

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

Preserving Our Rural Lifestyle



*Tis
the season*

SEASONS GREETINGS

**SOUTHWEST RANCHES
ANNUAL CHILI FEST & CAR SHOW
DECEMBER 9th, 10AM-4PM**
See the back cover

*Wishing you a happy holiday
and a new year filled with
Peace, Hope and Joy*



*Mayor Breithreuz
Vice Mayor Kuczenski
Council and Staff*

*Front cover photo:
Previous December Holiday Lights Contest Entrant,
by Bob Hartmann*

DECEMBER 2023



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 David S. Kuczenski	(954) 343-7472	dkuczenski@southwestranches.org
Council Member 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

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	emaceti@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
Ruth Miranda, <i>Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7459	rmiranda@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



Andy Berns Retirement

As we approach the end of the year it is wonderful to look back and see what we accomplished as a Town. However, in December we draw close to an even more significant event. Our current Town Administrator, Andy Berns, is retiring from public service. Andy's accomplishments are honestly too numerous to list, and at a detail level, I am not even going to try. However, he has been a tremendous leader for our community. He has served our Town for over a decade, and he has done this with absolute professionalism and class. In every action, he has done it with the best interest of Southwest Ranches in mind.

At a high level, I do want to recount some of the items that I feel most appreciative of. First and foremost, is his integrity, which I have mentioned above. That has led to creating an administrative staff which is second to none. He has always worked to surround himself with the smartest and brightest, accomplished motivated individuals who have consistently moved our Town forward, no matter the Council that he was working with. Building this staff has been the foundation for a smooth transition to our next administrator, Russell Muñiz, and this transition marks the final accomplishment in creating this exceptional staff.

Second, I want to touch on his connection with our community. It may surprise some that Andy has never actually lived in Southwest Ranches. He has always treated the Town as if it was his hometown. We have seen him and his wife Melissa here at all times of the day, all days of the week, always available and always involved and a part of our community. But it goes beyond that. Andy has built long lasting relationships with many residents here in the Ranches. He has become a friend and a problem solver to many of our residents. I never got the impression that this was a job to Andy, I always got the impression that serving our Town was his passion.

Finally, I just want to mention, once again, at a very high level, that during the Berns Administration, our Town was transformed. Our roads and drainage are much improved. Our Public Safety and waste management have never been in better shape. Our Parks and Recreational areas have been transformed. Has he done this on his own? No, if he were here looking over my shoulder as I wrote this, he would be interrupting me right now and I know exactly what he would be saying. He would be telling me "Mayor, local government is the ultimate team sport." And absolutely it is. But to get a winning team you require an exceptional leader, and we certainly have one in our Town Administrator, Andy Berns.

“You will be greatly missed. But even beyond that, your legacy will stand strong here in the Ranches for decades to come.”

Andy, you have absolutely earned this retirement. You will be greatly missed. But even beyond that, your legacy will stand strong here in the Ranches for decades to come. Congratulations on a job well done. Enjoy your retirement. Don't be a stranger. And please know that you always have a place here in the Ranches. Best of luck as your journey continues!

Steve (954) 296-6018



TOWN TALK

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

Send your email address to: druesga@southwestranches.org



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Council Member Jim Allbritton



As 2023 fades into the sunset, I would like to take a moment and look back on some of the happenings that took place throughout the year.

- The Town Carnival – was a huge success and enjoyed by all.
- Farmers' Market has been well attended and with the new hours and new vendors. It looks to continue to be very successful.
- The Annual Unity in Diversity 5K Run/Walk brought a couple hundred participants together and a special "Thank You" to the youth of the Sikh Youth Association of South Florida who participated in organizing this event. This event raised Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the Town's Schools and Education Advisory Board. The Board provides scholarships to help our Southwest Ranches young, qualified residents who wish to continue their education after high school.
- The Town's Annual Horse Show at the Equestrian Park was a well-organized and attended event, where the riders could show off their horses and their riding skills.
- The Annual Easter Egg Hunt had well over three hundred youngsters looking for eggs. The Halloween Haunted House and Trick-or-treating had between four to five hundred who came and enjoyed a perfect evening with the weather and a FULL MOON. Both events were sponsored and organized by the Rolling Oaks Civic Association. All the credit for a job WELL DONE!
- The Annual Town Photo Contest received fifty-two entries and twelve were chosen to represent a particular month in our 2024 Town Calender. The other photo entries are shown on the rear inside cover with all who participated listed on the back.
- The Annual Christmas Light contest is a real favorite for all who decorate their homes for the holidays. The top three decorated homes receive a one-of-a-kind trophy and a visit from Santa. The Rural Public Arts and Design Advisory Board sponsor and judge both contests.
- Installation of tag readers has been completed. They are spaced throughout the

