

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Town Newsletter

**HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE
DAY** page 4

UPDATED
General population
shelter information:
page 4

**RECYCLE
RIGHT** page 5

Livestock and
4th
of
July
see page 10

JULY 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, Esq.	(954) 343-7472	dkuczenski@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
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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 Durbeej, <i>Town Accountant</i>	(954) 343-7477	adurbeej@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	eaceti@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
Gilbert Ceballos- <i>Parks and Recreation Program Facilitator</i>	(954) 343-7468	gceballos@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
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 Compliance Director</i>	(954) 343-7458	zoninginfo@southwestranches.org
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CODE COMPLIANCE

Julio Medina, <i>Community Development/Code Compliance Director</i>	(954) 343-7458	jmedina@southwestranches.org
Manfred Veleete, <i>Assistant Code Compliance Director</i>	(954) 343-7440	mvelete@southwestranches.org
Code Compliance Hotline	(954) 343-7449	
Concepcion Campos, <i>Code Compliance Officer</i>	(954) 343-7457	ccampos@southwestranches.org
Yirglhis Hernandez, <i>Code Compliance Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7459	yhernandez@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



South Florida Wildlife Center

First of all, let me wish you a very happy Independence Day! I recently finished the biography of Alexander Hamilton, and it has reminded me anew how blessed and fortunate we are to live in this country. So have a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July.

On a separate note, when it comes to fireworks, please be considerate of your equestrian neighbors. Please limit your use of the fireworks and if you have neighbors with a horse, and you plan on firing off fireworks, please let them know in advance. Also, just a reminder that at this time of year, fireworks are only legal on the Fourth of July.

If you have horses, the Town has a program to assist you with providing ear plugs for your horses. This program was initiated based on conversations that I had with members of the equestrian community. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Town Hall, (954) 434-0008, and we will be happy to assist you.

It has been a while since I provided an update on the progress that we are making regarding partnering with the South Florida Wildlife Center. The Center is being required to give up their current location

due to other needs for the property by the County related to airport expansion. So, the Center is looking for a new place to locate. I believe that while the circumstances are not the best, the partnership between the South Florida Wildlife Center and South-west Ranches is truly exceptional!

The South Florida Wildlife Center has a strong focus on education that I believe will truly benefit our community and students. The location that is being proposed is currently owned by Broward County Schools and is restricted to only educational uses by the Town. So, for this to move forward we are really looking for coordination between the County, Broward County Schools, our Town, as well as the South Florida Wildlife Center. Fortunately, all parties have provided initial excitement and support for the move.

We did have a delay as the previous School Board Superintendent resigned due to health issues, and so we are continuing our efforts with the new Superintendent. We are hopeful that all will continue to move forward in a positive way.

To me this partnership is great for our community given the number of animals and wildlife that we have in the area. As we continue to move forward with this effort, I will continue to provide updates. I believe that this is yet another way that we can promote our Rural Lifestyle, which has always been my prime motivation.

As always, I am sincerely thankful for the opportunity to serve the residents of this Town as your Mayor. It is truly a blessing and an honor.

**Mayor Steve Breitkreuz – 954-296-6018;
sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org**



CONTENTS

Front Cover: Happy 4th of July
Page 2 In-Touch Town Contact Info
Page 3 Mayor's Message, Citation Report
Page 4 Council Member News, Clerk's Corner, Hurricane Shelter Correction
Page 5 Mayors Monarch – Building Wildlife Havens, School Calendar, Recycle Right, Well Check Pre-Registration, A Message from Waste Management
Page 6-7 Flood Safety, Robin Bartleman
Page 8 Marty Kiar, History on Our Town Entry Signs, Halloween Spooktacular, Current Advisory Boards
Page 9 Governments Support Citizens to Recycle, Register Now, Word Scramble
Page 10 Livestock and 4th of July, Country Fair and Carnival, HHW Event, SuperTots Program
Page 11 July Calendar, Staff's Hurricane Preparation Exercise, Photo Contes Flyer
Back Cover: Council and Districts, Finance Academy/ Budget Workshop and Hearings, Open Play Chess, Stay in Touch with Engineering



CITATION REPORTS

FOR THE MONTH OF
MAY, 2024

District 1 - 3 hour 3 mins 5 citations written.

