

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Town Newsletter

HAPPY
Passover

Welcome
Spring

RECYCLE
RIGHT
see page 3



APRIL 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 Breitzkreuz	(954) 343-7462	sbreitzkreuz@southwestranches.org
Vice Mayor David S. Kuczynski, Esq.	(954) 343-7472	dkuczynski@southwestranches.org
Council Member Jim Allbritton	(954) 343-7461	jallbritton@southwestranches.org
Council Member Bob Hartmann	(954) 343-7447	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
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Tom Holste, <i>General Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7476	tholste@southwestranches.org
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Emil C. Lopez, <i>Town Financial Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7473	elopez@southwestranches.org
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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)

Simo Mansor, <i>Building Official</i>	(954) 343-7448	M-F 8:30 am - 4:00 pm smansor@capfiol.com
Derlin Guevara, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446	swrinspections@southwestranches.org
Maria Perez, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7445	swrinspections@southwestranches.org

PLANNING

Jeff Katims	(954) 554-8894	jeff@completecities.net
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ZONING/PERMITTING

Julio Medina, <i>Community Development/Code Enforcement Director</i> CODE	(954) 343-7458	zoninginfo@southwestranches.org
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
Rudy Navas, <i>Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7459	rnavas@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	
<i>Non-Emergency</i>	(954) 764-4357 (HELP)	
<i>Davie Police Department</i>	(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
<i>Davie Fire Rescue Station 112</i>	(954) 952-4608	
<i>Volunteer Fire Rescue - Chief Bennett</i>	(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
<i>East of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)</i>		
South Broward Drainage District	(954) 680-3337	www.sbddd.org
<i>West of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)</i>		

Mayor Steve Breitreuz



Code Concerns

Code Compliance has always been an issue that is often misunderstood. Recently, it has been a more talked about topic and so I wanted to address the issue and provide my thoughts. Last Fall, we had a workshop related to Code and then, more recently, during our February 8th meeting, we had another discussion regarding code enforcement. The quick summary of the result is that while the current process is certainly not perfect, it is still the best option for our community. However, I want to pass on my thoughts below:

First of all, let me say that the most recent discussion was related to whether the Town should be “Proactive” or “Reactive”. Currently, for most items, we are “Reactive”. What that means is that Code does not actively go out and search for violations, if they did, that would be “Proactive”. In the Ranches, for most items, the Town is “Reactive”, meaning that for most items, Code does not respond, until someone complains. The reason for this is that generally this Town was built on the premise that we want less government interference in our lives. I, like many of you, moved out here to raise my family in the quiet enjoyment of a more rural lifestyle.

I have heard many times, proactive code enforcement is a step toward becoming another Weston or Pembroke Pines. And while our code restrictions are MUCH different than theirs, there is a lot of truth to that comment. In those cities, Code and the HOAs are on patrol, just looking for another way that they can intrude into your lives and tell you what to do. That is “Proactive” code enforcement. That is not where I believe that we should go. Based on our recent public meeting discussions, maintaining reactive code enforcement is what the vast majority of the residents in our Town also believe, and coming out of the workshop, no changes were made.

However, I want to pass on a few additional thoughts.

- First, we had an incredibly positive meeting with a room packed with interested residents. Everyone spoke respectfully even when there were points of disagreement. I am incredibly proud of our Town and how we work through issues. We can disagree and still walk away as friends, respecting one another. I believe that through this positive dialogue, we are a much stronger Town. I want to thank everyone who came out. I want to thank everyone who sent me an email expressing their opinion. Your engagement makes Southwest Ranches a VERY special place.

- Second, I want to talk about an aspect of code that is not so positive, and where I do think work needs to be done. Currently in Town there are individuals that use code as a weapon against their neighbors. This is a terrible abuse. It creates strife in the Town. It draws away resources in the Code department that could be much better served by addressing true code issues. Code in our Town is all about compliance. It is not about fines or making money, although I hear that comment on occasion. But the reality is that Code is there to create an equal playing field where I can enjoy my home and property peacefully and you can enjoy yours. It is only when what I do negatively impacts you, where Code gets involved, and rightfully so. They get involved with the goal of restoring the level playing field of peaceful coexistence. When Code is used as a weapon where repeated false complaints are made with the goal of hurting a neighbor and potentially driving them out of the Ranches. These false complaints become a real form of harassment, but worse than that, they are tying up Town resources to do that. So, I will be looking at ways to restrict this without taking away from the goal of compliance.