Town on all the major roads leading in and out. The Davie Police have said they have received several hits from the readers since being installed, so they are working to keep an eye on any suspicious activity. Twelve new permanent speed limit signs are being ordered, just like the one on SW 186th Way. We will be asking the Davie Police for their help in determining where the signs should be placed. I have asked the Town if we could reinstate the Public Safety and Traffic Board for a short period to pass along what has been implemented from their last meeting and to get ideas of what can be done in the future.

- The Town Hall has hosted several workshops over the past year dealing with noise, fill, drainage projects, road work projects and the Town Budget. The Town is proud to say the Millage Rate will remain at 3.9.
- The Town has also provided access to the Florida Licensing on Wheels (FLOW MOBIL), Memorial Health Screening and Hazmat at the Barn.
- If you are looking to bring in fill or have a party, please contact Town Hall, BEFORE you do anything. It is a lot easier to ask questions and get the proper answers than it is to go in front of a code hearing and face possible fines.
- New Years Eve and New Years Day are fast approaching. If you are planning to set off fireworks, please try to be respectful of your neighbors. Although there are three days each year when fireworks are

legal, the two mentioned above and the Fourth of July. There are new fireworks that are not as loud, they are called Low Noise. These fireworks are less disturbing to your neighbors and any livestock. Loud fireworks produce approximately 140 to 170 decibels. The newer type of low noise fireworks produces approximately 70 to 100 decibels, which is more than half less noise. The Town did pass an ordinance to help regulate the use of fireworks on the other three hundred and sixty-two days. You can set off fireworks if you follow the ordinance. Contact Town Hall if you have any questions.

- The area around Southwest Ranches is being looked at as a possible site for a new Waste to Energy Plant (Incinerator). Southwest Ranches residents have started a true grass roots effort to tell the County that there are other alternatives to getting rid of our garbage than to burn it. The Zero Waste Broward Resident Task Force meets at Town Hall, usually once a month. We need everyone to get involved to help get our message out, and that message is, reduce our waste by recycling and repurposing, not burning.
- As we close out this year, we are saying goodbye to our Town Administrator, Mr. Andy Berns. Mr. Berns has served the Town as our Administrator for over eleven years. I personally would like to thank Mr. Andy for taking me in as a newbie to politics, coming from the construction industry, and taking the time to explain how a Town government works, and answering all questions that I had. Congratulations ANDY, ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT.



STAY IN TOUCH WITH ENGINEERING

Fill for horse stalls does not require a fill permit. In addition, a permit may not be required if a small amount of sand is required to replenish a horse arena. However the Town recommends that a property owner or leasee contact our office to assure that the type of work being performed falls under this criteria prior to performing the work. A phone call to us will help prevent a possible warning from Code Enforcement and double fees when it comes to acquiring the required permit.

Please call: (954) 434-0008 or
Email: jmarques@southwestranches.org

“ In closing I would like to say it has been an honor and a pleasure to have represented the Town of Southwest Ranches on the Broward League of Cities Directors Board, the South Florida Regional Planning Council, the Broward County Water Advisory Board, the Broward Water and Climate Resilience Group and our Town Council Meetings, as your Vice Mayor.”

**WISHING ALL A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you feel like you would like to be a part of any of the above mentioned activities, please feel free to contact me at atjallbritton@southwestranches.org or call me at 954-343-7461/ 305-903-7043.