District 2 - 3 hours 59 mins 3 citations written.

District 3 - 8 hours 14 mins 44 citations written.

District 4 - 30 hours 38 mins 87 citations written.

1 warning given in the Town

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



Vice Mayor David S. Kuczenski, Esq.



Howdy Ranchers,

The number one issue concerning our Town, and in my opinion concerns the very existence of our Town, is the attempt from Broward County to build an incinerator just off Sheridan Street at the Broward County Landfill. I began writing on this issue a year ago. This incinerator is by no means an issue suggested by the Council, in fact the entire Council has opposed this. It is a serious concern for many residents. A large billion-dollar incinerator at this location will cause significant changes to the area. I feel it is the biggest issue affecting our Town to date. Concerns expressed from residents include, but are not limited to, increased traffic from every garbage truck in the County travelling upon either Sheridan Street or Griffin Road, the loud noise from the incinerator operating 24 hours a day, light pollution affecting nearby properties, ash and odors emanating from the smoke stack(s) covering everything for miles around the smoke stack(s), and last but certainly not the least, many residents have expressed apprehension concerning chemical contamination of our surface and/or drinking waters. Broward County has suggested that building an incinerator will help the County meet the state mandated 75% recycling mandate. If you do not want an incinerator, like most residents, we need to increase our use of more clean recycling. If our recycling is contaminated with non-recyclable materials, like plastic bags, pizza boxes (and dirty cardboard) and Styrofoam, it increases the costs to our vendor, which will be passed down to us. One act that the Council took was to create a Zero Waste Advisory Board to discuss and suggest more recycling initiatives. At the August 6th Zero Waste Advisory Board meeting, the members will discuss a community planning checklist and a service analysis spreadsheet. This is the beginning of a zero-waste plan. I hope you mark your calendars and plan to attend. Noth-

ing helps more than having a broad spectrum of input to reduce the need for an incinerator. Only with everyone's cooperation can we successfully fight off this bad idea.

Next, July brings our celebration of our republic's independence, which is my favorite holiday. This national holiday always brings the excitement of fireworks. Please be safe and be aware of your neighbors' peace of mind when it comes to using fireworks. Per state law, in 2024 during the month of July only one day is allowed and no others.

On one hand, some of our neighbors who served in the military now suffer from PTSD from their service, while on the other hand many animals experience anxiety from the loud noises associated with large fireworks. Over the years, I have been sent photographs of horses who were so scared by the loud fireworks that they sustained fatal injuries. Our Town has an ordinance that makes it a code violation for using fireworks on any day other than the state approved days. From the Equestrian perspective, owners or stable hands must administer one of a few different medications to calm their horses. The medications often used to calm horses include trazadone, acepromazine or sedavet. Trazadone pills usually need time to build up in the system, and this medication takes several hours for the calming medication to take effect. With acepromazine or sedavet, the reaction time is usually shorter but must be administered long before the loud noises begin. Additionally, these medications must be administered in the stall or in a quiet environment to have the maximum effect. Finally, if the horse is already scared none of these calming medications will work. The horse(s) will be terrified from the loud booms. This is why just allowing fireworks at any time presents a problem in our Town.

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

CORRECTION

HURRICANE SHELTER



RESIDENTS: in the June 2024 Town Newsletter Hurricane Guide page 10, there is an incorrect address for: West Broward High School for the General Population emergency shelter.

The correct address is 500 NW 209th Ave, Pembroke Pines, 33029



"FINANCE ACADEMY"

by Emil Lopez

"BUDGET WORKSHOPS AND BUDGET HEARINGS"
The following publicly held Budget workshop/meetings will be in Council Chambers:

Tuesday August 13, 2024 at 7PM

- Budget Workshop on Proposed Budget

Thursday September 12, 2024 at 6PM

- First Public Hearing for Tentative Milage (via resolution) and

- Budget Adoption for FY 2024-2025 (via ordinance - First Reading)

- Final Fire Protection and Solid Waste special assessment adoption (via resolution)

Thursday September 26, 2024 at 6PM

- Second Public Hearing for Final Milage (via resolution) and

- Budget Adoption for FY 2024-2025 (via ordinance - Second Reading)

"HOW TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE TOWN"

The Town welcomes participation from all vendors qualified to do business with the Town.