So, it is great to live in Southwest Ranches and be a part of this vibrant and unique community. You all are wonderful as individuals and as a Town and as always, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor. It is truly a blessing and an honor.

Mayor Steve Breitreuz - 954-296-6018;
sbreitreuz@southwestranches.org



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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 Bob Hartmann



Hi Neighbors,

One of the spectacular things about living here in Southwest Ranches is our landscape and foliage. Among the towering palm trees, huge oak

canopies, flowering bushes and trees, and neatly trimmed hedges all over town, you will find orchids, trees, bushes, and hedges always in bloom. We truly live in a Garden of Eden. Like the serpent in Eden, we also have a toxic killer.

A new plant has replaced Ficus hedge (Ficus benjamina) and has become popularly used in hedgerows. This plant was introduced into



the landscape trade because it is inexpensive, grows fast, and provides privacy. Clusia rosea, or the Autograph Tree, is a tree native to the Caribbean, including the Bahamas, Hispaniola, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Florida Keys. Like ficus, this plant is not a bush but a tree that will grow to 25-50 feet, have a canopy of similar dimensions, and is a true tropical. Temperatures below 40 F can damage and even kill the trees, even if it doesn't freeze. Our occasional freezes will kill your entire hedge investment overnight. Like ficus, clusia hedge, as it is called at the landscape nursery, is a beauty in the foliage department; however, it packs a toxic punch for our four-legged family members. Saponins, the primary toxic agents found in this plant, are the culprits behind the harm to animals. These natural chemicals, intended to protect the plant from pests, can wreak havoc when ingested by pets and livestock. The fruit, particularly attractive to livestock, is especially toxic and will kill horses, goats, and sheep. Wild birds are not bothered by the toxins.

Ingesting clusia can lead to more than just a bad day. Organ damage is a real risk, particularly to the liver, which is on the frontline when detoxifying the body. Younger animals, with their less mature organs, are especially at risk. The symptoms can be immediate or delayed when a dog ingests part of an Autograph Tree. Vomiting and diarrhea are the most common reactions but keep an eye out for neurological issues like tremors or seizures. Swelling of the mouth or face, excessive drooling, and a sudden change in behavior, such as pawing at the mouth or face, may also occur. If your dog is acting 'unsettled,' pacing, or showing signs of depression, it's time to act. The prognosis for a dog that has consumed Autograph Tree depends on the amount ingested and the speed of treatment. Mild cases often recover with prompt care, but severe symptoms like organ failure or heart issues indicate a more guarded outlook. Long-term effects can include persistent gastrointestinal problems or even organ damage. Immediate veterinary attention is crucial to prevent complications and improve the chances of a full recovery.

The signs of clusia poisoning in livestock are severe gastrointestinal irritation, which can include red and/or ulcerated oral tissues, salivation, blood-tinged milk, diarrhea, abdominal pain, depression or excitation, convulsions, and death.

Remember, time is of the essence, so get to a vet quickly to ensure the best possible outcome for your animals. If your vet is unavailable over a weekend or holiday, dial the Pet Poison Helpline at 1-855-213-6680.

If you have planted clusia or are considering using it, please remember that hedgerows are usually planted along property lines. If your neighbors have horses or other livestock and their animals get sick from your clusia hedge, at best, you may be asked to pay the vet bills. If your neighbor has a boarding stable or keeps livestock as an ag business, things could get a lot worse.

