 20 years ago. In that case, these groups could have helped formulate a non-polluting, zero-waste strategy; we might be at zero-waste today. The County, however, using its own resources, consultants, and industry interests, keeps returning to building new incinerators, which is the most polluting, expensive, and unsustainable method of processing garbage; it's also the easy way.

Here is why we need your help. Getting to 75% recycling can be achieved in many ways. Reducing plastic, recycling organic waste and metals, and reusing construction debris are just a few ways to reduce burning and dumping in landfills. Unfortunately, with support from the solid waste industry, the state legislature has made incineration easier. To make the 75% recycling goal, the Legislature recently made funds available to governments to build incinerators. And believe it or not, if the incinerator produces energy, our elected leaders in Tallahassee have changed the laws to consider 50% of the garbage burned recycling. The interest groups that own, operate, design, or build incinerators in Florida have been very busy helping make incinerators the answer for Florida's landfill and recycling issues. We need your help to educate the public (1/3 of all Broward residents live in a radius of 10 miles from the Pines Landfill site), other cities and towns in Broward County, the Broward School Board, and the PTAs in the hundreds of schools that will be impacted by the air and water pollution generated

by any incinerators built at the Broward landfills, located in Pembroke Pines and East Davie and Western Pompano Beach. With your help, we can dissuade the SWDRMA from using the obsolete incinerator approach and, together with county-wide public support, persuade the SWDRMA to focus on zero-waste solutions.

Today, zero-waste is not just a goal; it's a reality. The City of Gainesville has set a goal to go zero-waste by 2040 by supporting policies that reduce waste dramatically and encourage citizens to rethink waste material flows. By analyzing the status of its waste reduction and recycling, Gainesville is working on modifying existing policies, systems, programs, and infrastructure to reduce waste and improve diversion opportunities. The city has enacted several ordinances designed to reduce consumption, increase recycling opportunities, and strengthen community aesthetics. Businesses are encouraged to review all zero-waste ordinances to ensure compliance and rethink their waste and recycling practices to divert materials from landfills.

Gainesville joins Key West and Orlando in the fight to reduce waste and resulting greenhouse gases. In May, updates to the Solid Waste Ordinance were passed unanimously by the Gainesville Commission to help reach the goal to be zero-waste by the year 2040. Orlando continues to strive to become a "zero-waste" community, aiming to eliminate sending solid waste to landfills by 2040. These cities realize everything that they throw away has potential value. It takes energy, water, and natural resources to make these products. Finding ways to reduce, reuse and recycle these materials positively impacts the environment and helps save money. Key West has a Solid Waste Master Plan for the City. This plan aims to create a map to guide the city towards increasing its recycling rate, maximizing its waste diversion, and creating a pathway towards a zero-waste community.

Zero-waste-committed counties and municipalities are all over the United States and Europe. The effort has been underway in Europe for several years. Zero-Waste Europe (ZWE) advocates for sustainable systems. It is helping European nations redesign their relationship with resources to accelerate a just transition towards zero-waste for the benefit of people and the planet.

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ZWE was created in 2014 and has established itself as a critical environment, circular economy, just transition, and movement-building network throughout the last few years in Europe. Building on the initial zero-waste vision and code created by the Italian city of Capannori, the ZWE network now includes 35 members from 28 European countries. It works with topics across the whole waste chain. Their scope has significantly expanded from product design to reusability to end-of-pipe waste management solutions, from the phase-out of plastics to waste trade and municipal zero-waste strategies. The member organizations promote zero-waste in-line with their zero-waste hierarchy, provide solutions to and manage the

network of zero-waste municipalities, and engage with government decision-makers and stakeholder companies to maintain public support.

Here in America, Zero-Waste USA (ZWU), a non-profit organization and a Zero-Waste International Alliance national affiliate, supports the goal of inspiring communities to embrace and achieve Zero-Waste. Residents have contacted ZWU and the Earth Justice Network (EJN). EJN is an organization that stops incineration facilities construction using the law and courts. EJN has a proven track record of success and has been fighting air and water pollution battles since its founding in 1971. They have a regional office in Miami and have engaged with our team to support our efforts.