Vice Mayor David S. Kuczenski



Howdy Ranchers,

Before I write about my topic this month, I'm going to take a moment to give a heartwarming thank you to our retiring Town Administrator,

Andy Berns. Andy has been one of those "take charge, I got it" type of people. He has always been there when I needed him, and while always there on resident concerns, Andy has given me advice on life, especially during these difficult times with the recent passing of my mother. Andy came into a Town with many problems. His management style and bringing on an effective staff will have a positive lasting impact on the Town for many years to come. I can honestly say, Andy is honest. I can say Andy is one I can call my friend. Thank you, Andy.

The end of the year is here already, bringing us many celebrations for the upcoming holidays. Just a reminder that since 2005 the Town has required residents who host gatherings exceeding 30 guests to obtain a permit per Section 035-080. Below is a general summary of the provision of the code that provides for regulations of gatherings. If you feel this may affect you, I urge you to contact Town Hall to ask whether you are required to obtain a permit for your gathering. The code prohibits gatherings on vacant or unoccupied dwellings where the gathering is not accessory to the residential use of the property. A gathering becomes an accessory to the dwelling if the gathering is limited to family, friends, and acquaintances of the property owner(s) and/or permanent resident(s) of the premises, and their guests. The code strictly prohibits any for-profit assembly or charging for admission aside from normal congratulatory gifts. Advertising a gathering or opening the party to the general public is also prohibited.

Next, the Town also restricts loud amplified music at parties. The Code provides that amplified and non-amplified noise from the assembly shall not be audible from within an adjacent dwelling or guest house (with windows and doors closed) from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. Monday

through Friday and 11:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. National holidays shall follow the Saturday and Sunday schedule. On New Year's Eve, non-amplified noise shall not be audible from within an adjacent dwelling or guest house from 1:00 a.m. on New Year's Day to 9:00 a.m. If a conflict occurs between the gathering ordinance or the noise ordinance, the stricter of the provisions shall apply. The Town limits the number of gatherings of over 30 people to no more than twice a year, unless the Town issues a permit. The homeowners or permanent resident must be on the premises at all times. Finally, at least 10 business days prior to the gathering, the property owner or permanent resident of the home must notify the Town in writing of the time and date of the assembly, the purpose of the assembly, and the approximate duration of the assembly. If the number of persons is expected to exceed 30, the property owner or a permanent resident is required to apply for a permit at least fifteen business days prior to a proposed gathering. They must include, at a minimum: (a) the proposed date of the gathering; (b) the anticipated number of persons that will be in attendance; (c) whether there will be any live entertainment or temporary structures; (d) where the vehicles of attendees will be parked; (e) the proposed hours during which the gathering will occur; (f) any other information stipulated on the application form; and (g) payment of the applicable fee. Section 035-080 of the Town Code provides more detail of the approval process. If a gathering violates the Town code, law enforcement may shut down the party. Finally, if you wish for Davie police to provide a presence, contact the Davie police department. The officer will likely request a fee since this service is beyond their required duties with the Town.

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 Distric 4

Council Member Bob Hartmann



Hi Neighbors,

There are a couple of important things to mention this month. They include equestrian night riding safety and the departure of a long-time Town employee.

One evening this summer, my wife and I were stopping at the stop sign on my street and Griffin Road around 9 PM. It was good we had the windows of my truck open because as we approached the intersection, we heard a thunderous noise and stopped short of the stop sign. When we looked east, we heard six riders at a full gallop, with one leading the way, about 50 feet from crossing my street, and until they were in my truck headlights, we did not see them. The horses were all dark-colored and the riders were in dark clothing. There would have been a horrendous collision if I had pulled up to the stop sign as usual. The whole event startled us, and the experience was layered on another horse fatality incident in the same vicinity just a few years ago—these incidents got me thinking. I found out later from one of the riders that about 200 feet east of where we first saw them, the lead horse bolted when it smelled the barn in the dark; the others followed until a bit west

...continued on page 6



SUPPORT THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

found on the Town website
by visiting the Historical Society
page or using this link:

[https://www.southwestranches.org/
southwest-ranches-resident-
business-directory/](https://www.southwestranches.org/southwest-ranches-resident-business-directory/)



Southwest Ranches Resident Business Directory

of SW 199th Ave, where the riders got their mounts to settle down.

The next day, I contacted Laurie Morse, a neighbor and South Florida Trail Riders Association of Broward member, for guidance. She brought some questions to the trail riders about night-rider safety. At one of their meetings, the trail riders discussed and provided solutions to prepare and ride safely after dark.