Please visit the Procurement page on the Town's website and complete the Vendor Application.



Clerk's Corner

by Debra Ruesga

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE MAY 23, 2024 TOWN LPA MEETING:

- Adopted LPA Resolution 2024-002 recommending that the Town Council adopt the Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements for Fiscal Years 2024-2028.

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE MAY 23, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2024-041 approving a consulting agreement with Sage Consultants to provide project management services to the Town.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-042 appointing Michael Garcia, PA, as the Town's Special Magistrate.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-043 approving an agreement with TAIE, dba Minuteman Press of Hollywood, to provide design, print, and delivery services of the Town Newsletter.

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.



BUILDING WILDLIFE HAVENS ONE OAK AT A TIME

<https://blog.nwf.org/2024/05/building-wildlife-havens-one-acorn-oak-at-a-time/>



Oaks are Ecological Superheroes

Native plants of all varieties play a vitally important role in our ecosystems. Some native plants, though, go above and beyond by supporting more than their fair share of wildlife, earning them the title of “keystone species”. Keystone plants play a vital role in our ecosystems by supporting 90% of caterpillar species that North American terrestrial birds depend on as a food source, along with all native pollen specialist bee species. Without these keystone plants, the entire ecosystem’s collapse mirrors the fate of an ancient Roman arch whose structural integrity crumbles upon the removal of its central “key” stone.

Native oak trees are a prime example of a keystone species.

They hold ecosystems together by providing crucial resources and habitats for a plethora of insects, including over 550 species of caterpillars in some regions. In fact, oaks support more life forms than any other North American tree genus. Their presence dictates the function of entire ecosystems, making them indispensable components of the natural landscape.



Oak-dependent caterpillars are important species in the ecosystem; for example, they are a key food source for many birds and their chicks. Just one chickadee brood can consume as many as 9,000 caterpillars before they fledge their nest!

Oaks Provide Habitat Essentials

Oak trees also provide many of the habitat essentials for wildlife, including food, cover, and places to raise young. Not only do oaks provide food to caterpillars who eat their leaves, they also produce fat-rich acorns in fall which are a key winter food source for dozens of mammal and bird species. Their branches also provide vital habitat essentials by sheltering animals from the elements and providing an ideal place for nesting birds and small mammals to raise their young, ensuring the success of these species for the next generation. In the winter, even their fallen leaves provide habitat for numerous insects, amphibians, and even microorganisms.



One of many species that depend on oaks as a food source, these acorn woodpeckers store the nuts in specially drilled holes for winter, caching thousands of acorns each year!

Trees Provide Many Benefits

Although their importance as a keystone species is unparalleled, oaks also provide benefits simply for being trees. In urban areas, trees cool cities. Dark roofs and pavement can absorb solar energy and radiate it back into the atmosphere, creating problematic “heat islands.” Trees can reduce the urban heat island effect, and their shading can reduce energy demands and the need for air conditioning. From a climate perspective, one tree can sequester (or take in) more than one ton of carbon dioxide in its lifetime. Planting trees and preventing deforestation are key measures in reducing the human impact on global climate change. Lastly, the sprawling branches and statuesque shape of an oak are simply nice to look at. Trees bring communities together by enhancing a sense of pride and ownership. Even just being around trees has been shown have a relaxing effect on humans, reducing stress and creating a sense of well-being. Not to mention, the presence of trees can actually increase property value, making planting one in your garden not just a benefit to wildlife, but potentially also to your wallet!



WELL CHECK

PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

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



Never place plastic bags in curbside recycling and never place your recycling in plastic bags. The empty bags clog the machinery and opening bags creates a safety issue for workers.

A message from:



Residents also have the option to go online to Waste Management (wm.com) and create an account where they can order their own replacement carts, schedule bulk services, and many more available options at their own convenience without having to wait on the phone. WM has worked hard on making major improvements to the online option to help our customers.