On September 13, the next Zero-Waste Task Force (working name) meeting will be held at SWR Town Hall, 13400 Griffin Road, at 7 PM to continue our organizing and outreach. Please ask your family, neighbors, and friends living in Broward to attend and get involved. What parent, resident, or business wants their family, neighbors, or customers to be permanently exposed to toxic incinerator gases, ash, and contaminated water? If you be able to get involved, please come to the meetings.

Please help us in any way you can. If you have any questions or want more info, please call me at 954-801-1758 or send a note to BHartmann@SouthwestRanches.org.



National Suicide Prevention Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about mental

health and suicide prevention. I am committed to removing the stigma associated with mental health issues. Many are afraid to discuss suicide; however, research shows these important conversations should take place in order to assist individuals in getting the help they need.

Florida has been grappling with rising suicide rates, making the need for awareness and action even more pressing while working to foster a more compassionate society.

Addressing mental health in diverse communities is vital, as cultural factors can influence individuals' attitudes toward seeking help. In 1995, the telephone number 2-1-1 Broward was introduced as the 24-hour comprehensive helpline. This free and confidential service connects individuals and families to experts that can guide and assist them with help in health and human services within Broward County. In coordination with over 3,800 programs and non-profit agencies, the helpline offers listening

support, information, referrals, and crisis services in any language.

In July of 2022, **The National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, 9-8-8** was created to connect callers with counselors 24/7. The trained counselor connects with the caller by listening to their story to make them feel safe and assist them. Although this helpline is a valuable tool, it doesn't replace dialing 9-1-1 in case of an emergency.

In addition to suicide and crisis care services, the 2-1-1 Broward helpline also assists with mental health and substance use, military and veterans' issues, general health and wellness, TeenSpace, child development, special needs connections, elder care, caregivers' resources, disasters and emergencies, and more! For more ways to connect with a professional, visit: www.211-broward.org

Governor's Challenge

To impact suicide prevention at the state level, the VA along with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration initiated the "Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families." This initiative seeks to create a supportive environment for veterans by offering accessible mental health resources, counseling, and peer support programs. By fostering a sense of community and understanding, the challenge aims to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and encourage veterans to seek help when needed. The goal of this initiative is to

develop and implement a state-wide suicide prevention plan.

To date, 35 states have joined the Challenge, including Florida. The vast array of other support available through the Florida Governor's Challenge is available at www.floridavets.org/governors-challenge/resources/.

Florida also encourages struggling service members, veterans, and their families to call the Florida Veterans Support Line at 1-844-MyFLVet (693-5838) or the National Suicide Crisis Line at 9-8-8 (Press 1)

Watch Stander Program

The Watch Stander Program is the first of its kind and provides resources to the community volunteers so that they can in turn, help the heroes who have risked their lives to protect our country. Any community member can volunteer, you will be taught how to link veterans to the services and support they need. To be a Watch Stander, you must undergo a 45-minute training and sign a pledge. To get involved, visit: www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers

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

Feel free to contact me anytime at robin.bartleman@myfloridahouse.gov or our office at (954) 424-6828. You can also reach me on my personal cell at (954) 668-3662



SHOW YOUR TOWN SPIRIT

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



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

Take care,

Marty Kiar

Marty Kiar, CFA
Broward County Property Appraiser



Scan for All
Tax-Saving
Exemptions



Scan for
BCPA website



Scan to Apply for
Homestead
Exemption

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & BULK DROP OFF EVENT

Saturday, September 23rd, 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



- **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://southwesteranches.org/rapid-notify/> and Broward.org/Emergency/Pages/AlertBroward.aspx.



Financial Assistance Advice

If your home or business is damaged by a flood, you may be required to meet certain building requirements to reduce further flood damage by coming into compliance with local, state, and federal criteria. To help with these costs, financial assistance such as grants, loans, rebates and the NFIP's Increased Cost of Compliance Coverage may be available.

For assistance regarding financial assistance options, please contact the Town's Engineering Department at (954) 434-0008, Broward County's Mitigation Coordinator at (954) 831-3900 or visit Disasterassistance.gov.



National Flood Insurance Program Changes

In accordance with 2014 Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is continuing to gradually phase out flood insurance premium subsidies on certain policyholders. The changes have and will have the greatest impact on properties located within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) that were built prior to the adoption of Broward County's first FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) on October 26, 1972, or prior to December 31, 1974, without elevation certificate information. For more information on the National Flood Insurance Program changes visit FEMA.gov/flood-insurance-reform.