On a different topic that is also very important to all of us, the Solid Waste Disposal and Recyclable Materials Processing Authority of Broward County (SWA), under the leadership of SWA Executive Committee member Mayor Steve Breitkreuz and with support from several engaged residents, has begun to consider recycling and zero-waste as a viable solution for Broward County. When the authority was formed, the assumption was an all-incinerator solution, with as many as four incinerator facilities to be built in Broward. Along with Mayor Breitkreuz, Debbie Green, chair of the Zero Waste Broward Task Force, a grassroots effort to block incinerators started here in Town but has begun to spread across the county; resident Richard Ramcharitar, Executive Director of Broward Clean Air, an advocacy group that is working with many stakeholders here in southeast Florida against incineration; and concerned SWR resident Jim Laskey, a local business-

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man who has a keen eye for corporate financials and who frequently uncovers who has interests in the incinerator industry and who is funding the recycling alternatives, have attended the SWA executive board meetings and general meetings to share zero-waste alternatives with the elected officials who will decide our solid waste future. These folks are moving the needle toward zero-waste solutions.

Here in Town, we have two resident efforts directed towards solid waste solutions. The Zero Waste Broward Task Force meets at Town Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 P.M. to organize and collaborate with residents throughout the county to fight the incineration of solid waste. These meetings help organize to block incineration and present alternatives to incinerators and landfills by experts and business leaders already working in recycling and reuse organizations. Recently, a firm in the composting business informed the audience of how, what, and why

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REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS

HIGHLY VISIBLE DAY OR NIGHT

Order today...

this could help save your life or someone you love.

**IF WE CAN'T FIND YOU...
WE CAN'T HELP YOU.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

MOUNTING PREFERENCE:

vertical (up/down) _____ horizontal (left/right)

COLOR PREFERENCE:

_____ green w/white letters _____ blue w/white letters

Make Checks payable to:

Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue - 17220 Griffin Road - Southwest Ranches, FL 33331

For additional information contact Chief Bennett at 954.868.2057

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17220 Griffin Rd,

Southwest Ranches, FL 33331

For additional

information contact

Chief Bennett at 954.868.2057



they operate their composting service and the direct benefits. This group is growing rapidly and recently attracted the interest of high-school students who are reaching out to their friends and family to get involved and help fight the incinerator efforts.

Additionally, the Town Council felt that since our residents are leading the effort to block the incinerator solutions, SWR should lead on zero-waste solutions for our Town as an example to Broward municipalities and our county government. To that end the Council has created the Zero Waste Advisory Board. This new board met in March and will continue meeting at Town Hall on the first Tuesday, monthly, at 7 P.M. to discover, vet, and recommend a path for the town to reach the outcome of a zero-waste community.

While the Zero Waste Broward Task Force meets at Town Hall it is not a Town affiliated organization. The group encourages participation from anyone willing to engage and provide feedback. The Zero Waste advisory board is a Town advisory board whose membership is limited to Town residents. To encourage citizen participation and input, both meetings are open to the public regardless of where they live. If you consider these efforts important and can help, please attend and get involved.

If you have any recommendations, questions or want more info, please call me at 954-801-1758 or send a note to

BHartmann@SouthwestRanches.org.

Regards

Bob



Although you can recycle paper products including newspapers, junk mail, and office/school paper, you cannot put paper food containers in recycling. Paper and cardboard cups, plates and containers must go in the garbage.

CURRENT BOARDS AND WHAT THEY DO.

- **Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board** – Provides input into the development of the Comprehensive Plan and makes recommendations to the Town Council. The Comprehensive Plan addresses future land use, housing, transportation, recreation and open space, conservation, utilities, public school facilities, intergovernmental coordination, and capital improvements.

HONORING VINCE FALLETTA
A long time resident of Southwest Ranches.

A group of seven people are gathered outdoors for a canal dedication ceremony. They are standing around a wooden sign that reads 'VINCENT J. "VINCE" FALLETTA CANAL'. The sign also includes text about the canal's location and dedication date. The group consists of six men and one woman, all dressed in casual attire, some wearing hats. They are standing in front of a red canopy tent. The background shows a grassy area with trees.

Saturday February 24, the Town Council dedicated and honored the late Vince Falletta with unveiling a sign and dedicating the canal at the intersection of Luray Road and Hancock Road. Vince was a longtime resident and former Central Broward Water Control District Commissioner.

