

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Town Newsletter

**February is
American Heart Month**



**DO YOU KNOW
HOW TO KEEP YOUR
HEART HEALTHY?**

Heart Disease
affects all ages.

see page 3

**Are you
Recycling
Right?**

**KNOW THE
3 basic rules
to recycle
and put them
into practice.**

see page 6

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

FEBRUARY 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
Jennifer McCarty, <i>Records and Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7469	jmccarty@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
Arianna Durbreej, <i>Town Accountant</i>	(954) 343-7477	adurbreej@southwestranches.org
Keith Poliakoff, <i>Town Attorney</i>	(954) 909-0580	keith@govlawgroup.com
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>Engineering 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
Derlin Guevara, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446	swrinspections@southwestranches.org
Maria Perez	(954) 343-7445	swrinspections@southwestranches.org

PLANNING

Jeff Katims	(954) 475-3070	jeff@completecities.net
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ZONING/PERMITTING

Julio Medina, <i>Community Development/Code Enforcement Director</i>	(954) 343-7458	zoninginfo@southwestranches.org
CODE		
Julio Medina, <i>Community Development/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 Breitkreuz



Well, we are through the holidays and hopefully you are enjoying the cooler weather while it is here and I trust that your year is off to a great start.

The Council has been working for the last several years to limit the impact of fireworks on our animals. The State has not made it easy on us. They have severely limited what we can restrict. However, within the guidelines that are available to us, we are working to keep a balance between our individual rights and protection for our animals. With that in mind, we did pass an ordinance last year providing for penalties if fireworks are used outside of the 3 days allowed via State statute. Those days are, New Years Eve, New Years Day and Independence Day. So, please respect the other 362 days of the year and limit your fireworks to those three allowable days.

Beyond that, late last year I was speaking with several horse owners and one of the residents suggested that maybe the Town could partner with horse owners with testing the viability of ear plugs for their horses. So, prior to New Years`, the Town purchased a limited number of these plugs in a variety of sizes. We are trying to get the word out and a number of them have been claimed. However, I am hoping that additional equestrians will stop by Town Hall and pick up and use some of the plugs. My understanding is that it does take time for the horse to become acclimated to them. This is a pilot program and we are asking that if you use them, please provide feedback on their effectiveness. We would like to gather feedback to understand if these are useful and if we should consider expanding the program.

I continue to work in concert with the rest of the Council, focusing on our residents and preserving our rural lifestyle both for us and for the next generation of Ranchers. 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. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Steve
(954) 296-6018



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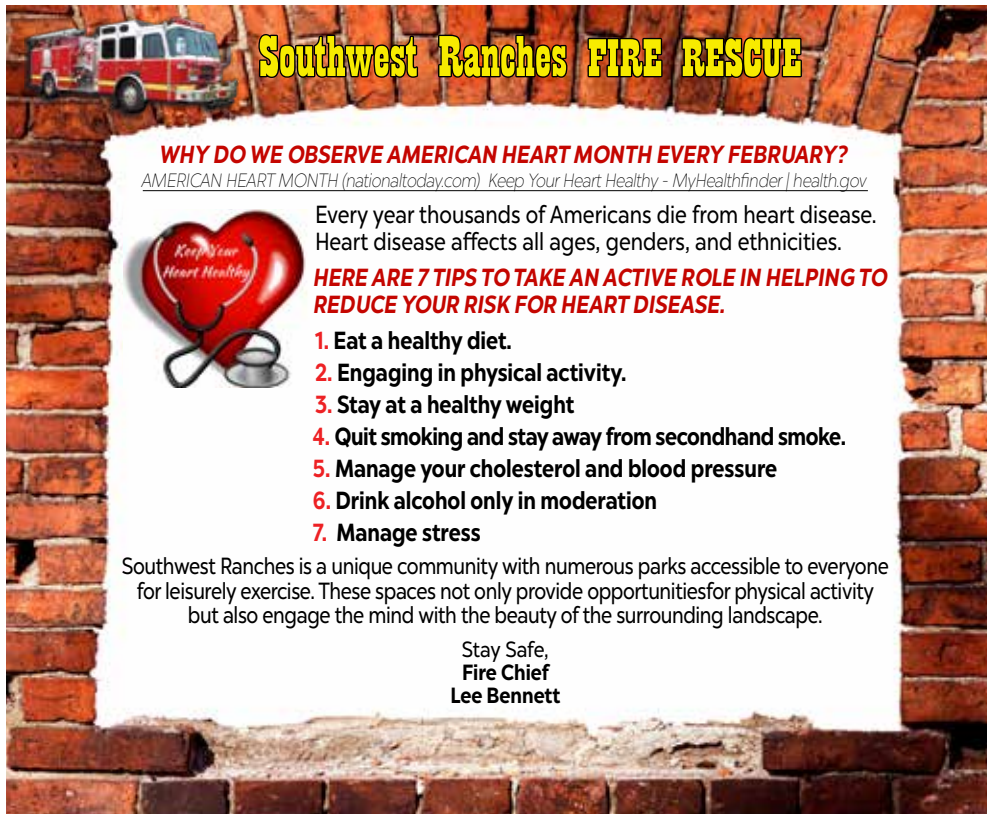
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Back Cover: Household Hazardous

