

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

Preserving Our Rural Lifestyle



Happy New Year

Southwest Ranches
**COUNTRY FAIR
& CARNIVAL**
JANUARY 11th THRU 15th
see page 11

TO PURCHASE
TICKETS
SCAN QR CODE



JANUARY 2024

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 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

Russell Muñiz, <i>Town Administrator</i>	(954) 434-0008	rmuniz@southwestranches.org
Danielle Caban, <i>Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7474	dcaban@southwestranches.org
Debra M. Ruesga, <i>Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7451	druesga@southwestranches.org
Dan Stewart, <i>Deputy Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7443	dstewart@southwestranches.org
Tom Holste, <i>General Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7476	tholste@southwestranches.org
Angelica Arosemena, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 434-0008	aarosemena@southwestranches.org
Emil C. Lopez, <i>Town Financial Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7473	elopez@southwestranches.org
Rich Strum, <i>Town Controller</i>	(954) 343-7442	rstrum@southwestranches.org
Venessa Redman, <i>Senior Procurement & Budget Officer</i>	(954) 343-7467	vrredman@southwestranches.org
Arianna Durbeej, <i>Town Accountant</i>	(954) 343-7477	adurbeej@southwestranches.org
Keith Poliakoff, <i>Town Attorney</i>	(954) 909-0580	kpoliakoff@southwestranches.org
Rod Ley, <i>Public Works Director</i>	(954) 343-7444	rley@southwestranches.org
Emily McCord Aceti, <i>Community Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7453	ecaceti@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	M-F 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Jennifer McCarty, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7445	swrinspections@southwestranches.org
Derlin Guevara, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446	swrinspections@southwestranches.org

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
Manfred Velette, <i>Assistant Code Enforcement Director</i>	(954) 343-7440	mvelette@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

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 Breitzkreuz



Fireworks and SFWC

First of all, let me wish you a very Happy and Prosperous 2024! I hope that you have a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends.

This is a time of celebration. However, it is also a time that is very difficult for our animals regarding the fireworks. The State of Florida has mandated that it is legal to use fireworks on New Years Eve, New Years Day, and the 4th of July. However, it is not legal on other days of the year. I urge you to please be mindful of these displays as they do at times have a serious detrimental impact on our animals. We have had situations where horses have lost their lives. So, I urge you to minimize your display on these days that it is legal and to not let those celebrations extend to days outside that range.

I did want to pass along some good news. You may be familiar with the South Florida Wildlife Center. I recently had the opportunity to meet with Alessandra Medri, the Executive Director of the South Florida Wildlife Center. The center is currently located adjacent to Snyder Park, just north of the Fort Lauderdale Hollywood International Airport. It is a wonderful organization dedicated to many values that are aligned with us here in Southwest Ranches.

The Center provides a wide variety of services including many educational opportunities. And, it is dedicated to animal care, especially animals that become injured in one fashion or another. They work with animals large and small and their educational programs are designed for children of all ages as well as adults.

While this organization is noteworthy on its own, the reason why I was meeting with Alessandra was because, with the expansion of the airport, this organization is going to need to find a new home. Their lease for the current location will not be renewed and they will need to move. As I was speaking with Alessandra, I was impressed with how their mission was aligned with our

Town. Also, as she described the Center's goals, it came to my mind that we could have the perfect property here in Southwest Ranches that perhaps someday, they could call their home. While this is still in the early stages, this is something that has been exciting to explore.

The property is the Broward County School Board property on Sheridan near SW190th, so we are not giving up any of our open space. This is the 30-acre parcel that the School Board purchased over a decade ago, but has never been used or developed. There is a restriction on the property that it has to be used for educational purposes, and clearly the South Florida Wildlife Center fulfills that requirement.

“There are many ways that I and the rest of your Council work tirelessly to preserve our rural lifestyle and to preserve this experience for the next generation to enjoy.”

However, for this to work, not only would the Town need to be behind the proposal, but the County, the School Board and the Center itself would need to feel that it was the right move. As I mentioned previously, we are still early in the process. However, I have spoken to representatives from both the School Board and the County Commission and so far, all have enthusiastically backed the plan. So, at this point, we are moving forward with exploring this proposal, continuing our review and due diligence.

