

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Town Newsletter

**BUDGET
WORKSHOP &
HEARING DATES**
see page 7

Back to School
MONDAY,
AUGUST 12th

2024
PHOTO CONTEST
SUBMITTALS DUE
September 9th
see page 3

**RECYCLE
RIGHT** *see page 3*



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
Debra M. Ruesga, <i>Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7451	druesga@southwestranches.org
Dan Stewart, <i>Deputy Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7443	dstewart@southwestranches.org
Jennifer McCarty, <i>Records and Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7469	jmccarty@southwestranches.org
Tom Holste, <i>General Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7476	tholste@southwestranches.org
Angelica Arosemena, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 434-0008	aarosemena@southwestranches.org
Emil C. Lopez, <i>Town Financial Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7473	elopez@southwestranches.org
Christina Semeraro, <i>Town Procurement Officer</i>	(954) 343-7467	csemeraro@southwestranches.org
Rich Strum, <i>Town Controller</i>	(954) 343-7442	rstrum@southwestranches.org
Arianna Durbiej, <i>Town Accountant</i>	(954) 343-7477	adurbiej@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	
Derlin Guevara, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446	
Maria Perez, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7445	

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



Welcome to August! Just a quick reminder to everyone regarding hurricane preparations. We are head-

ed into the busiest time of the hurricane season, and we have already seen significant weather. So, please be sure to have your plans in place and be stocked up on any other supplies that you might need. If you have not already done so, now is the time.

I also wanted to take a moment to note the passing of Ruth Wolff. Many of you knew her. She was an attendee and participant in many of our Town meetings over our first two decades of existence, normally sitting beside longtime resident, Vince Falletta. And before that she was an important part of the formation of our Town. Ruth passed in July, but her contributions continue to live on. She contributed so much time and effort to our community, and she will surely be missed.

Also, I wanted to bring to your attention again the new opportunity that we have for our youth here in Town. Starting in October, we will begin the new youth leagues. This is the first time that we have had this opportunity for our young Ranchers, boys and girls, ages 3 through 15. The details of the upcoming program are as follows:

» The 7-week program is scheduled to be kicked off in October, in coordination with i9 Sports and will begin with soccer and flag football programs at the Country Estates Park each week on Saturday. Once again there will be a discount for Southwest Ranches residents. Depending on whether you sign up early or not, prices will range from \$149 - \$189. We are also planning on winter and spring 7-week seasons as well, which will continue all the way to June of next year. So, sign up early to ensure your spot and obtain the maximum discount. Should you have any questions, please contact the parks department at (954) 343-7452 or via email at clauretano@southwestranches.org.

Finally, we are entering the election season. No matter how you cast your vote, one of the critical elements of any election is to have election workers at the polls. I was notified by Monica Elliott, of the Broward County Supervisor of Elections, (BC-SoE) that they really need poll workers for the precincts in Southwest Ranches. Currently many of the workers in our precincts are covered with workers outside of our Town. It would be awesome, if you have the time, to contact the BCSoE and let them know that you are willing and able to help. The contact information is Ingrid Oliphant, Phone: (954) 712-4183 Email: ioliphant@browardsoe.org

Thank you for considering this request.

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 Breitzkreuz - 954-296-6018;
sbreitzkreuz@southwestranches.org



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Back Cover: Council and Districts, Reflective Address Markers, HQE/ Emergency Alert System, Open Play Chess, Stay

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
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)(4) 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)(4), 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.

Recycle RIGHT!

Moving is hard work but recycling cardboard only takes 75% of the energy needed to make new cardboard. Flatten your boxes when you're done and recycle them curbside.

To learn more on how to RECYCLE RIGHT go to:
<https://www.wm.com/us/en/recycle-right>

Vice Mayor David S. Kuczenski, Esq.



Howdy Ranchers,

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) has recommended that persons with agriculture classification on their properties file with the Florida Department of Revenue a simple letter stating that they utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) on their agriculture property.