Waste Date, Fun Horse Show, Race

for Unity, Know Your Council



Southwest Ranches FIRE RESCUE

WHY DO WE OBSERVE AMERICAN HEART MONTH EVERY FEBRUARY?
AMERICAN HEART MONTH (nationaltoday.com) Keep Your Heart Healthy - MyHealthfinder | health.gov

Every year thousands of Americans die from heart disease. Heart disease affects all ages, genders, and ethnicities.

HERE ARE 7 TIPS TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN HELPING TO REDUCE YOUR RISK FOR HEART DISEASE.

1. Eat a healthy diet.
2. Engaging in physical activity.
3. Stay at a healthy weight
4. Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke.
5. Manage your cholesterol and blood pressure
6. Drink alcohol only in moderation
7. Manage stress

Southwest Ranches is a unique community with numerous parks accessible to everyone for leisurely exercise. These spaces not only provide opportunities for physical activity but also engage the mind with the beauty of the surrounding landscape.

Stay Safe,
Fire Chief
Lee Bennett



Vice Mayor David S. Kuczenski



Howdy Ranchers,

Whether I am strolling through my neighborhood or exploring the Southwest Ranches Farmers Market, the primary concern on my mind is the proposed incinerator. The land where the incinerator is planned to be built belongs to Broward County. While community opposition is unified, that does not mean it will not be constructed. This endeavor will require more than just talking about opposing this incinerator. It is going to take a county-wide effort to convince the decision-makers to create an alternative to simply collect garbage and dump it in a landfill. All of us are going to have to implement zero waste initiatives, including better recycling and composting. Most importantly, the local organization needs more volunteers, so please sign up for one of the several subgroups if possible. It's going to take all of us to fight this.

Next, over the past few years, I've received complaints about loud parties. I am sure I am not the only Council Member who has received these complaints. Some of these assemblies are interfering with the quiet enjoyment of living in Southwest Ranches. The Town has regulated these parties for many years; however, the language of the ordinance in effect makes enforcement complicated. Under the previous ordinance, any gathering exceeding 30 people required a permit. The updated ordinance does not require a permit for all gatherings, but it does require a permit for any gathering that has amplified sound, whether it is voice or music. This ordinance better addresses the complaints, since they are about loud noise, not the gathering of people.

The updated ordinance requires that the outdoor assembly is an accessory use of the occupied single-family detached residence.

The updated ordinance:

1. Limits the assembly to family, friends and acquaintances of the property owner(s) and/or permanent resident(s) of the premises, and their permitted guests;
2. Continues to prohibit all for profit assemblies, including prohibiting any admis-

sion fee, or payment or other consideration, aside from normal congratulatory gifts. Further, no assembly can be advertised or open to the general public.

3. Limits amplified and non-amplified noise from the assembly from being audible from within an adjacent dwelling or guest house during certain dates and times and prohibits amplified noise from a permitted assembly exceeding four hours in duration. Since the Town code also contains restrictions on noise, the stricter code provisions apply when there is a conflict.