Pictured:
Council Member Jablonski, Council Member Allbritton, Mayor Breitreuz, Vice Mayor David S. Kuczenski, Esq., Council Member Hartmann, Vince Falletta's daughter Kathy and Max Pulcini, who is a Central Broward Water Control District Commissioner.



KEEPING FLORIDIANS SAFE

As a legislator, one of my top priorities is to keep our vulnerable populations out of harm's

way. This session, we passed many bills off the floor to protect Florida's citizens.

We see news stories consistently about our seniors being taken advantage of. Although current Florida law prohibits and punishes fraudulent activity, there remain structural problems enforcing these laws due to a lack of a centralized authority dealing with fraud and the light punishments given to fraudsters. As a result, perpetrators go unpunished and target our vulnerable populations time and time again.

HB 1171 - Schemes to Defraud, expands the definition of "scheme to defraud" and creates a new offense to scheme to defraud against a person age 65 years or older, against a minor, or a person with a mental or physical disability. Under the bill, such offenses will be reclassified as follows:

- A misdemeanor of the first degree is reclassified to a felony of the third degree.
- A felony of the third degree is reclassified to a felony of the second degree.

- A felony of the second degree is reclassified to a felony of the first degree.
- A felony of the first degree is reclassified to a life felony.

The murder of Cassie Carli brought to light another issue, violence experienced during custody exchanges of children. In December of 2022, Cassie met up with her daughter's father in St. Clair County, Florida during a custody exchange. She shared her fear and apprehension regarding him with law enforcement and others and was repeatedly turned away. During this exchange, she was abducted by her daughter's father, and her body was found in a shallow grave. To ensure this does not happen again, I co-sponsored **HB 385 - Safe Exchange of Minor Children** which seeks to designate a neutral, safe child custody exchange location for use by parents with shared custody. This bill mandates that safe exchange locations be established. These safe exchange locations would be required to install purple lighting, signage, and a surveillance system. Safe exchange locations will also be required to have at least one designated spot reserved. If there is a reasonable cause, this bill will allow courts to require any custody exchanges to be in one of these locations. Both of these bills are heading to the governor's desk.

If I can ever be of help or assistance, please contact me at 954-668-3662 or Robin.Bartleman@myfloridahouse.gov.

TREE TRIMMING AND BEING Hurricane Prepared TAKE STEPS NOW...



Branches can pose serious problems for your home, car, roadways and innocent bystanders.

Take the proper precautions to properly prune and trim trees on your property:

- Trim trees and shrubbery regularly by cutting weak branches and thinning foliage to decrease the chance that plants will be uprooted.

Remove limbs resting on your roof.

• Do not attempt to trim any vegetation growing on or near overhead power lines. Only specially trained line-clearing professionals should work around powerlines.

• Please refrain from trimming trees once a hurricane watch has been posted as the trimmings may become projectiles during the storm.

• Residents without experience using a chain saw should seek professional assistance, or the assistance of someone familiar with operating the equipment.

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP
Protect their lives. Preserve ours.



POLLINATOR CORNER

(<https://www.flawildflowers.org/flower-friday-bidens-alba/>)



Bidens alba, or Spanish Needle, is likely the most underappreciated of all Florida's native wildflowers. It is often considered a weed because it reproduces so prolifically, but it is a wonderful native wildflower for attracting pollinators. It is a larval host for the Dainty sulphur butterfly and a favorite nectar source for a myriad of butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. In Florida, it is the third most common source of nectar for honey production. Its young leaves and flowers are edible. Consider dedicating a section of your yard to this lovely native wildflower.

The Great White Heron...Everyone Looks Good in Black

(<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>)



The great white heron is easily identified by the combination of its large size, black legs, and stout orange-yellow bill. The bird is slender, long necked, tall, and graceful in stature. It is very deliberate in its movements, frequently foraging along our canals with its bill held horizontal or tilted skyward.



MAY: Cassava, Chayote, Malanga, Summer Squash, Yard Long Beans.

AUGUST: Cantaloupes, Carrots, Collards, Corn, Eggplant, Escarole, Lima & Pole Beans, Mustard, Onions, Okra, Peppers, Potatoes, Radish, Summer Spinach, Summer Squash, Tomatoes (larger fruit varieties) 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.