- **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 <https://swranches.sircom.org/public>.



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](https://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](https://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-insuranceinformation/> and select Flood Maps. You can also call (954) 434-0008, provide your address and zip code, and Town staff will assist you in determining SFHA information specific to your property.



Elevation Certificate Information

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



Water Quality and Flood Control Effects of Drainage Systems

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

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



Protect Property from Flooding

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

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



Build Responsibly

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

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



Flood Risk Specialist Available to Assist Residents

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



Local Flood Hazards

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

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

Since portions of Southwest Ranches have been designated as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), it is advisable to check the interactive map viewer to see the location of your property with respect to the SFHA. Visit <http://southwesteranches.org/departments/town-engineering/floodinsurance-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.

The Town provides mapping information about how deep flood waters can be anticipated in given areas of the community. Maps illustrating building and ground elevations are also available. These maps are available on the Town's website.

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

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



New laws will go into effect starting July 1. **CS/SB 1764 - Car Racing Penalties, which was signed into law**, targets activities such as street takeovers and stunt driving. In 2023, we saw a staggering 191% increase in citations state-wide. We have all seen the videos on social media and in the news showing teenagers taking

over our intersections in the late evening and stunt driving. This law will increase the penalties not just for the drivers, but also spectators. The law will also raise the fine from \$500 to \$2,000. Additionally, fines for subsequent violations within a year of a prior conviction will increase, with penalties escalating to third-degree felony. Having a conversation with your teenager is crucial, regardless of whether they own a car, as this law also raises the fine for spectators from \$65 to \$400. Along with these penalty increases, the bill also authorizes law enforcement to seize cars involved.

UPCOMING TAX-FREE HOLIDAYS

Freedom Summer Tax-Free Holiday - July 1 to July 31. During this time, you can purchase recreational supplies and enjoy tax-free admission to various events.

Back-to-School Tax-Free Holiday - July 19 to August 11. This holiday is a great time to stock up on school supplies and other essentials including computers priced at \$1500 or less.

2nd Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday - August 24 - September 6. Consumers have the opportunity to purchase qualifying disaster preparedness supplies.


For more information on Tax-Free Holidays visit: www.floridarevenue.com

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

If you or a family member need assistance during hurricane season it is important to contact the registries listed below ahead of time:

- Broward Special Needs Registry: call (954) 831-3902
- Broward Senior Registry: call (954) 831-3902
- Disaster Assistance: call 1-877-693-5236
- Broward County Emergency Management: call (954)831-3900
- Broward County Hurricane Hotline: call (954)831-4000 or 311

It is an honor to serve you and we are here to assist with any issues or concerns you may have. I welcome ideas and suggestions. Feel free to contact me anytime at Robin.Bartleman@myfloridahouse.gov or our office at (954) 424-6828. You can also reach me on my personal cell at (954) 668-3662.



MARTY KIAR

BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

Important News for Homeowners

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 requires the property to be reassessed at current full market value the year following the change of ownership OR if a Homestead Exemption is added/removed from the property. This reassessment could result in higher property taxes for the new owner than what the seller was paying. Please use our [Tax Estimator](#) to approximate your new property taxes based on the reassessed value.

The Property Appraiser does not set or collect taxes. Tax rates/fees are set by individual taxing authorities each year based on their budgetary needs. All property tax billing and collecting is handled by the Broward County Tax Collector's Office. Should you have any questions regarding payment of taxes, please visit the [Tax Collector's website](#) or contact them directly at (954) 357-4829 or revenue@broward.org.

Homestead Exemption and Portability save eligible property owners thousands of dollars each year. [Click here for more information on tax saving exemptions such as Homestead, Senior and all other available exemptions](#). The deadline to apply for any 2024 exemption is September 18, 2024.


This Monthly Newsletter is Available in Spanish and Creole.



Nuestro boletín mensual está disponible en español en línea en <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/News-letter>.

Bilten masyèl nou an disponib an kreyòl sou entènèt nan <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/News-letter>.