4. Limits the number of days a year that an assembly with amplified noise is allowed to occur. The ordinance limits assemblies with amplified sound to no more than two (2) times in any one (1) calendar year period, and may only lawfully occur upon the proper issuance of a permit by the Town. The provision requires an owner or permanent resident to be present at all times during the event.

Finally, the updated code specifies requirements of the permit, including substantive and procedural provisions, and requires the permit applicant to be advised of the detailed requirements for issuance of a permit and consequences of violating the permit terms.

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

Council Member Jim Allbritton



WOW! Is the only way I would describe this year's Southwest Ranches Country Fair and Carnival. The Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation pulled out all the

stops to make this year's fair our BEST yet. I know my granddaughter really enjoyed it, especially the live entertainment. If you did not attend this year's fair or have not attended any of the previous fairs, I would encourage you to do so in the future. The Fair is a great way to enjoy our Town.



Remember, February brings us Valentine's Day, a special day when we tell those special people in our life how much we care. The image of a valentine heart also reminds us that February is American Heart Month. Over eight hundred seventy-five thousand people, in the USA, die of cardiovascular disease each year. The American Heart Institute recommends a few simple steps to help you stay healthy.

- #1. Do at least twenty to thirty minutes of moderate-intensity activity daily.**
- #2. Stop Smoking.**
- #3. Watch your weight.**
- #4. Get regular checkups.**

I have included these in my New Year's resolutions.

A great way to check off one of the above recommendations, is to participate in this year's Sixth Annual Unity in Diversity 5K Run/Walk on March 9, 2024, at Rolling Oaks Park. For more information go to the Town website. I'll see you there.

In closing, I would like to ask all the residents to take a good look at our New Town Newsletter. Better paper, better printing, color pictures and the artistic ability of Ms. Susan Kutz has made our Town Newsletter one to be proud of.

I say this at the end of each article, and I mean it, 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**

FLORIDA: THE TRASH INCINERATION CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES



"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.



Clerk's Corner

by Debra Ruesga

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE
DECEMBER 14, 2023 TOWN
COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2024-017 extending the term of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-018 extending the term of the Drainage and Infrastructure Advisory Board.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-019 extending the term of the Fire Advisory Board.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-020 extending the term of the Parks, Recreation, Forestry, And Natural Resources Advisory Board.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-021 extending the term of the Rural Public Arts and Design Advisory Board.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-022 extending the term of the Schools and Education Advisory Board and appointing members.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-023 approving the agreement with Debra M. Ruesga for the position of Town Clerk.

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.

Did you know that Florida burns more municipal solid waste than any other state in the United States. Florida had the most trash incinerators in any state until two trash incinerators closed in Bay County in 2021 and Miami-Dade County in 2023.

Currently, there are nine trash incinerators at eight sites in Florida; this is second to New York; which still has ten trash incinerators operating.

What is an incinerator? Dictionary definition: Incinerator – noun – a furnace or apparatus for burning trash, garbage, etc., to ashes.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) legal definition:

Municipal waste combustor, MWC, or municipal waste combustor unit: (1) Means a setting or equipment that combusts solid, liquid, or gasified [municipal solid waste] including but not limited to field-erected incinerators, modular incinerators, boilers, furnaces, and pyrolysis/combustion units. Elsewhere the EPA confirms that a "municipal waste combustor" is the same thing as a "municipal waste incinerator."

From this definition, we see that various types of burners, including those that most insist that they are not incinerators (namely, pyrolysis, gasification, and plasma arc facilities) are indeed incinerators. The European Union has similar legal definitions that make it clear that pyrolysis, gasification, and plasma technologies are indeed incinerators.

Incineration is the most expensive and polluting way to manage waste or to make energy. For South Florida urban areas, it would make more economic and environmental sense to ship waste north to landfills than to support aging and polluting trash incinerators and dumping ash in landfills; thus, creating mountains of toxic ash that can contaminate the ground water and surrounding areas.

Why is Broward and Miami-Dade counties moving towards building new trash incinerators aka waste to energy ("WTE") industrial facilities? In 2022, the Florida Legislature passed, and Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 1764 into law, which throws hundreds of millions of Florida taxpayer dollars at the state's trash incinera-



tors. The funding first props up the WTE by covering reduced electricity sales revenues, then granting the rest in subsidies to build new trash incinerators, and expanding existing ones, such as the one Covanta is trying to do at their Pasco County incinerator.