FILL, EXCAVATION AND SITE GRADING PERMITS

Any activity or project involving fill, excavation, dredging, or grading will change the topography of a property. The changes in elevation warrant the need for a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit. This requirement is in accordance with Chapter 4, Code of Ordinance of the Town of Southwest Ranches. Elevation change can affect the conveyance of stormwater as well as altering drainage patterns inside and adjacent to the property. As a result, it is essential for the Town of Southwest Ranches and the respective Drainage District to be able to review and monitor such activities.

There are three levels of Fill Permits - Level One, Level Two, and Level Three. The level is determined by the amount of fill being brought in and the size of the property the fill is being brought to. Please note that one large truck of fill is approximately 18 cubic yards.

Some examples of activities that require a permit include the construction of a berm or retaining wall, excavation to create a pond, site grading, impacting wetlands, and filling in low areas. Please note that fill will not be allowed in any surface water management areas or within the swales in the Town's right of way.

Fill material brought in shall not contain any pollutants or toxic chemicals as they will contaminate the land and ground water. Fill material that is not sufficiently permeable is also not recommended.

There are exceptional cases where it will not be necessary to obtain a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit. Projects with an active development permit such

as the construction of a new home, residential addition, pool and deck, etc., will not require a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit. Routine maintenance activities such as fill for an existing horse arena or stall, tree planting or removal, and water well repair will also not require a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit. Please note that properties that have Agricultural Exemption are not exempt from the requirements of a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit for material brought in.

For more information please view the application for a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit at <http://www.southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/development-permits-2/> or call Joyce Marques at 954-343-7441.

Amount of Fill (CY)	Property Size (Acres)			
	Up to 2 Acres	Over 2 but not more than 5 Acres	Over 5 but not more than 10 Acres	Over 10 Acres
Up to 36 CY (2 trucks)	Level 1	Level 1	Level 1	Level 1
>36 CY up to 72 CY	Level 2	Level 1	Level 1	Level 1
>72 CY up to 144 CY	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	Level 1
>144 CY up to 288 CY	Level 3	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
>288 CY up to 360 CY	Level 3	Level 3	Level 3	Level 2
Over 360 CY	Level 3	Level 3	Level 3	Level 3



MARTY KIAR

BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

2024 Homestead Exemption/Save Our Homes Cap Set by the State

The Florida Department of Revenue has set the 2024 Save Our Homes (SOH) cap at 3%. This SOH assessment cap limits increases to the Assessed/SOH Value for properties receiving Homestead Exemption to no more than 3% per year or the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) regardless of increases to the just value of the property. This cap results in considerable property tax savings over time for properties with Homestead Exemption. It is important to remember this is not a cap on the actual taxes, but rather a cap on the amount the Assessed/SOH Value of the property may increase annually. Properties without Homestead Exemption receive the benefit of a 10% cap on the Assessed/SOH Value beginning the year after the property is reassessed at just value.

Important: The Save Our Homes cap begins the year after you receive Homestead Exemption. This cap does not cover new construction or construction that was not taxed before the "Save Our Homes" limit applied to a particular property. When buying/acquiring real estate, do not assume the property taxes will remain the same as the current owner's taxes. Under Florida law, a change in ownership will reset the assessed value of the property to full market value, which could result in higher property taxes. To help property owners better prepare, our office offers a New Homebuyer's Tax Estimator on our website at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Tax-Estimator>.

Late Filing Exemption Deadline - September 18, 2024 Your Homestead Exemption automatically renews each year provided there is no change in the ownership or use of the property. If you are already receiving Homestead Exemption on your current home, you do not need to reapply. If you have not yet applied for your 2024 Homestead Exemption, Low-Income Senior Exemption, or any other exemption, you can still late file until September 18, 2024. To apply for any of these exemptions, please visit <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Homestead>. Once the September statutory "late filing" deadline has closed, we cannot accept any more 2024 exemption applications regardless of any good cause reason for missing the late filing deadline. Property owners who moved to a new home in 2024 can pre-file for tax year 2025 at https://bcpa.net/homesteadonline_with_portability/web/index.aspx.