Since the sun sets in December around 5:20 PM, a late afternoon ride, extended to sundown, twilight, or early evening hours, can put you and your horse at risk of a vehicle collision. Riding a black horse wearing jeans and a dark western shirt or tee can quickly turn disastrous when crossing a road after dark without some prep.

To ride safely after sunset, the Trail Riders recommend starting with outfitting your horse with reflective tack, such as bridles with a reflective headpiece, browband, and noseband; reflective bell boots; and high visibility boots that cover the horse's front and rear cannons. Clip-on reflectors available on Amazon are also suggested for the horse and rider. Your horse may need to "get used" to this new tack. It's recommended to take these steps before adding lighting to your tack. Blinking and fixed lights provide a wide variety of options. If you add lights to further your safety regime, you likely need to get your horse accustomed to lights mounted on them and you and others you may ride with. Perhaps, you



can put reflectors and lights on your horse while in the pasture or the barn to get acquainted before using them on a night ride.

A straightforward, simple approach that all riders should take before leaving on a ride in the late afternoon or after sunset is to wear a light-colored shirt, hat, or pants. While light-colored clothing is not as effective as reflective equipment or lights, they won't spook your horse and will give motorists some chance that your horse is seen, whether you are trail riding at night or alongside the road. Stay safe, stay seen!

Next, I would like to recognize Andy Berns. Town Administrator Andy Berns has served Southwest Ranches since June 2012. He is

our longest-serving administrator and has left his mark on our community. Since he joined the Town's administrative team 11 years ago as its leader, I have worked closely with Andy first when I was a resident, then as an advisory board member, and for the past five years as a Council Member, as he led the town administration. Andy's motto is "Government is a team sport," and his work ethic demands that he pick up the phone regardless of the caller. Andy is an excellent leader to the organization and a teacher and mentor to many of us.

“After a successful private and public sector career, Andy has decided to retire on December 15. Andy has prepared Russell Muniz, Assistant Town Administrator and Town Clerk, to take on his role, and the Council has approved Russell's transition to Town Administrator. To Andy, I say congratulations on your retirement and your remarkable career! Thank you for all your hard work. All your sacrifices in life have successfully paid off! Enjoy the benefits of having the time to do anything and everything you've always desired to do. Happy retirement!”

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND STAY SAFE!

As always, please call me if you have any questions on these topics or any Town-related issues.

Bob - 954-801-1758



International Volunteer Day

The holiday season is my favorite time of year. I love how our community participates in efforts to help others. In fact, December 5th is recognized as International Volunteer Day. It is important to note that people in our community need our help year-round and there are so many organizations in need of volunteers. Whether you volunteer for an afternoon at a school or hospital or commit to mentoring a child; your efforts are lifechanging for others.

HandsOn Broward is a great resource to find a volunteer opportunity for you. For more information visit: www.handsonbroward.org or call: (954)233-1300.

AS ALWAYS, I WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON! HAPPY HANUKKAH, MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND HAVE A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

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. Sticker's are \$1 each and are available at Town Hall, 13400 Griffin Rd.



Ways to Reuse or Recycle a Christmas Tree: Do not Throw It Away

(As adapted from <https://www.almanac.com/recycle-christmas-tree>)

A Christmas tree makes for a lovely habitat for small birds such as chickadees and finches during the winter months, especially on cold nights and during storms. Evergreens provide important shelter. Prop it up near a bird feeder, another tree, against a fence, or just lay it in your garden for animals of all sorts to enjoy.

Use the branches from your Christmas tree as mulch, giving perennials and shrubs extra root protection from winter weather. Just put the cut branches in the garden and they will hold moisture in and help build the soil, as well as provide shelter for pollinators and wildlife.

Redecorate your tree as an outdoor bird feeder. String it with a popcorn and cranberry garland or other bird-friendly goodies. Add pine cones filled with peanut butter or homemade suet, too!

Sew scraps of fabric together and fill them with Christmas tree needles. These make fragrant balsam sachets that can freshen drawers and closets.

Pile Christmas tree boughs around tree trunks to discourage neighborhood dogs from doing you-know-what.