The Florida Department of Agriculture has developed a number of Best Management Practice (BMP) manuals. These include Equine and Nursery Industries. Participation in the BMP process is voluntary, however, signing up and filing a notice of intent gives the agriculture operation a presumption of compliance with Agriculture practices. If you would like to enroll or need assistance implementing BMPs: **call: (850) 617-1727 or email: AgBMPHelp@FDACS.gov, or visit their web site: <https://www.fdacs.gov/>.**

EXAMPLES OF EQUINE OPERATION BMPs NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT, INCLUDE:

- Some BMPs can help increase production efficiency and reduce costs while helping to protect the environment.
- Enrollment provides producers access to technical assistance with BMP implementation.
- Producers become eligible for cost-share, when available, for certain practices.
- Implementing verified FDACS-adopted BMPs provides a presumption of compliance with state water quality standards for the pollutants addressed by the BMPs.
- Producers who implement FDACS-adopted BMPs might satisfy some water management district permitting requirements. Check with your district.
- In areas with adopted basin management action plans (BMAPs), and some other designated areas, producers who implement BMPs avoid having to conduct costly water quality monitoring.

- BMP participation demonstrates agriculture's commitment to water resource protection and helps maintain support for this alternative approach.

HOW TO ENROLL IN THE FDACS BMP PROGRAM?

1. Schedule a meeting with an FDACS staff, **at the number referenced above** for a free assessment of your operation to determine which BMPs are applicable to your operation.
- Complete a BMP checklist, sign the Notice of Intent to implement the BMPs (NOI), and submit checklist and NOI to FDACS Office of Agricultural Water Policy.
2. Keep a copy of the checklist and signed NOI in your records.
3. Implement and maintain the applicable BMPs and keep adequate records to maintain a presumption of compliance with state water quality standards.

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., Vice Mayor
Council Member District 4**

Council Member Jim Allbritton



GOOD DAY
SOUTHWEST
RANCHES

I hope your 4th of July was a very enjoyable holiday spent with family and friends. There were a lot of residents celebrating with fireworks on the 4th, however I did not hear any major type fireworks being set off on the 3rd or the 5th, and the celebration on the 4th seemed to end around 10:30 PM.

We are in the middle of Hurricane season, and we have seen several named storms already. Southwest Ranches borders the Everglades and as such this makes us prone to flooding. You can be prepared by taking a few simple steps to help make sure you, your family, your animals and your property are protected.

- **Have a plan to evacuate if it becomes necessary.**
- **Clean up all loose debris, trim trees, have some type of window and door protection i.e. hurricane glass, storm shutters or plywood.**

. Charge all portable devices because being able to communicate is vital.

. Gas up, both for cars and propane to cook with.

. Have enough drinking water to supply each person 1 gallon per day for 2 weeks.

. Buy nonperishable foods that do not need refrigeration, power may be down.

. These are just a few of the many measures you can take so you will be prepared.

As many of you may know, several government boards take a siesta during the summer months, by not scheduling meetings, this gives the board members some time to spend with their families. It is now time to get back to work, and I am proud to say that I will again be representing the Town of Southwest Ranches on the Broward Water Advisory Board, the South Florida Regional Planning Council and the Broward League of Cities Directors Board as I have for the past 3-1/2 years, and I would be honored to continue to represent the Town for the next 4 years.

In closing, I would like to commend the residents of Southwest Ranches, the Town Council and the Town staff in their fight to stop incineration. I will again be talking about incineration to all the other council members from all the other 31 municipalities when we resume our Directors Board meetings through the Broward League of Cities. My wife has picked up the gauntlet also and is working with our new Town advisory board to lead, by example, by educating our residents on recycling, refurbishing and reusing.