Get a Flood Insurance Policy

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

If your property is in the SFHA and you have a mortgage from a federally regulated or insured lender, flood insurance is required. Even if you do not have a mortgage and you live in the SFHA or you live outside of the SFHA, all property owners and renters should carefully consider the benefits of flood

insurance to protect against significant financial losses from floods. For more information visit the following sites: Floodsmart.gov and FEMA.gov/national-flood-insurance-program.

If you would like to know if your property is in a SFHA you can use the interactive map viewer. Visit <http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/flood-insurance-information/> and select Flood Maps. You can also call (954) 434-0008, provide your address and zip code, and Town staff will assist you in determining SFHA information specific to your property.



Elevation Certificate Information

Elevation certificates for buildings are on file and may be obtained by visiting <http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/flood-insurance-information/>.



Water Quality and Flood Control Effects of Drainage Systems

The success of the drainage system in your neighborhood depends on proper maintenance of the system. The swales that are commonly located between your yard and street are part of the neighborhood's storm water management system.

Gutters, storm drain pipes, lakes, wetlands, swales and canals should be kept free of debris. It is against Town Code to dump trash in waters. The drainage system may provide both water quality and flood control benefits. Lakes, wetlands, swales and canals filter pollutants from runoff or allow pollutants to settle out. Check with the Town's Engineering Department before paving, regrading or altering swales.



Protect Property from Flooding

Losses due to floods can be reduced by implementing property protection measures. Furniture, appliances, clothing, and other movable items can be elevated within the structure or relocated away from potential flooding if time permits. You should also make an itemized inventory of your belongings including costs, dates of purchase and serial numbers.

There are several ways to protect a building from flood damage if feasible. One way is to make sure your lot is graded in a manner that will direct runoff away from your building. Another approach is to make your walls waterproof and place watertight closures over the doorways. This method is not recommended if water will rise to a depth of two feet or greater. A third approach is to raise the house above flood levels. Prior to making these modifications, consult with a certified contractor.



Build Responsibly

Strict regulations govern substantial improvements to structures in the flood plain. According to NFIP, "substantial improvement" means the cost of any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure either before the improvement is started or if the structure has been damaged and is being restored.

Please be advised that any new development or improvement on a property will be subject to current Town regulations and may also be subject to state and federal regulations. Please contact the Southwest Ranches Building Code Services Division at (954) 434-0008 for specific information and to report unpermitted construction activities.



Flood Risk Specialist Available to Assist Residents

The Town of Southwest Ranches wants to ensure that residents who have questions about flood risks, flood insurance, and retrofitting techniques, get answers in a timely manner. The Town Engineer is available to assist in the following areas: 1) Flood Insurance; 2) Flood Zone interpretation including base flood elevation and/or flood depth; 3) Additional FIRM information; 4) Problems not shown on FIRM; 5) Special flood related hazards; 6) Historical flood-related data; 7) Natural floodplain functions; and 8) Property protection measures. Please call the Engineering Department at (954) 434-0008 and ask to speak to the Town Engineer. You may also schedule a site visit to review flooding, drainage, and storm sewer problems, and to obtain advice on retrofitting techniques to provide additional protection. Go to <http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/flood-insurance-information/> for additional information.



Local Flood Hazards

Floods resulting from prolonged, heavy rainfall can occur in rivers and canals that drain inland areas into the Atlantic Ocean when waterway capacities are exceeded. Flooding from heavy rainfall occurs in low-lying areas and areas near rivers and canals.

The severe flooding that occurred as a result of the exceedingly wet summers and the hurricanes of 1947 was the basis for creating what is now the South Florida Water Management District. South Florida's five-month rainy season brings more than two-thirds of the region's annual rainfall. The rainy season can also bring flooding, which may occur when large amounts of rain fall over a short period of time or from a single heavy storm, tropical system or hurricane.

Since portions of Southwest Ranches have been designated as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), it is advisable to check the interactive map viewer to see the location of your property with respect to the SFHA. Visit <http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/flood-insurance-information/> and select Flood Maps. You can also call (954) 434-0008, provide your address and zip code, and Town staff will assist you in determining SFHA information specific to your property.