If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 954-357-6830 by email at martykiar@bcpa.net.

Take care,

Marty Kiar

Marty Kiar, JD, CFA



PROTOTYPE BARN



In furtherance of the Town's goal of preserving its rural lifestyle, the Town Council has given residents a simpler mechanism to build a barn that is in compliance with Florida statutory requirements. As such, the Town contracted with an architect who agreed to create a prototype barn drawing, in compliance with the Florida Building Code, which can be permitted for residents throughout the Town. The plans are for a three stall barn with a tack room.

A Town resident looking to build a barn can simply purchase a pre-drafted architectural plan from the Town, which they then can submit, at a reduced cost, and on an expedited basis, to get a permitted barn that will be in compliance with both state and local regulations.

Please call or email Emily Aceti for more information:
eaceti@southwestranches.org.

* SPRING * WORD SEARCH

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

BLOOM
 APRIL
 TULIPS
 BUNNY

BUTTERFLY
 CHIRP
 DAFFODIL
 FLOWERS

GREEN
 GROW
 SEEDS
 RAIN

SUNSHINE
 BLOSSOM
 CHICK
 GRASS

SHOWERS
 EGGS
 GARDEN
 CATERPILLAR



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

PLEASE VISIT THE TOWN WEB SITE: WWW.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG

- Click on Town Resources, Garbage and Recycling.
- Once the page opens click on solid waste, bulk waste, and recycling service lookup.
- Once this page opens, type in your address on the top right-hand corner where it says find address or place.

This will show your bulk trash, garbage and recycling service days by month and day, your zone, Council Member, Council Districts and District you live in.

WM IS HERE FOR YOU.

To improve customer service, residents of Southwest Ranches have a special email address to reach WM (Waste Management):
southwestranches@wm.com



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.



BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE FEBRUARY 8, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2024-031 approving the Interlocal Agreement with Broward County for film permitting.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-032 repealing Resolution 2024-012 and authorizing the issuance of a purchase order to Garber Chrysler Dodge Truck, Inc. to purchase a new multi-purpose vehicle.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-033 authorizing the issuance of a purchase order to Lenovo Inc. for the purchase of Lenovo laptops.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-034 approving a water service agreement with the City of Sunrise for 14251 Mustang Trail.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-035 approving a water service agreement with the City of Sunrise for 13201 Luray Road.

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE FEBRUARY 22, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2024-036 approving a purchase order to Huurr Homes, LLC, for the Rolling Oaks Park driveway and parking lot improvements.

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.

FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OUR PLANET REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT BY COMPOSTING OUR FOOD SCRAPS

The existing challenge that South Florida currently faces with regards to municipal solid waste (MSW) INCINERATION;

- Stop Miami Dade County (MDC) from building a \$1.5B mass burn incinerator in NW MDC, and signing a put-or-pay 30 year contract and lock MDC into producing garbage (MSW) the way it always has, and be unable to take advantage of exponential leaps in recycling/reuse technologies.

- Stop Broward County from building a similar but slightly smaller new incinerator a very short distance away from the proposed MDC incinerator and adjacent to Southwest Ranches.

- The combined pollution (air, water, and land) from these or any incinerators built in this area will have a devastating effect on the Everglades as a whole, and this area in particular. It would undo millions of dollars of Everglades Restoration Act projects, advances, and achievements.

- The pollution from these incinerators will severely negatively impact the Miccosukee reservation that borders these properties.



THE SOLUTION:

- Adopt a more sustainable programs such as zero-waste education programs, local policies, initiatives, and the infrastructure for industrial scale composting, glass and paper recycling.

- o Start working towards investing continually in public education for residential, business, and institutions.

- o Help the public achieve waste reduction and proper recycling compliance.

- o We need investments in industrial scale infrastructure for composting organic food scraps and yard cuttings and divert these valuable commodity resources away from burning and land-filling.

- o Investments in resource recovery parks, and materials recovery facilities ("MRFs") and transfer stations. Utilize AI-robotics to bring about sorting efficiencies and cost savings.