There are many ways that I and the rest of your Council work tirelessly to preserve our rural lifestyle and to preserve this experience for the next generation to enjoy. This is just one example. It is truly an honor and a pleasure to serve as your Mayor. Should you have any questions regarding this project or anything else in the Town. I am always here to serve and assist.



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Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!



Vice Mayor David S. Kuczenski



Howdy Ranchers,

Happy New Year! Let me begin this month's article by welcoming aboard our New Town Administrator, Russell Muniz and new Town

Clerk Debra Ruesga. Russell has extensive experience with our Town serving previously as Town Clerk beginning in 2014, and in January 2015 adding Assistant Town Administrator to his responsibilities. In addition to Russell's extensive education and experience in neighboring municipalities, Russell is also an equestrian. Debra began her career in 2002 and served in two other municipalities and brought solid experience to the Ranches before taking on the role of Deputy Town Clerk in 2020. She earned her Certified Municipal Clerk designations. I feel we have qualified people in these positions for years to come.

As we plan for the new year, I want to remind folks that the only three days a year fireworks are allowed are the three that are designated by Florida Statutes, that is New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and Independence Day. The restrictions on the other days are simply because we are an equestrian area, and it takes many hours of preparation of our horses with the medications to calm them for the loud explosions. In the years past, I was sent photographs of a horse who was so scared that he ran into the side of its paddock as such a high rate of speed that the impact broke his neck. That horse's companion was seen standing nearby for many days, appearing in emotional distress in losing his equestrian companion. Horses have feelings of companionship. While I am on the subject of horses, one issue that residents may not be aware of is it is not permitted to plant trees or shrubs in the swale outside your property line. One very important rationale is our Equestrians riding around our Town need ample spaces in the swales to properly navigate their animal. Horses can be spooked fairly easily, and to minimize horses becoming panicked during a ride, maintaining their horse in the swale avoids the busy roadway. If the swale is obstructed with trees and/or shrubbery, the rider has complications and is often forced to ride on the street. Please

look about your property, especially if it is frequented by the equestrians that make Southwest Ranches the most perfect place to call our home.

As your Vice Mayor, 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*

FOLLOW US ON THE TOWN'S OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook page: @SWRGOV
- Twitter account: @SWR_gov
- YouTube: Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel

COMMENT FOLLOW

• Watch Town Council meetings
• Get updated information on Town events
• Quick notification to followers on emergency management issues



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

Council Member Jim Allbritton



Good Day Southwest Ranches

As we ushered out the year 2023, we welcomed 2024 with a BANG. There were a number of residents who cele-

brated by shooting off fireworks on New Years Eve and New Years Day. Those two days along with the Fourth of July are regulated by a 2020 State Law.

The Town has passed an ordinance that regulates the other three hundred sixty-two days. Residents are allowed to set off fireworks during those days by following the guidelines set forth in the ordinance. Please pick up the phone or better yet, go to Town Hall, and get the correct information to keep you from violating any regulations and possibly receiving a notice of violation from code.

We start this year with a new Town Administrator. Mr. Russell Muñiz has been our Town Clerk since March 2014, and because of his personal involvement with the Town over those years, I know we have someone that will keep Our Town running smoothly.

**MR. ANDY BERNES,
ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT!!!!**

The Town Carnival, in January, leads off the year with fun games, rides and lots of good food for the whole family. So, buy your tickets early! This is the Town's third carnival and looks to be the biggest and best yet.

**I WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY
AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 954-343-7461 or 305-903-7043 or jallbritton@southwestranches.org.