CS/SB 1764 Municipal Solid Waste-to-Energy was initially written to allocate \$100 million dollars a year for this purpose. The dollar amount was replaced with matching funds to build new incinerators or expand existing ones – essentially a blank check that could amount to far more than \$100 million a year. The estimated cost to build a new trash incinerator is \$1.5 billion dollars and this amount could increase by the time it is completed if approved in the Broward County Solid Waste Authority Master Plan that is in the very early stages of development.

There is no such thing as waste-to-energy or WTE. Waste-to-energy is a public relations term used by incinerator promoters but is not an accurate term scientifically as there is no such thing. These facilities are waste-of-energy facilities. What happens is that municipal solid waste which includes recoverable resources that can be reused, repurposed, recycled, and composted are turned into toxic ash and toxic air emissions while a small fraction of the energy in the waste is recovered in the process.

To join the Grass Roots Effort to remove any new incinerators to be included in the Broward County Solid Waste Authority Master Plan (for the next 40 years), please email zerowastebrowardtf@gmail.com and join Facebook group Broward Clean Air.



PROPERTY INSURANCE

The property insurance crisis in Florida has not improved despite the Governor convening multiple special sessions so that the legislature could consider bills to provide relief. I did not support the bills passed during the last special session because they did not provide immediate relief for the consumer and also made it more difficult for homeowners to dispute a claim. In 2022, according to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, Florida had the highest number of unpaid claims of any state and the most claims that were never processed in the nation. Additionally, homeowners in my District have been denied Citizens Property Insurance because their homes are above the \$700,000 re-

placement cost limit. It should be noted that Miami-Dade and Monroe have a million-dollar threshold and I have been fighting for parity for the last 3 years, my efforts led to the Commissioner of Insurance conducting a study and legislation has been filed this session to resolve this. In the past, I co-sponsored bills to provide relief and ran amendments. I have also listened to your concerns and even had representatives from the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation come to South Florida to meet with homeowners in District 103!

Many seniors in our community have reached out to me, they live on fixed incomes including many living solely on social security, and risk losing their homes. This year I filed House Bill 1055 - Property Insurance Rebate Program for Low-Income Seniors. This bill would require the Department of Financial Services to create an insurance rebate program to provide low-income seniors relief from rising property insurance. To be eligible for this program you must be 65 years or older with an income less than 200% of the federal poverty

level. The program would provide a rebate equal to 10% of the person's premium on their primary residence only. It also allows condo owners to be reimbursed for their proportionate share of their condo association dues attributed to their rise in condo association dues because of an increase in the building's property insurance. In the past couple of years, the state has set aside billions of dollars to provide a reinsurance assistance program to help insurance companies and hundreds of millions to fund the 'My Safe Florida Home Program', which helps residents harden their homes. Condominium owners are not included in that program.

This legislation safeguards our most vulnerable citizens. My priority will always be to fight for you.

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.

LET'S GET BACK TO BASICS AND RECYCLE RIGHT

Knowing these rules and putting them into practice will help you recycle more efficiently and will help to ensure everything that makes it in your bin finds a second life to serve a new purpose and save natural resources. Now more than ever, it's important that only the right items, free from contamination, make their way into your recycling bin.

FOLLOW THESE 3 RULES

- Rule 1. Recycle bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard.
- Rule 2. Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.
- Rule 3. No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.

RECYCLE RIGHT

Enjoy take out but take this tip from us: place aluminum, paper, plastic and polystyrene containers in the trash along with any food or beverages.

THESE DO NOT GO IN RECYCLE



WM Is Your Recycling Partner

by: Public Works (Part 1)

What to expect when it RAINS

Some standing water is normal and expected after rain. Collecting excess water in local lakes, ponds, swales and streets keeps it away from your home.

Did You Know?