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
Broward County Property Appraiser

A LITTLE HISTORY ON OUR TOWN ENTRY SIGNS



A photograph of our Town entry sign was recently published in a Sun-Sentinel article that made national news. These iconic structures not only serve as welcoming landmarks but also encapsulate the spirit and character of our community. Crafted with care and designed to endure, they are a testament to our Town's unique identity and enduring charm. These signs speak to our identity as a Town and highlight what we're all about. Here's a look at the history and craftsmanship behind these remarkable signs.

It was Ken Cimetta of Cimetta Design who designed the signage for our Rural Identification Program for the Town in the early 2000's. George Morris, of PHI

Construction, developed the engineering and handcrafted them, determining the best materials and methods for constructing these representations of the culture of Southwest Ranches. Each of our Town signs were hand-welded by a former resident and hand-painted by an artist to achieve the wood grain look. George engineered these amazing signs to all standards, constructing them from aircraft aluminum. And the entire sign is powder-coated before it was hand-painted to ensure longevity.

Regarding longevity, they were designed with hurricanes in mind, these signs were made to last. They also have a unique style that sets us apart from other small towns, adding to our small-town rustic charm. There's value in keeping that charm, as it contributes significantly to our community's character and appeal.

At the end of the day, our Town entry signs are more than just markers, they are symbols of our community's resilience, identity, and unique charm. These carefully crafted signs not only withstand the harshest weather but also showcase the talent and dedication of the people that live here. They stand as proud beacons of our small Town's rustic allure, reminding us of the value in preserving our heritage. As we continue to grow and evolve, these signs will remain a testament to our commitment to maintaining the essence of what makes our Town truly special.

HALLOWEEN

SPOOOOOOOKTACULAR



"DOUBLE, DOUBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE;
FIRE BURN AND COULDRON BUBBLE" ~ WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOWN'S FIRST
HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR YARD DECORATING CONTEST.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER YOUR HOME:
~ OCTOBER 18TH. ~

JUDGING:
~ OCTOBER 21ST. ~

AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN TO 1ST, 2ND & 3RD PLACE WINNERS:
~ OCTOBER 25TH. ~

EMAIL YOUR ENTRY FORM TO: SKUTZ@SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG

CURRENT BOARDS AND WHAT THEY DO

Rural Public Arts and Design Advisory Board

This board is the Town's oldest advisory board and was originally established to facilitate receiving Design Arts Funding through the County for Rural Identification Design and to oversee creating a sense of place and branding for the Town's Rural Identification Program that was codified in 2020.

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

The board oversees rural signage to identify the rural lifestyle for the Town and review of public arts and design grants as they become available.

The board coordinates the annual photo contest and calendar, December Holiday Lights contest and the new Halloween Spooktacular contest.

If you are interested in serving on an advisory board, contact the Clerk's office or download an application from the Town website under About / Advisory Boards tab and click on the board of your interest.

HOW GOVERNMENTS CAN SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE CITIZENS TO RECYCLE

We are facing a global climate crisis and governments play an important role and have a responsibility to encourage its citizens to participate in more extensive recycling practices. Recycling measures helps reduce the amount of waste that we generate; thus diverting our trash (recoverable resources) from being buried in landfills and burned in trash incinerators (destructive disposal). Recycling mitigates the environmental impacts of human activities.

Government led public education campaigns should focus on informing citizens about waste reduction, and the importance of recycling; while highlighting the benefits it has for both the planet and communities. Government-funded educational materials such as brochures, posters, television commercials, radio spots, and online advertisements can all be effective tools for spreading awareness about recycling. Government agencies can participate with local schools and community organizations to host workshops or events that is focused on teaching people how to properly recycle items such as glass containers, metals, paper products, and plastics, etc.

Governments can also support extensive recycling through financial incentives. For instance, offering subsidies to businesses that purchase recycled materials instead of new materials to manufacture their products. This creates demand for recycled materials. Also, by offering tax breaks to individuals who purchase products made from recycled materials and providing grants to residential building projects, that use recycled materials in building construction. If governments subsidize these types of initiatives, it will also create stable well paying jobs for citizens.