TOWN TALK

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

**Send your email address to:
druesga@southwestranches.org**



BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE NOVEMBER 16, 2023 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2024-005 appointing Council Member Kuczynski as the new Vice Mayor.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-006 approving a one-time rate adjustment to Waste Management.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-007 terminating and releasing the Moses Palmyra Unity of Title Agreement.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-008 approving a purchase order with Craven Thompson and Associates, Inc. for surveying services for the next phase of the Transportation Surface and Drainage Ongoing Rehabilitation (TSDOR) roadway improvements in Sunshine Ranches.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-009 approving a purchase order with Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc. for professional services for the next phase of the Transportation Surface and Drainage Ongoing Rehabilitation (TSDOR) roadway improvements in Sunshine Ranches.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-010 approving a purchase order with Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc. for professional services for the next phase of the Transportation Surface and Drainage Ongoing Rehabilitation (TSDOR) roadway improvements in Green Meadows.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-011 approving a purchase order with Craven Thompson and Associates, Inc. for surveying services for the next phase of the Transportation Surface and Drainage Ongoing Rehabilitation (TSDOR) roadway improvements in Green Meadows.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-012 authorizing the issuance of a purchase order to Garber Chrysler Dodge Truck, Inc. to purchase a new multi-purpose vehicle.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-013 approving the Town holiday schedule for calendar year 2024.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-014 approving the Town Council meeting schedule for calendar year 2024.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-015 approving the agreement with Russell Muñiz for the position of Town Administrator.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-016 approving a year end budget adjustment for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget.

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.

TRASH INCINERATION PLANTS NOW BEING CONSIDERED TO BE BUILT ON US 27 NEAR SOUTHWEST RANCHES AND THE EVERGLADES

There are currently discussions underway in both Broward and Dade counties to build several new waste burning plants. Among the locations under consideration is US27 and Sheridan Street.

This is a terrible idea for several reasons...

Trash Incineration (sometimes labeled "Waste to Energy" to make it sound better) is an old method of waste management that is becoming outdated in a world where population and urban development shows no signs of slowing down.

- Waste Incinerators have been found to pose human health risks as a result of both air and groundwater pollution. Not only do they emit toxins into the neighboring environment directly, but the ash they produce from the burning process is normally buried in landfill which in turn leach contamination into the ground and water.

- A single incinerator may burn hundreds or even thousands of tons of mixed waste per day. This burning causes the release of many pollutants including but not limited to nitrogen oxides, sulfur, dioxides, lead, mercury, dioxins, furans and particulate matter which has been documented to cancer, neurological, cardiac and reproductive health.

- Incinerators are often "sold" to the public under the idea that they are converting "Waste to Energy". The reality is that while these plants do generate electricity from the trash they burn, the amount of energy they produce is minimal and inefficient compared to other methods of generating energy. As much as 4X more costly than even natural gas or solar. In addition, "Waste to Energy" emits more greenhouse gases than burning coal.

- The proposed location on US27 and Sheridan streets borders the Everglades, a protected natural environment. Additionally, thousands of people living in that same area are on well water. Considering the well-known problems of air and groundwater contamination described above, it is logically clear this is one of the worst possible locations that could be considered for waste incineration plants.

- If incineration **MUST** be done (though that is open for debate as we shall see below), the ideal location is in an area already used and/or designated for "dirty industry". Such a location should be away from residential population, critical groundwater supplies and sensitive preserved natural lands.

If burning trash is an old, outdated and pollutant producing method of handling waste, is there an alternative? The answer is **YES! Zero Waste.**

Zero Waste is an innovative and newer idea for handling society's increasing waste. It does not



involve a single step linear solution as does incineration (just burn everything). Instead, Zero Waste is a multi-faceted approach that views waste management as a cyclical process. According to the Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA), Zero Waste is the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse and, recovery of all products, packaging, and materials, without burning them and without discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health. Zero Waste refers to waste prevention as opposed to end-of-pipe waste management. It is a "whole systems" approach that changes the way materials flow through society, resulting in much less waste as compared to our current procedures.

One example to demonstrate this concept in real practice ... Every 2 weeks, residents of SWR have bulk pickup days for large yard debris, tree branches, palm branches, and the like. You might be surprised to learn that most often all this vegetation material is simply burned. Following the Zero Waste approach, all that vegetation is processed to produce products like mulch, compost, or other usable products.

We can NOT simply "Burn Our Way" out of this problem by relying on the outdated and admittedly primitive idea of just burning more and more and more garbage.

Zero Waste is not only a theoretical idea, it is already being implemented and followed in several cities in the USA and several countries around the world. Many countries in Europe and several cities in the USA have prevented the building of new incinerators and shut down existing plants as they prove the Zero Waste approach to waste management not only works... it is safer for our health and environment.