Use dried-out sprigs to ignite kindling in your firepit.

Give the tree to a friend or neighbor who has a woodchipper. Wood chips can be used as mulch!

Of course, you can simply leave the trees in your backyard if you have the room! Over the winter and fall, the trees will decompose. Young Christmas trees, particularly spruce and balsam fir, have very low rot resistance and break down quickly, adding richness to the soil—just as nature intended!



BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE OCTOBER 12, 2023 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2024-001 supporting the people of the state of Israel amidst their ongoing fight against terrorism.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-002 establishing a policy and rate schedule of reasonable fees for the registration of vacation rentals.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-003 approving an increase to Purchase Order #23-026 to CAP Government, Inc. for engineering and Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) services.

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE OCTOBER 26, 2023 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Ordinance 2024-001 relating to the installation of water and sewer lines within the Town's rights of way.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-004 entering into an agreement with the Broward County Supervisor of Elections for municipal elections services.

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.



MARTY KIAR

BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

2024 Homestead Exemption

All qualified Florida residents are eligible to receive a Homestead Exemption on their homes, condominiums, co-op apartments, and certain mobile home lots. To qualify for Homestead Exemption, you must own and make the property your permanent residence on January 1 of the year for which you are applying for this valuable exemption. Pursuant to Florida law, all assessments and exemptions are based upon the status of the property on January 1. If you acquired the property as your permanent residence in 2023 and have not applied for Homestead Exemption, you can apply for 2024 exemptions at any time – there is no need to wait until 2024 to file your exemption application. You can easily apply online at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/HomesteadExemption>

The timely deadline to file for all 2024 exemptions is March 1, 2024. You must make the property your permanent residence by January 1, 2024 in order to qualify; however, you have until March 1 to timely file your application with the property appraiser's office. The late filing deadline for all 2024 exemptions is September 18, 2024. For information about all the other exemptions available, please visit the "Exemptions & Classifications" page on our website <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Homestead>

Once approved, your Homestead Exemption automatically renews each year provided there is no change in the ownership or use of the property. If you have already applied and been approved for Homestead Exemption at your current property, you do not need to reapply for this exemption. You will receive a Homestead Exemption renewal card next month to keep for your records.

BCPA Gives Back

In the spirit of giving, our office recently participated in a turkey giveaway and held a food drive to benefit The Pantry of Broward County. The Pantry of Broward County is a "one-stop shop" for seniors (age 60+) struggling to live on low-fixed incomes and to help grandparents raising their grandchildren. BCPA employees donated 2,358 cans of food to The Pantry to help during the holiday season.

If you have any questions about Homestead Exemption or any other exemptions, please call 954.357.6830 or email me at martykiar@bcpa.net.

Take care,

Marty Kiar, CFA



Halloween at Rolling Oaks Park



2024 RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARDS NEED RESIDENT PARTICIPATION

If you have the time and interest and want to get more involved in the Town's governance, you can request to be appointed to a Town resident advisory board. These boards provide a meaningful opportunity to get involved in Town decision-making and to make a difference. Some residents have served for a few years, and others have served on Town boards since the boards were created when the Town was formed over 20 years ago. The boards are a great way to learn how the town makes decisions, meet active residents who help shape policy, and an essential way to get to know the council members and influence their policy-making agenda. The Town of Southwest Ranches uses resident advisory boards to solicit feedback on Town policy and potential ordinance changes. Every December, the Town appoints neighbors to its resident advisory boards for one year terms unless otherwise noted. Below is a summary of the resident advisory boards. If you are interested in serving on an advisory board, contact the Clerk's office or download an application from the Town website under the Meeting / Agenda tab under the Advisory Boards tile or follow this link: <https://www.southwestranches.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/021313-SWR-ADVISORY-BOARD-APPLICATION.pdf>. If you have any questions about the Town's resident advisory committees, please get in touch with me at 954-801-1758. Bob Hartmann.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADVISORY BOARD

The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board's purpose and objectives are as follows:

- To review and provide input into the development of the Comprehensive Plan and make recommendations to the Town Council.
- To review and provide input on any item requested explicitly by the Town Council that may affect land use within the Town.