Protect Natural Floodplain Functions

Although much of the natural flood plain system in South Florida has been altered and is frequently over-drained, efforts are being made to enhance many historical wetlands and canals to restore them to a more natural state. These flood plain and wetland areas buffer flood flows, remove pollutants from our surface waters, recharge groundwater and create diverse habitat systems for plants and animals. The Southwest Ranches Comprehensive Plan includes policies pertaining to flood plains and wetlands. The plan provides for protection and creation of surface waters, protection and wetlands preservation.



Map Services

Maps are an effective method of communicating information about flood hazards. Residents and businesses that are aware of potential flood hazards can take steps to avoid problems and reduce exposure to flooding. Therefore, the Town offers complementary maps to supplement and clarify the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with information on additional hazards, flooding outside mapped areas, development regulations that affect floodplain properties, flood insurance, natural floodplain functions, and property protection measures.

A GIS mapping application for Southwest Ranches that is publicly available includes information you will need for a flood insurance policy including whether your property is in a SFHA, the community number, panel number and suffix, FIRM date, FIRM zone, base flood elevation and the elevation datum used. Additional FIRM information is also available showing areas of concern such as whether your property is located within a floodway.

The Town has mapped local drainage problem areas within the Town. In addition, the Town has a map providing information about past floods that have occurred. If you live in one of these areas, we would like to have a discussion with you regarding potential remedies.

A GIS mapping application for Southwest Ranches that is publicly available includes layers related to natural floodplain functions, specifically wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat. The map includes Broward County's wetland data to provide a comprehensive picture of where wetlands are located within the Town.

To view these interactive maps, please visit the Town's website. For more information regarding the flood maps and the Town's floodplain management program or if you would like assistance reading the maps, please call Town Hall at (954) 434-0008 or email rley@swranches.org.

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



CREATING A SPELLBINDING MOON GARDEN FOR NIGHT POLLINATORS

(adapted from <https://fws.gov/story/2021-10/creating-spellbinding-moon-garden-night-pollinators>)

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP
Protect their lives. Preserve ours.



Imagine enjoying a starry and fragrant night in the garden of shadow and moonlight. As daylight pollinators are settling down to rest, night pollinators appear for a feeding fest. Night pollinators are drawn by the eerie charm of pale flowers blooming at night. Many people only think of gardens as something to enjoy during the daylight, but moon gardens can be enjoyed during the night and attract night pollinators such as nectar feeding bats and moths. Night pollinators are attracted to the lighter colored and heavily fragrant flowers of night blooming plants like evening primrose and cacti. Moon gardens can also attract insects that will invite insect feeding bats.

Planning your garden - "Location, location, location!" is a mantra in real estate, and is good advice for planning a moon garden. A moon garden does not have to be large. Ide-

ally, a moon garden will be established in an area of the garden where people congregate and can enjoy the ghostly white and shimmering silver-colored blossoms and plants. You will want to look at the amount of sunlight and soil types of the area selected for the moon garden. Though the moon garden's true beauty will be on display in the evening, night blooming plants still need some amount of sunlight and proper soil conditions.

Selecting your plants

Choosing native plants for your moon garden is an invitation to see a different side of a flower's beauty. Flowers that display in vibrant pale shades take on a new personality when viewed under moonlight. Plants to consider for your moon garden are native plants with flowers that are shades of white, cream, silver, pale pink, and pale lavender. To create a striking moon garden, and enhance the moonlight's glow, plant flowers with the same shade of white in the same area or zone. Otherwise, intermingling bright white blossoms with creamy blossoms can make the subtler colored blossoms appear dull.

Accent plants

If you live in an area where native yucca, agave, and cacti easily grow, many of these plants will have showy night blooming flowers as well. Pale colored agaves can provide

striking shadowy silhouettes and create borders in a moon garden. Another consideration are pale, decorative native grasses. Ideally, these grasses will be ever-silver in color, rather than evergreen. The silvery color will gently shimmer in the pale moonlight.

Other features

In designing your moon garden, you may want to consider adding other items to your garden like reflective gazing globes, light colored yard figures, and a small water feature. A water feature can provide soothing sounds and may invite insects that in turn invite insect eating bats. You can also add small strings of pale amber lights for those nights with a new moon. When appropriate, if you really want to welcome bats to your moon garden, consider a safe place to add a bat house.