Please email the Grass Roots Effort started in SWR, zerowastebrowardtf@gmail.com and join Facebook group Broward Clean Air to join in the fight against Incinerators near our homes in Broward County and South Florida.



This month the 2024 Legislative Session will begin. Last session, 4 of my bills were signed into law.

This year I am focusing on property insurance, protections for sexual assault victims, the quality of public education and pre-kindergarten, and the safety of all Floridians including our first responders.

One bill, I am sponsoring along with Senate Democratic Leader Lauren Book is House Bill 673 – Domestic Violence Investigations

- the “Gabby Petito Act”. Like many of you, I watched the news and said prayers. I was horrified when it was announced that she was a victim of domestic violence and was murdered by her fiancé. This bill will create a standardized training for and the mandatory use of a lethality assessment by law enforcement when responding to a domestic violence call. This evidence-based tool is designed to evaluate the potential for serious injury or death. It also places a mandate on the FDLE to collaborate with the Florida Sheriffs Association, Florida Police Chiefs Association, and domestic violence advocacy organizations to develop policies, procedures, and training programs for the effective implementation of lethality assessments across the state of Florida.

At the time of Gabby’s death, Utah did not require a lethality assessment. This is an effective tool may have led to a better understanding of the danger she was in and

would have provided her with local resources to help her. Thousands of domestic violence cases go unreported each year; victims are paralyzed with fear and are afraid to call, it is imperative that when 911 calls or reports are made that we give law enforcement the tools needed to protect victims. This legislation is a lifeline for those in peril.

If you, a family member, or friend have experienced domestic violence – please call 911. You can also contact Women in Distress Broward’s Hotline at 954-761-1133.

MAY THIS NEW YEAR BRING YOU PEACE, HEALTH, AND HAPPINESS.

It’s an honor to serve you and we’re here to assist with any issues or concerns you may have. Contact me anytime at robin.bartleman@myfloridahouse.gov, our office at (954) 424-6828 or on my cell at (954) 668-3662.

SOUTHWEST RANCHES COUNTRY FAIR CONCERT STAGE ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11TH

- BEN BYLER COUNTRY BAND: 6pm to 7:45pm
- Olivia Maria tribute to TAYLOR SWIFT starts at 8pm
- BEN BYLER COUNTRY BAND: 9pm to closing

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12TH

- SCHOOL OF ROCK: 5:30pm to 8pm
- HIP HOP KIDZ: 8:30pm to 9:15pm
- SCHOOL OF ROCK: 9:45pm to closing

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH

- All day LIVE DJ's from 2pm
- DJ MASHUP + Special Guest starts 8pm to closing

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH 'JAZZ AT THE FAIR'

- Cool Jazz Select PLAYLIST: noon to 3pm
- THE LUIGI ARRADONDO JAZZ COLLECTIVE: 3pm to 6pm
- URBAN GYPSY: 7pm to 10pm

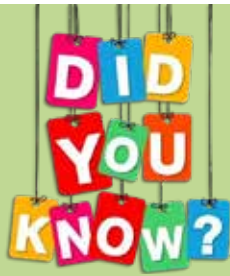
MONDAY, JANUARY 15TH

- On the main stage: TBA



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.



by Code Enforcement

Undertaking construction work without the necessary permits might seem like a minor shortcut, but it conceals a significant danger to the public and the community at large.

These permits exist not to hinder progress, but to ensure that construction adheres to safety regulations and building codes. When individuals or developers bypass this crucial step, they jeopardize the well-being of everyone who interacts with the structure. Construction permits are a safeguard against potential hazards. Permits ensure that projects are executed under professional guidance, following established standards. A structure built without proper oversight might lack critical safety measures, leading to risks such as faulty electrical wiring, inadequate structural integrity, and fire hazards. Moreover, unauthorized construction could encroach on utility lines, disrupt drainage systems, or violate zoning regulations. This not only endangers the immediate inhabitants but also impacts the broader community by straining resources and infrastructure. By obtaining permits, we collectively prioritize safety, contributing to neighborhoods that thrive securely and sustainably.