DRAINAGE AND INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY BOARD

The Town Council defines the Drainage and Infrastructure Advisory Board's purpose, and objectives as follows:

- To provide input into developing policies and procedures concerning filling, excavating, and clearing lands within the Town.
- To provide input into any necessary revisions related to the tertiary drainage plan and to provide input into the prioritization of the required drainage improvements within the Town.
- To provide input into developing policies and procedures concerning the Town's infrastructure.
- To solicit input from residents of the Town concerning drainage and other infrastructure-related improvements.

FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

The Town Council defines the Fire Advisory Board's purpose and objectives as follows:

- To advise the Council on fire and EMS-related issues.
- To analyze the needs of the Volunteer Fire Department.
- To analyze the Volunteer Fire Department's use of funds.

PARKS, RECREATION, FORESTRY, AND NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD

Parks, Recreation, Forestry and Natural Resources Advisory Board's purpose and objectives are as follows:

- To provide input into coordinating plans for the acquisition, funding, design, development, operation, maintenance, and regulation of parks within the Town.
- To provide input into those multipurpose trails within the Town.
- To provide input into forestry and natural resources, including but not limited to tree canopy maintenance, management, and protection; water conservation; preservation and protection of the environment; and wildlife protection.
- To solicit input from Town residents concerning recreational spaces, forestry, and natural resources.

RURAL PUBLIC ARTS AND DESIGN ADVISORY BOARD

The Town Council redefines the Rural Public Arts and Design Advisory Board's purpose and objectives as follows:

- To provide input into developing a rural sense of place, including rural signage identification for the Town and review of public arts and design grants as they become available.
- To review all public arts and design grant applications, to establish a review process to recommend vendors, to involve residents in the process, and to make recommendations to the Town Council.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Schools and Education Advisory Board's purpose and objectives are as follows:

- To advise the Council of any school and educational issues related to the Town.
- To regularly attend the necessary Broward County School Board and other school-related meetings to monitor issues affecting the residents of the Town.
- To provide input regarding educational programs for the development of the students within the community.
- To provide input into developing policies, procedures, and programs concerning school or educational issues concerning the Town.
- To solicit and obtain input from the residents of the Town concerning school-related or other education-related issues.
- To develop, implement, and monitor, with the assistance of the Town Administrator, a Town educational scholarship fund.


PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD (6-MONTH APPOINTMENT)

The Public Safety Advisory Board's purpose and objectives are as follows:

- Review and make recommendations on resident concerns related to crime prevention and traffic safety that affect public safety.
- Review and make recommendations on police-community partnerships to mitigate the negative influence of crime and traffic on the community.
- Provide policy guidance to the council on matters of public safety.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Omar Ricardo - December 14th
Gaby Burns-Ricardo - December 17th



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

Broward County Public School Calendar

DECEMBER

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 December 25th thru 29th
School and Administration
Offices Closed

SW RANCHES COUNTRY FAIR & CARNIVAL

FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS WANTED

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

BENEFITING SW RANCHES PARKS FOUNDATION


CONTACT:
SWRCOUNTRYFAIR.COM



WHEN
JAN 11th-15th

HOURS
Thurs. 1/11 - 5-10:30PM
Fri. 1/12 - 5-10:30PM
Sat. 1/13 - 12-10:00PM
Sun. 1/14 - 12-10:00PM
Mon. 1/15 - 12-8:00PM

WHERE
SW Meadows Sanctuary Park
16290 Griffin Road,
SW Ranches, FL



"FINANCE ACADEMY"

by Emil Lopez

Truth in Millage (TRIM) establishes the statutory requirements that all taxing authorities levying millage must follow, including all notices and budget hearing requirements.

The millage rate is one-tenth of a percent, which equates to \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 in home value.

The Town's TRIM notice associated to your property, can be viewed at Broward County Property Appraiser's website (www.bcpa.net). Click "property search" feature and enter your home information) e.g., name, address, etc.).

"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.

FIND SANTA'S REINDEER!