Governments should consider investing in infrastructure that makes it easier for people to recycle items. A good example would be to install public bins where people can drop off recyclable materials like aluminum cans, plastic, glass bottles, and food scraps. This would especially make it easier for citizens in densely populated areas to participate without having to go out of their way and take extra steps to recycle. Investing in technology that makes sorting recyclables faster and easier, such as automated sorting machines, would reduce costs and increase efficiency. High paying stable jobs can be created if governments invest in recycling infrastructure, like resource recovery parks and composting infrastructure.

In conclusion, the way that governments can help is by investing in public education campaigns to



inform people about why it is important to recycle and how they can do it safely and effectively. Another way is by offering financial incentives for businesses or individuals who participate in designated recycling programs and investing in infrastructure that helps make it easier for people to recycle items like plastics, aluminum cans, and organic material without going out of their way to do it.

Credit: **Richard Ramcharitar, Founder and Director Broward Clean Air / Zero Waste Broward Task Force**

The Town of Southwest Ranches and



PROUDLY PRESENT

SPORTS! FUN!

SOCER & FLAG FOOTBALL

NEW LOCATION-SOUTHWEST RANCHES COUNTRY ESTATES PARK

\$30 DISCOUNT FOR SOUTHWEST RANCHES RESIDENTS:
PROMO CODE: SWR

Register Online:
i9sports.com
954-437-0089

- Organized programs for boys and girls ages 3-15.
- Age appropriate instruction for each division.
- Coaches background checked and certified.
- All skill levels welcome. No tryouts!
- One day per week! Practice held before game.
- Sibling discounts available.
- The sooner you register, the more you save!

The Way Youth Sports Should Be®

SATURDAY PROGRAMS
THE FUN BEGINS OCTOBER 2024!

Helping Kids Succeed in Life Through Sports®

 i9sports143
 @i9sports143

Fourth of July

WORD SCRAMBLE

WFORRIESK	_____
PEIEDDEENCNN	_____
DAREPA	_____
EFOMEDR	_____
FGLA	_____
NPCCII	_____
URMSEM	_____
EIBTLR	_____
ERACMA	_____
NITEUD STTSEA	_____
JUYL	_____
SASTTE	_____
RTILEVOONU	_____
PTTOIARCI	_____
RASTS	_____



LIVESTOCK AND 4TH OF JULY

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.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & BULK DROP OFF EVENT


Saturday, July 27th, 2024 . 8:00am to 2:00pm
 Location: Rolling Oaks Barn - 17630 SW 56th St., Southwest Ranches, 33331
 Document shredding from 8-2pm . 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



NEW DOCUMENT SHREDDING HOURS

8:00AM to 2:00PM

(4 BOXES – PER HOUSEHOLD)



The Town of Southwest Ranches and Southeast Florida Skyhawks are proud to present



SuperTots Sports Academy provides sport-based development programs where children discover and develop athletic, motor, and social skills. SuperTots' curriculum is specifically designed to promote development alongside a healthy, active lifestyle.

PROGRAMS AT SOUTHWEST RANCHES

7 WEEK CLASS
\$161 FOR RESIDENT / \$194 NON-RESIDENT

SoccerTots
 Tuesdays 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. 1.5 to 3 years
 Tuesdays 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. 4 to 5 years
 Starting June 18th 2024

HoopsterTots
 Wednesdays 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. 1.5 to 3 years
 Wednesdays 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. 4 to 5 years
 Starting June 19th 2024

1stDownTots
 Thursdays 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. 3 to 5 years
 Thursdays 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. 3 to 5 years
 Starting June 20th 2024

Parental participation between age 1.5 to 3

Register at: <http://register.skyhawks.com>
LIMITED SPACE

LOCATION DETAIL:
 Rolling Oaks Park Barn (indoor space)
 17630 SW 56th Street
 Southwest Ranches, FL 33331

Any questions? Email : broward@skyhawks.com



WHEN:
JAN 16th-20th

WHERE:
Southwest Ranches Sanctuary Park
16290 Griffin Rd., Southwest Ranches

BENEFITING:
Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation

SOUTHWEST RANCHES COUNTRY FAIR & CARNIVAL

FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS WANTED
SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