Rainy Season CHECKLIST

- ☐ Recognize that flood control is a shared responsibility.
- ☐ Know the agency responsible for managing nearby canals.
- ☐ Understand YOUR neighborhood drainage limitations. Every neighborhood drains differently.
- ☐ If you are part of a homeowners association, identify the HOA representative authorized to operate any water control structures.
- ☐ Check for any structure, storm drain or canal blockages - remove debris and/or report any issues.
- ☐ Be aware that extreme rain can overwhelm drainage systems and result in temporary flooding.

Learn more at sfwmd.gov/rainyseason



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.



PLANTING GUIDE FOR SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLES

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



MARCH: Cantaloupes Cucumbers Corn Lima, Pole, & Bush Beans Mustard Onions Okra Peas (Southern) Peppers Radish Summer Squash Sweet Potatoes Tomatoes Watermelon

APRIL: Lima, Pole, & Bush Beans Sweet Potatoes Peas (Southern)

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.

THE RURAL PUBLIC ARTS AND DESIGN BOARD PRESENTED... "6th Annual December Holiday Lights Contest"

3rd Place
Pablo



2nd Place
Ricky and Diana



1st Place
Rosmary and Abel



Join us next year for this magical event and enjoy your holiday season a little more. Remember, your house does not have to be decorated to get your early entry form in.

The Aster Knight Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation held its annual SoFlo Chili Fest and Car Show Saturday, December 9, 2023.



This year was the 10th anniversary of the SoFlo Chilicookoff and it was the best event to date and was judged by a record 312 members of our community. We had 14 cooks preparing their original chili recipes. In third place was Harley Martinez with his brisket chili; in second place was Vice Mayor David Kuczenski with his secret recipe and in first place was Chef Daren Reid with his amazing Oxtail chili.





PROTECT OUR WOOD STORKS

(www.fws.gov)



Wood storks are tall wading birds that stand about 3 to 4 feet tall, with a wingspan of about five feet. They have a black to gray, rough, and bald head with a thick, straight bill that hooks slightly at the end. Their bodies are white, except for black flight feathers on the back of their wings and tail. Wood storks have long, gray legs with orange feet that trail behind the body in flight. Storks are found in central and south Florida year-round. Their migration range extends throughout Florida and Mississippi, as well as parts of Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Wood storks roost and nest in groups in forested wetlands and swampy areas. They nest in trees that are standing in or surrounded by still water such as cypress stands, mangrove swamps, and other forested wetlands, preferably with an open tree canopy. Wood storks prefer to feed in areas with standing water up to about one foot deep in these habitats, but these opportunistic feeders can be seen feeding in drainage ditches in pastures and prairie habitats of Central Florida as well. Wood storks may occasionally forage in the refuge's ephemeral wetlands. They need fluctuating water levels to concentrate fish populations, especially during nesting season. They use their long bill to feel for fish in the shallow water, snap it shut when they find one, and swallow the fish whole. Storks are federally listed as a threatened species and are protected throughout their range. The main threat to the wood stork is the loss of foraging and breeding habitat due to disruptions in natural water flow in their preferred habitats. Limiting disturbance to wood storks is crucial for their recovery.



2023 SoFlo Chilifest and Car Show event
December 9th at Rolling Oaks Park was a huge
success and a fun filled day.



Arnaldo Boza with his 1955 Chevrolet Belair

The event raised a record net profit of \$41,000 with over 2,000 people in attendance, with 30 vendors, over 100 amazing automobiles from classic cars to Lambos and Porches courtesy of our new sponsors for Lamborghini Broward and Porche West Broward. The top prize of \$500.00 went to Arnaldo Boza with his 1955 Chevrolet Belair

The new layout orchestrated by Southwest Ranches resident architect Leo Eskenazi with its central promenade in front of Rolling Oaks Barn made for a convivial gathering of local residents, our neighbors and people visiting from around the globe.

This gathering represents the
BEST THE RANCHES HAS TO OFFER,
showcasing our rural lifestyle and friendly
community that makes us all proud
to call home.



Photos by: Rick Bell and Bob Hartmann



MARTY KIAR

BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

Automatic Renewal for the Limited-Income Senior Exemption

A change in the Limited-Income Senior Exemption renewal process no longer requires seniors to sign and return a renewal card. After the initial application approval, the Senior Exemption automatically renews each year unless the senior notifies our office that they exceed the income requirement for this exemption. People who received the Senior Exemption in 2023 and are still living at the same address do not need to send in a signed renewal card to continue receiving this exemption.