TO JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST INCINERATION, RESIDENTS FROM ALL OVER BROWARD COUNTY ARE INVITED AND URGED TO ATTEND THE NEXT ZERO WASTE BROWARD TASK FORCE MEETING ON APRIL 10TH AT 7PM AT SOUTHWEST RANCHES TOWN HALL.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL zerowastebrowardtf@gmail.com AND JOIN FACEBOOK GROUP BROWARD CLEAN AIR

TOWN TALK

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

Send your email address to: druesga@southwestranches.org



CITATION REPORTS

FOR THE MONTH OF
FEBRUARY, 2024

District 1: yielded 11 citations and 80 hours and 29 mins of traffic enforcement.

District 2: yielded 36 citations and 59 hours and 2 mins of traffic enforcement.

District 3: yielded 54 citations and 59 hours and 10 mins of traffic enforcement.

District 4: yielded 109 citations and 92 hours and 8 mins of traffic enforcement.

Cherly Danner, Police Services Coordinator SWR
cdanner@southwestranches.org

FOLLOW US ON THE TOWN'S OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Facebook
YouTube
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FOLLOW

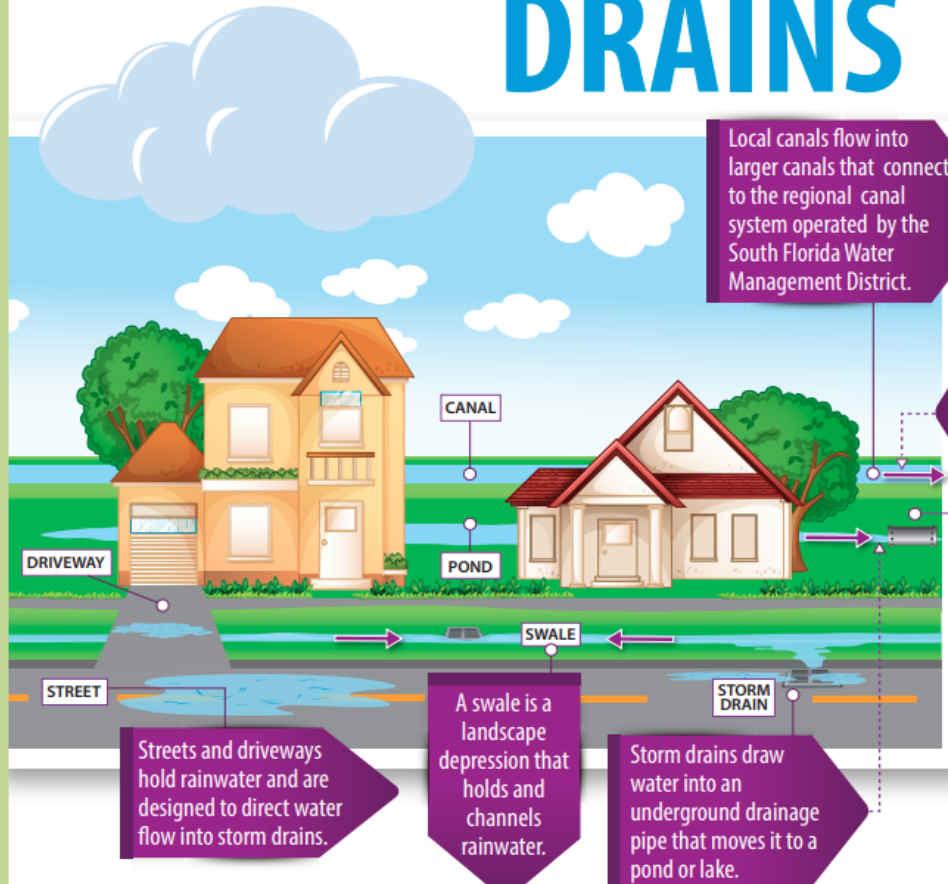
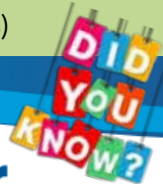
YouTube
f
Twitter

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

BY: PUBLIC WORKS (PART 3)



How excess rainwater DRAINS



What can slow THE FLOW?