Relax, watch, and enjoy

After a busy day, you can seek peace in the shadows and pale light of your moon garden. You can enjoy the beauty and scents of night blooming flowers, and you may see some night visitors such as bats and moths enjoying the benefits of your moon garden too! As the morning sun rises, some night blooming flowers will begin to close under the pale pink and orange sky of early dawn. Before those flowers close, you can spot the early daylight pollinators who will hurry to gather the last of the pollen before it is gone.



PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION...

After a hurricane or other emergency, residents may experience prolonged power and phone outages and may not be able to leave their home or let others know that they are in need. If you feel you are at risk due to a disability, health issue, regardless of age and would like a "WELLNESS CHECK" from our Southwest Ranches Volunteer Fire Department please call Town Hall (954) 434-0008 and give us your name, and or loved ones name, address, phone number and email address so we may add you to our list.

While we hope we don't have a disaster, we need to be prepared. If you or a loved one live alone in Southwest Ranches, please consider signing up for this service. If resources are needed, they will be able to refer residents accordingly.




WM (Waste Management) IS HERE FOR YOU...

To improve customer service and responsiveness, the residents of Southwest Ranches now have a special email address to reach WM.

Please use this email to ensure your concern will be taken care of promptly.
SOUTHWESTRANCHES@WM.COM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Ira Birns - September 12th
Leni Birns - September 13th
Jennifer Lee Wallace - September 19th



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@southwesteranchefire.org

SEPTEMBER 2023
 BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

Monday, September 4th
 Schools and Administration Offices Closed

Monday, September 25th
 Schools and Administration Offices Closed

MATH
ENGLISH
HISTORY

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

“ BUDGET WORKSHOPS AND BUDGET HEARINGS ”

by Finance and Budget

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

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.

Clerk's Corner
by Russell Muñiz

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE JULY 13, 2023, TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

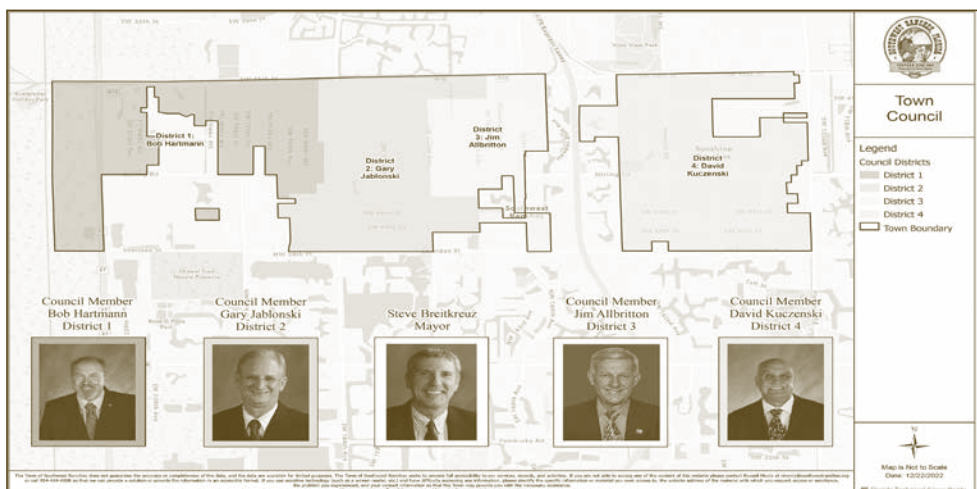
- Adopted Resolution 2023-059 opposing the placement of any Waste to Energy plants on property adjacent to the Town.

Brief legislation from the July 27, 2023, Town Council Regular Meeting:

- Adopted Resolution 2023-060 setting the proposed millage rate for Fiscal Year 2024.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-061 setting the preliminary Fire Assessment rates for Fiscal Year 2024.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-062 setting the preliminary Solid Waste Assessment rates for Fiscal Year 2024.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-063 supporting the re-naming of a portion of Flamingo Road as Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School Way.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-064 approving a County Revocable License Agreement for the placement of License Plate Readers (LPRs) on Griffin Road.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-065 adopting the Broward County Enhanced Local Mitigation Strategy.