L	V	C	A	D	E	J	S	T	K	K	G	E	R
K	I	J	I	P	X	R	J	T	J	I	H	O	E
D	O	P	F	G	A	R	U	K	L	J	O	G	E
V	U	W	G	Q	E	I	O	D	D	R	R	R	D
C	Q	A	L	C	R	E	N	N	O	D	Z	D	N
S	S	K	N	Y	K	Z	W	E	H	L	D	A	I
D	N	A	B	L	I	T	Z	E	N	A	P	S	E
B	R	I	C	N	V	H	W	P	N	T	Q	H	R
P	V	K	T	E	N	I	Q	C	X	E	G	E	T
X	Y	T	Q	L	A	E	E	W	S	M	F	R	Y
O	J	B	C	H	R	R	X	X	L	O	W	K	M
Q	U	N	B	S	O	R	N	I	S	C	M	H	U
W	O	O	G	R	V	Z	S	N	V	Q	S	L	N
I	W	M	H	L	G	G	N	S	B	H	E	N	J

Reindeer Dasher Dancer Prancer Vixen
Comet Cupid Donner Blitzen Rudolph





DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
					BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6
3	• Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7 pm • SWR Parks, Foundation Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	• CODE Hearing - Town Hall 9 am • Broward County Property Appraiser Office - Town Hall 10:30 - 12:30 pm	• Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	December Holiday Lights Contest awards presented	8	Chili Fest & Car Show Rolling Oaks Barn 10-4pm Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 9am-1:00 pm
	BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
10	• Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	• Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	13	14 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7 pm	15	16 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 am - 3:00 pm
	BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6
17	• Solid Waste Disposal & Recyclable Materials Processing Authority - Executive Committee City of Tamarac City Hall 7525 NW 88th Ave. Tamarac	18	19	20	21	22
	BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
24	Merry Christmas! TOWN HALL CLOSED	25	26	27	28	29
CHRISTMAS EVE	NO SERVICE	BULK ZONE 1 & 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
NEW YEARS EVE						

Come one, come all!

★ Southwest Ranches ★

COUNTRY FAIR

BUY YOUR PRE-SALE TICKETS NOW!

ORDER THROUGH:
[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://www.eventbrite.com)
 SEARCH:
 SOUTHWEST RANCHES
 CLICK:
 SOUTHWEST RANCHES COUNTRY FAIR

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SEE PAGE 10

CHRISTMAS TREES WILL BE PICKED UP ON YOUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED BULK PICK UP DAY.

TREES MUST BE CUT TO 4 FEET.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & BULK DROP OFF EVENT

Saturday, January 6th 2024 . 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	ELECTRONICS RECYCLING	UNACCEPTABLE 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	Computers, Cables DVD Players, Key Boards, Mice, Adapters, Monitors, Printers/Scanners, Radios, Stereo Components, TVs, Tape Players, VCRs	Appliances Asbestos Explosives or Ammunition Medical/Infectious Waste Non-Residential Waste

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



Town of Southwest Ranches
13400 Griffin Road
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI, FL
PERMIT
#622



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!

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facebook@SWRGOV

YouTube
YouTube:
Town of Southwest Ranches
Official Channel

Twitter:
@SWR_Gov

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



DECEMBER HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST ENTRY FORM

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

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____
CELL: _____
EMAIL: _____

I UNDERSTAND, ACKNOWLEDGE, AND AGREE THAT THE SUBMISSION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH OF MY HOME, WHICH I HAVE TAKEN, TO THE TOWN CONSTITUTES A "WORK MADE FOR HIRE," AND I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO THE WORK AND THE WORK PRODUCT, INCLUDING MORAL OR OTHERWISE. THIS STATEMENT SHALL CONTROL OVER THE PROVISIONS OF 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106A, AND SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER BY ME OF ANY RIGHTS IN THE WORK SET OUT IN OR OTHERWISE GRANTED BY 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106A(a), VISUAL ARTISTS RIGHTS ACT OF 1990. ALL OTHER RIGHTS IN AND TO THE WORK, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ALL RIGHTS IN THE NATURE OF "MORAL RIGHTS" RELATING TO ANY CONTINUING INTEREST I MAY HAVE IN THE MAINTENANCE OR MODIFICATION OF THE WORK, ARE EXPRESSLY WAIVED AND, INASMUCH AS SUCH RIGHTS ARE TRANSFERABLE, ARE ASSIGNED TO THE TOWN. MY WORK IS ORIGINAL AND IT COMPLES 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) _____