- Intensity of rainfall.** If the ground is already saturated and community lakes and canals are high from previous rains, water will take longer to recede.
- Extent of rainfall.** If other neighborhoods are experiencing heavy rains, local and regional canals may not be able to accept all inflows at once.
- Poorly maintained facilities.** Clogged or damaged facilities can prevent neighborhood water from draining properly. Also, there are some low-lying neighborhoods that are more prone to flooding.

Learn more at sfwmd.gov/rainyseason



PHOTO BY: Mike Green - 3 baby mockingbirds (From the 2024 Photo Contest Calendar)

APRIL

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting - Town Hall 7pm • Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7pm BULK ZONE 1	1 • Broward County Property Appraiser Office - Town Hall 10:30 - 12:30pm • Zero Waste Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm BULK ZONE 2	2 • CODE Hearing - Town Hall 9am BULK ZONE 3	3 • Public Safety & Traffic Committee - Town Hall 7pm BULK ZONE 4	4 BULK ZONE 5	5 BULK ZONE 6
7 • Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 7pm BULK ZONE 7	8 BULK ZONE 8	9 • Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm BULK ZONE 9	10 • Zero Waste Broward Task Force Meeting Town Hall 7pm BULK ZONE 10	11 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm BULK ZONE 11	12 BULK ZONE 12
14 • Rural Public Arts & Design Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm BULK ZONE 1	15 • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm BULK ZONE 2	16 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm BULK ZONE 3	17 • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm BULK ZONE 4	18 BULK ZONE 5	19 BULK ZONE 6
21 • Happy Passover Passover Begins at Sunset BULK ZONE 7	22 BULK ZONE 8	23 • Flow Mobile DMV Services - Town Hall 10 - 2:00pm (by appointment only) • Sunshine Ranches HOA Meeting - ZOOM 7pm BULK ZONE 9	24 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm BULK ZONE 10	25 BULK ZONE 11	26 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm BULK ZONE 12
28 • Mid-Town Civic Association Meeting 7pm ZOOM BULK ZONE 1	29 BULK ZONE 2	30	1	2	3
					4

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Robin Ditzian - April 5th
Madison Mansur - April 5th
Jillian Coley - April 6th
Jamie Ure Sr. - April 19th
Jovana Coley - April 24th

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 School Calendar

APRIL

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			

Wednesday, April 10th
Schools Closed

Tuesday, April 16th
Report Cards Issued

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.



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

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



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

lights camera... action!

The Town of Southwest Ranches
 Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board presents...

12th Annual Photo Contest

GET YOUR CAMERA READY...
 New theme will be in next months newsletter

- One photo per person in household.
- Provide a photo caption with entry form (74 characters)
- No previous photos will be accepted.
- Photos must be at least 8 x 10 (landscape).
- Photos must be in a large format (300 DPI resolution).
- To be considered, all entries must be submitted with the Town's Entry Form.
- Email your photo to: Skutz@southwestranches.org.

Southwest Ranches Presents
Open Play Chess
Saturday, March 30, 2024
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
FREE meet up
for players of all ages and skill levels

beginners welcome

Southwest Ranches Town Hall
13400 Griffin Road Southwest Ranches, FL
Contact: December Lauretano-Haines
dlaretano@southwestranches.org/
954-343-7452

Town Council

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

Council Member Bob Hartmann District 1
Council Member Gary Jablonski District 2
Steve Breitkreuz Mayor
Council Member Jim Allbritton District 3
Council Member David Kuczenski District 4

The Town of Southwest Ranches does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this data, and the data are available for limited purposes. The Town of Southwest Ranches neither warrants nor represents that the information, data, or statistics are accurate, complete, or reliable. If you are not able to access any of the content of this website please contact Rural Public Arts at 954-343-7452 or 954-343-0008 so that we can provide a solution or provide the information in an accessible format. If you are unable to access the information, please contact the specific information or material via email access to the website address of the material with which you request access to assistance. Please contact our office if there is any additional information that you need.

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