Brief legislation from the August 10, 2023, Town Council Regular Meeting:

- Adopted Resolution 2023-066 approving a new Public Safety Services Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Davie.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-067 repealing Resolution 2023-051 and approving a new Interlocal Agreement with Broward County for participation in the Solid Waste Authority. 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.



Town Council

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

Council Member
Bob Hartmann
 District 1

Council Member
Gary Jablonski
 District 2

Steve Breitkreuz
 Mayor

Council Member
Jim Albritton
 District 3

Council Member
David Kuczenski
 District 4



PHOTO BY: Mystic H. Duke

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 9am-1:00 pm
3 • Labor Day TOWN HALL CLOSED • Country Estates HOA - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7pm • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	4 BULK ZONE 1	5 BULK ZONE 2 • Broward County Property Appraiser - Town Hall 10:30-12 pm	6 BULK ZONE 3	7 BULK ZONE 4 • CODE Hearing Town Hall 9 am	8 BULK ZONE 5	9 BULK ZONE 6 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 9am-1:00 pm
10 • Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	11 BULK ZONE 7	12 BULK ZONE 8 Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm	13 BULK ZONE 9	14 BULK ZONE 10 First Public Hearing for Tentative Millage and Budget Adoption & Final Fire Protection and Solid Waste Special Assessment Adoption. 6pm TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm	15 BULK ZONE 11 Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset	16 BULK ZONE 12 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 9am-1:00 pm
17 Rosh Hashanah ends at nightfall	18 BULK ZONE 1 • Rural Public Arts & Design Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm	19 BULK ZONE 2 • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	20 BULK ZONE 3 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	21 BULK ZONE 4 • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	22 BULK ZONE 5	23 BULK ZONE 6 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 9am - 1:00pm • HHW Event Off 8am-2pm • Shred-A-Thon 10am-1pm • Drug Drop Off 10am-2pm 17630 SW 56 St. Rolling Oaks Barn
24 Yom Kippur begins at sunset	25 BULK ZONE 7 Yom Kippur ends at nightfall	26 BULK ZONE 8 • Rolling Oaks Civic Assn. Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56 St. 7 pm	27 BULK ZONE 9 Sunshine Ranches HOA meeting. 7 pm ZOOM	28 BULK ZONE 10 Second Hearing for Final Millage and Budget Adoption 6pm TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm	29 BULK ZONE 11	30 BULK ZONE 12 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 9am-1:00 pm

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

Living in Southwest Ranches, beauty surrounds us with vibrant sunsets, majestic animals, beautiful trees, abundant gardens, lavish flowers, a variety of family friendly town events and enjoyable parks. Submit your favorite photo by September 5th and be in the 2024 town calendar.

- Photos must be at least 300 DPI - resolution.
- One photo per person in household.
- Provide a caption for your photo (limit 74 characters).
- Photos must be at least 8 x 10 (landscape).
- To be considered, all entries must be submitted with Town Entry Form.
- No previous photos will be accepted.

Email your photo to: Skutz@southwestranches.org
on the subject line please say Photo Contest.

"ANYTHING THAT IS BEAUTIFUL TO YOU"

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

WM
WASTE MANAGEMENT

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

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

PLEASE VISIT THE TOWN WEBSITE
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

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CLICK ON QR CODE TO VISIT US AT
www.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.org



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
supporting our law enforcement partner,
Davie Police

The police convoy consisted of Mounted Police Patrol, Community Police Officers, Recruiting Jeep, and Motorcycles. The speciality unit officers interacted with community members, answered questions and showcased their equipment.



*Photos by:
Deb Henery*



THE RURAL PUBLIC ARTS AND DESIGN BOARD
PRESENTS...

**6th Annual
December Holiday Lights Contest**

ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON A LITTLE
MORE BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS FUN-FILLED
HOLIDAY CONTEST. SEND YOUR ENTRY
FORM IN NO LATER THAN
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 2023
AND BE ONE OF THE 3 MOST FESTIVE
HOLIDAY DECORATED HOMES IN
SOUTHWEST RANCHES.
(YOUR HOUSE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE
DECORATED TO SEND YOUR ENTRY FORM IN.)

JUDGING WILL START
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

AWARDS WILL BE
PRESENTED
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

Call Susan: (954) 434-0008
or email:
skutz@southwestranches.org