Our office will mail the 2024 Senior Exemption income limit information later this month as set by the state of Florida.

- **If your 2023 adjusted household gross income does not exceed the amount set by the state for the 2024 tax year,** you DO NOT need to do anything to continue receiving this valuable exemption for 2024. Your exemption will automatically be renewed provided you are still living at the same address and receiving Homestead Exemption.

- **If your 2023 adjusted household gross income did exceed the income limitation,** you must notify our office that you no longer qualify for this tax year when you receive the annual income notification from our office.

If you did not receive the Senior Exemption for 2023 and you believe you may qualify, please visit our website at web.bcpa.net and click on the "Senior Exemption" icon to view this exemption and all the other available exemptions. You can also apply online at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/SeniorExemption>. The deadline to apply for any 2024 exemption is September 18, 2024.

If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please call us at 954-357-6830 or email me directly at martykiar@bcpa.net.

Take care,

Marty Kiar

Marty Kiar, JD, CFA



Delsa Amundson, a long-time Southwest Ranches resident of 48 years, passed away January 6th, 2024.

Delsa was a devoted loving wife of more than 51 years to Les, mother to Page and Matt, friend and neighbor. Many got to know Delsa at the Regency Plaza Publix, and as a realtor for more than 35 years, and a Southwest Ranches Council Member for District 3 from 2019 – 2020. Delsa enjoyed serving the Town where she raised her sons. We are all saddened by the news of her passing and send our caring thoughts to Delsa's family and friends.

Santa at the Rolling Oaks Barn December 16th, 2024





PHOTO BY: Tracey Egert "MUNCH MUNCH"
(From the 2024 Photo Contest Calendar)

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am-3:00 pm
4 • Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7 pm • SWR Parks, Foundation Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	5	6 • CODE Hearing - Town Hall 9 am • Broward County Property Appraiser Office - Town Hall 10:30 - 12:30 pm	7 • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm	8 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Town Hall 7 pm	9	10 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am-3:00 pm
BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6	BULK ZONE 12
11	12 • Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	13 • Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	14 • Zero Waste Broward Task Force Meeting Town Hall 7:00 pm	15	16	17 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am-3:00 pm
BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12	BULK ZONE 12
18 Presidents Day TOWN HALL CLOSED	19	20 • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	21 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm	22 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Town Hall 7 pm	23	24 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am-3:00 pm
BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6	BULK ZONE 6
25	26	27 • Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56th St. 7 pm	28 • Flow Mobile DMV Services Town Hall 10 - 2:00 pm (by appointment only) • Sunshine Ranches HOA Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	29	1	2
BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 10		

Broward County 2024 School Calendar

FEBRUARY				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	

- Thursday, February 1st - Report Cards issued
- Tuesday, February 13th - Interim Reports Issued
- Wednesday, February 14th - Early Release Day
- Monday, February 19th - School and Administrative Offices Closed

lights camera action!

2024 PHOTO CONTEST CALENDARS ARE AT TOWN HALL

DO NOT MISS OUT, WE HAVE A LIMITED AMOUNT \$5.00

Photo by: Jessica Miller

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Katherine Easley - February 16th
Mery Lopez-Palma - February 22nd

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



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



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
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MIAMI, FL
PERMIT
#622

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Town of Southwest Ranches
Official Channel



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



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & BULK DROP OFF EVENT

Saturday, April 27th, 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
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**

**5TH ANNUAL
A RACE FOR
UNITY & DIVERSITY
5K WALK/RUN**

RACECOURSE CERTIFIED BY USATF
FL23010JK

HEARTWAY
Sikh Youth
MISSION VIEJA CHURCH

SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2024 - 7:30 AM

FUNDS TO BENEFIT
THE TOWN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**Rolling Oaks Park
17630 SW 56 ST
Southwest Ranches, FL, 33331**

CONTACT: WWW.THESIKHYOUTHASSOCIATION.ORG
OR MANMEET GULATI AT (561) 445 - 7387

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 Breitreuz Mayor
Council Member Jim Allbritton District 3
Council Member David Kuczenski District 4

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