PLANTING GUIDE FOR SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLES

Website: www.broward.org/parks/extension/urbanhorticulture
A SERVICE OF THE BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MAYORS
MONARCH
PLEDGE

JANUARY: Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Collards, Corn, Chinese Cabbage, Eggplant, Endive, English & Southern Peas, Escarole, Kohlrabi Lettuce, Lima Pole & Bush Beans, Mustard, Onions, Parsley, Peppers, Potatoes, Radish, Spinach, Summer & Winter Squash, Tomatoes Turnips.

FEBRUARY: Beets, Cantaloupes, Carrots, Collards, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, English & Southern Peas, Kohlrabi, Lima Pole & Bush Beans, Mustard, Onions, Okra, Peppers, Radish, Summer & Winter Squash, Sweet Corn, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatoes, Turnips, Watermelon.

SOIL PREPARATION: If your soil pH is between 5.5 and 7.0, no adjustment in pH needs to be made. However, in South Florida the pH ranges from 7.0 to 8.5 and you will need to improve your soil and its pH by bringing in topsoil or a soil mix, or by applying liberal amounts of organic material to the soil already present. Spade or plow the plot at least 3-4 weeks before planting. Then rework the soil into a fine firm, seedbed at planting time.

ADDING ORGANIC MATTER: Various forms of organics such as animal manure, rotted leaves, compost, and cover crops should be thoroughly mixed into the soil well in advance of planting, preferably at least a month. Fertilizers Use a balanced



time-release fertilizer such as 8-8-8 or 15-15-15. If the pH is above 6.3, micronutrients will be necessary. Fertilize at planting, when the plants flower, and when the fruit is medium sized. The fertilizer can be either broadcasted (spread by throwing) over the plot, or a line of fertilizer can be laid 2-3 inches on both sides of the plant row (banding). Follow the directions on the fertilizer label and consult Florida Vegetable Gardening Guide¹ SP 103 publication for more specific instructions.

GARDEN PLACEMENT • Full sun (6 hours of sun per day) • Convenient to the house • Level ground • Good soil • Well-drained area • Clear of trees and shrubs • Close to a water source.

Gardens may be planted year-round in Florida, but fall is the preferred season in South Florida. Garden placement is very important. Use the following key points to place your vegetable garden to increase your gardening success.



6TH ANNUAL "UNITY IN DIVERSITY" 5K RUN / WALK

SAVE THE DATE : MARCH 9, 2024

For the Town's College Scholarship Fund



HEARTWAY
WWW.HEARTWAYFLORIDA.COM
@heartwayflorida



MISSION VIDA CHURCH





- **Do not walk through flowing water.** If you must walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure the depth of the water ahead.
- **Do not drive through a flooded area.** Do not drive around road barriers; the road may be washed out.
- **Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.** Electrical current travels through water. If possible, report downed powerlines to FPL. Do not use appliances or motors that are wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried.
- **Look out for animals, especially snakes.** Small animals that have been flooded out of their habitat may take shelter in your home.
- **Look before you step.** After a flood, the ground and floors can be covered with debris. Surfaces that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.
- **Be alert for gas leaks.** If your house is serviced by gas, do not smoke, use candles or open flames unless you know the gas has not built up. Make arrangements to turn off your electricity and gas.

To sign up to be notified via voice message, text and email for important public safety information during a storm visit <http://southwestranches.org> 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 flood-plain 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@southwestranches.org.

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



MARTY KIAR

BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

DOES MY HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AUTOMATICALLY RENEW?

After your initial application for Homestead Exemption has been approved, it automatically renews each year unless there is a change of ownership or eligible use of your homesteaded property. Each January, our office mails a Homestead Renewal Notice and "Change Card" to all Homesteaded properties. Florida law requires the property owner to notify the Property Appraiser of any change which may affect homestead eligibility. This Change Order Card provides an efficient way to communicate these important changes to our office.

If there are NO changes to the use and/or ownership of your property, simply keep the card as your receipt verifying that your Homestead Exemption has automatically renewed for another year. However, if there are changes, please mark the Change Card accordingly and return it to our office.