CONTACT: SWRCOUNTRYFAIR.COM

PHOTO BY: Natalie Soto - This little farmer enjoys the beauty of being outdoors.(From the 2024 Photo Contest Calendar)



jULY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	• Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7pm • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting Town Hall 7pm	• CODE Hearing -Town Hall 9am • Broward County Property Appraiser Office -Town Hall 10:30 - 12:30pm	3	 TOWN HALL CLOSED	5	• Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm
	BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
7	8	• Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Nat Resources Advisory Board Meeting -Town Hall 7pm 10:30 - 12:30pm	• Zero Waste Broward Task Force Meeting Town Hall 9:00pm	11	12	13
	BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6
14	• Rural Public Arts & Design Board Meeting -Town Hall 7pm	16	• Fire Advisory Board Meeting -Town Hall 7pm	• Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting -Town Hall 7pm	19	Open Play Chess 10am-2pm Town Hall • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm
	BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
21	22	• Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56th St. 7pm	24	• TOWN COUNCIL MEETING -Town Hall 7pm	26	HHW Event 8-2pm Shredding 8-2pm Drug Drop Off 10-2pm Rolling Oaks Park 17630 SW 56St. • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm
	BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 7
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9			

TOWN STAFF'S YEARLY HURRICANE PREPARATION EXERCISE.

May 9th, 2024 Southwest Ranches conducted a tabletop hurricane exercise to review and strengthen staff's capabilities for prevention/protection/mitigation/response/recovery. Staff from Administration, Finance, Parks and Open Space, Public Works, Code Compliance, Zoning, Building, Fire and Police were in attendance.





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

12th Annual Photo Contest

The theme this year is...

"PROUD OF OUR TOWN"

Living in Southwest Ranches, beauty surrounds us with vibrant sunsets, majestic animals, beautiful trees, abundant gardens, lavish flowers, a variety of family friendly town events and enjoyable parks. Submit your favorite photo by September 9th and be in the 2025 town calendar.

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

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



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



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

Make Checks payable to:
Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue
17220 Griffin Rd,
Southwest Ranches, FL 33331

For additional
information contact
Chief Bennett at 954.868.2057

\$20.00

**TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES
12TH ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM**
Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board
13400 Griffin Road
Southwest Ranches, Florida 33330

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____
CELL: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
CAPTION FOR PHOTO: _____

I UNDERSTAND, ACKNOWLEDGE, AND AGREE THAT THE SUBMISSION OF PHOTOGRAPHS TO THE TOWN CONSTITUTES A "WORK MADE FOR HIRE," AND I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO THE WORK AND THE WORK PRODUCT, INCLUDING MORAL OR OTHERWISE. THIS STATEMENT SHALL CONTROL OVER THE PROVISIONS OF 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106(A) AND SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER BY ME OF ANY RIGHTS IN THE WORK SET OUT IN OR OTHERWISE GRANTED BY 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106(A). VISUAL ARTISTS RIGHTS ACT OF 1990. ALL OTHER RIGHTS IN AND TO THE WORK, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ALL RIGHTS IN THE NATURE OF "DROIT MORAL" RELATING TO ANY CONTINUING INTEREST I MAY HAVE IN THE MAINTENANCE OR MODIFICATION OF THE WORK, ARE EXPRESSLY WAIVED AND, INsofar AS SUCH RIGHTS ARE TRANSFERABLE, ARE ASSIGNED TO THE TOWN. MY WORK IS ORIGINAL AND IT COMPLIES WITH ALL APPLICABLE PATENT, TRADEMARK AND COPYRIGHT LAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND CODES. I UNDERSTAND, ACKNOWLEDGE, AND AGREE THAT THROUGH THE CONVEYANCE OF MY SUBMISSION THE WORK WILL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE TOWN AND MAY BE USED, REPRODUCED, SOLD, OR MODIFIED BY THE TOWN IN THE TOWN'S SOLE DISCRETION.

SIGNATURE: _____ (Date) _____
SIGNATURE OF GUARDIAN FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18: _____ (Date) _____

**Southwest Ranches Presents
Open Play Chess
Saturday, July 20th
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
Contact: December Lauretano-Haines
dlauretano@southwestranches.org
(954) 343-7452**