If your name is not printed above the mailing address section on this card, it means you are not protected by Homestead Exemption at this property. You may be on title to the property, but you are not receiving Homestead Exemption. If you are eligible for Homestead Exemption on this property, you must complete your own Homestead Exemption application. You can apply online at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/HomesteadExemption>


If you are a co-owner, surviving spouse, trust beneficiary or otherwise believe you are eligible for this exemption, you must file your own Homestead Exemption application to receive the benefit. If you have any questions relating to the death of the owner, the Change Card or need assistance in filing for Homestead or other tax-saving exemptions, please visit our website at web.bcpa.net or contact our Customer Service Department at 954-357-6830.



WHERE DID MY PORTABILITY SAVINGS GO?

A portability deduction is only posted to your property record page in the first year you receive your new Homestead Exemption. The portability savings from the first year form the basis of your new Save Our Homes value on a going forward basis and -- in subsequent years -- will rise or fall based upon market just value changes and the 3% cap, as your new Save Our Homes value has incorporated your portability savings. When our website is updated to display subsequent year property values, your portability deduction is no longer shown independently because it is already factored into your new Assessed/Save Our Homes value.

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

Take care,





MartyKiarBCPA
@MartyKiarBCPA

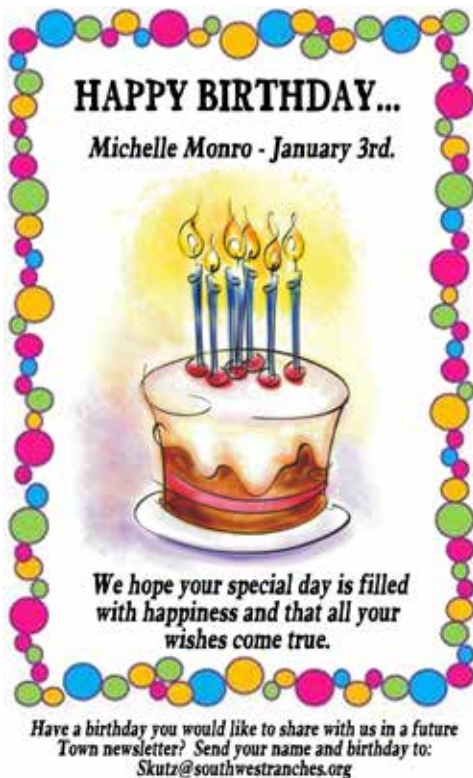
Marty Kiar, JD, CFA

FLHSMV

FLORIDA HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Florida Licensing On Wheels mobile offices brings motorist services directly to Southwest Ranches Town Hall for your convenience.

Call (954) 434-0008 for updates on when the mobile unit will be at Town Hall.



Broward County School Calendar

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

Monday, January 1st & 2nd
Schools and Administrative Offices Closed

Wednesday, January 3rd, 4th and 5th
Schools Closed

Monday, January 15th
Schools and Administrative Offices Closed

Friday, January 19th
Early Release Day

Monday, January 22nd
Employee Planning
(no school for students)

Happy New Year

"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.

New Year's Eve WORD SEARCH

OCDADCDZ I PQHKHPQKURB
KHGDF TUNAH J HORN SUQPG
PETAF J FOXN IABRBANFEZ
AEWY J D I J KZ J VMLBVNOZ
URCF CGT SWSOOTMHRER P
GSYUHFEERCALENDARFWA
PKQUQ I FMMEBVAWCAET J K
R I OODRQAF I SUQPYQTBS
MSHHVEFKP I DOBLYSR J SK
YSZEFWGEYADNLBRLOGCZ
LTBYFOERNTRFIULQS J HI
QJZQRBHY IOTCGTEPC EX
TQS J RKLOYMISYBHI SOEF
PMQXOSPYS EPIXX J TOMRK
EZLSBMPPCLOCKTPBCNNO
JDBGHAMBECOUNTDOWNZX
GULTVGLMLYZKSUTBDKST
DVVOIYKLBCELEBRATEFR
GDYIUSHOFELUSMPYOSNT
AFX PMLLIWGMUCOINOWYD

Noisemaker	Resolution	Celebrate	Fireworks
Countdown	Calendar	Midnight	Bubbles
Cheers	Party	Cheer	Clock
Horns	Ball	Kiss	Time



JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 New Year's Day TOWN HALL CLOSED BULK ZONE 7	1 <i>happy new year</i> • CODE Hearing - Town Hall 9 am BULK ZONE 8	2 • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 9	3 BULK ZONE 9	4 BULK ZONE 10	5 BULK ZONE 11	6 HHW Events 8-2pm Shred-A-Thon 10-1 Drug Drop Off 10-2 Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56 St Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am-3:00 pm BULK ZONE 12
7 BULK ZONE 1	8 • Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 1	9 • Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm • Broward County Property Appraiser Office - Town Hall 10:30 - 12:30 pm BULK ZONE 2	10 • Zero Waste Broward Task Force Meeting Town Hall 7:00 pm BULK ZONE 3	11 • Town of Southwest Ranches Country Fair SW Meadows Sanctuary Park. 5 - 10:30 pm BULK ZONE 4	12 • Town of Southwest Ranches Country Fair SW Meadows Sanctuary Park. 5 - 10:30 pm BULK ZONE 5	13 • Town of Southwest Ranches Country Fair SW Meadows Sanctuary Park. 12 - 10:00 pm BULK ZONE 6
14 • Town of Southwest Ranches Country Fair SW Meadows Sanctuary Park. 12 - 10:00 pm BULK ZONE 7	15 • Martin Luther King Jr. Day TOWN HALL CLOSED • Town of Southwest Ranches Country Fair SW Meadows Sanctuary Park. 12 - 8:00 pm BULK ZONE 7	16 • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 8	17 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 9	18 • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 10	19 BULK ZONE 11	20 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am-3:00 pm BULK ZONE 12
21 BULK ZONE 1	22 • Rural Public Arts & Design Board Meeting Town Hall 7pm BULK ZONE 1	23 • Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56th St. 7 pm BULK ZONE 2	24 BULK ZONE 3	25 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 4	26 BULK ZONE 5	27 Country Estates HOA BBQ Country Estates Park Griffin & SW 190th 12-4 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am-3:00 pm BULK ZONE 6
28 BULK ZONE 7	29 BULK ZONE 7	30 BULK ZONE 8	31 • Sunshine Ranches HOA Meeting - ZOOM 7pm BULK ZONE 9	1 BULK ZONE 10	2 BULK ZONE 11	3 BULK ZONE 12

HORSE EARPLUG



The Town has begun a pilot program to make horse earplugs available for residents that own horses.

These earplugs may help horses cope with the sounds from fireworks as the holidays approach. If you'd like a complimentary pair of earplugs for your horses, please come into Town Hall.

You will be asked to complete a form and your feedback on your experience will be requested after the holidays.

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

TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES FUN HORSE SHOW

**GROOM YOUR HORSES
POLISH YOUR RIDING HELMETS
AND WATCH FOR THE DATE.**

**RIDERS 18 AND YOUNGER
MAKE ROOM FOR
YOUR RIBBONS AND TROPHIES**

****FREE HORSE SHOW****

CONTACT: DECEMBER LAURETANO HAINES
FOR COMPLETE DETAILS AND HOW TO REGISTER
954-343-7452



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



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI, FL
PERMIT
#622

facebook
Facebook:
facebook@SWRGOV

YouTube
YouTube:
Town of Southwest Ranches
Official Channel

Twitter:
@SWR_Gov

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



LIVESTOCK AREA

With New Years Eve coming up please be mindful of our neighbors with livestock. Please do not use fireworks that would cause undue harm or stress to our friends with animals.

Be a good neighbor.

Preserving Our Rural Lifestyle

2024 PHOTO CONTEST CALENDARS ARE AT TOWN HALL

Do NOT MISS OUT, WE HAVE A LIMITED AMOUNT

\$5.00

Photo by: Arlynn Miller

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & BULK DROP OFF EVENT

Saturday, January 6th 2024 . 8:00am to 2:00pm

Location: Rolling Oaks Barri - 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 Cleansers 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 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 Breitzkreuz Mayor

Council Member Jim Allbritton District 3

Council Member David Kuczenski District 4

Map is Not to Scale
Date: 12/22/2022
PR Florida Technical Consultants