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

Jim Allbritton

**FOLLOW US ON
THE TOWN'S
OFFICIAL
SOCIAL MEDIA**

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

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



POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

(<https://blog.nwf.org/2024/04/grow-beyond-no-mow-may-options-for-reducing-your-lawn/>)

Going Beyond No-Mow May

No-Mow May is a trend that has been gaining steam among gardeners, encouraging those with lawn space to opt for low or no mowing practices throughout the month. Reducing mowing during this time can provide a few benefits for wildlife if the lawn includes a large number of noninvasive wildflowers to benefit pollinators. Unfortunately, most lawns are comprised only of non-native turf grasses which provide very little benefit to wildlife. However, it is noteworthy that carbon emissions can be heavily reduced by keeping the mowers across the country turned off for a month, considering that running a lawn mower for just one hour can create the same amount of pollution as a 100-mile car trip! While reducing the amount that you mow can be a great first step, to really help wildlife including bees, butterflies, and birds, we recommend opting for replacing lawn with native species and managing any remaining lawn intentionally. Luckily, this process of lawn reduction and intentional management is much easier than you may think, and there is no need to sacrifice aesthetics in the process! Plus, you are in great company as the percentage of people planning to transform a portion of lawn to wildflower native landscaping more than doubled from 9% in 2019 to 19% in 2021. (National Garden Association and National Wildlife Federation)



Replacing lawn with native plants can create a beautiful and welcoming landscape for people and wildlife alike. Photo credit: David Mizejewski

HOW TO REPLACE YOUR LAWN WITH NATIVE SPECIES

One of the best things you can do for wildlife is replace turf grass with a variety of native plant species. Native plants have formed symbiotic relationships with native wildlife over thousands of years, meaning that many wildlife species cannot survive without them.

By replacing your lawn with native plants, you enter into a community of cutting-edge gardeners who are on the front lines of fighting the biodiversity crisis.

Follow these steps to begin the process:

- Remove turfgrasses to create new garden beds of native species. Admittedly, one of the toughest parts of reducing your lawn will be the actual removal of turf grass. The method you use will be a personal choice. Manually digging up grass can be physically demanding, but will allow you to very effectively remove grass down to the root. You can even rent a sod cutter to make the process easier!

Another option is to smother grass by covering it with a tarp or other material after thoroughly wetting it. Ensure that if you use cardboard for this process, it is not treated with any harmful chemicals. Remember, you don't have to remove all of your grass at once, take it step by step!

- Plant a variety of native species that benefit wildlife. Now comes the fun part. Where once there was a sea of grass, you can now select and plant a wide variety of native species that will provide colorful blooms and visual interest. Find species native to you through our Native Plant Finder which will show you known host plants for butterfly and moth caterpillars. Many local nurseries now sell native species, and you can even purchase native plants online.

- Consider native turf-grass alternatives when possible. Replacing non-native turf doesn't always mean you have to get rid of green 'lawn' space. Native mosses can provide a lush green alternative and, depending on where you live, there may be some grasses native to your region that can be mown to function similarly to a traditional 'lawn'.



Spring beauties (pictured here) and native violets are great examples of native flowers that actually do very well in lawns and have great wildlife benefits. Photo credit: Tess Renusch

MANAGING YOUR REMAINING LAWN INTENTIONALLY

While reducing the space devoted to turf grass is ideal, many people will find that they still want to have some amount of lawn space present. For any remaining lawn space, you can practice the following intentional lawn management approaches to pose the least amount of harm to local wildlife:

- Approach mowing sparingly and intentionally, but don't let it go 'unmanaged'. Simply not mowing likely isn't the best way to support wildlife and is frequently the quickest path to neighbor complaints. Instead, take a more intentional approach to how you mow.

Aim to cut grass a bit longer, aiming for three inches or higher to reduce how much watering is needed while still maintaining a 'tidy' appearance. Additionally, consider switching out a gas-powered mower for one that's electric or hand-powered to reduce emissions. Finally, ensure that any grass clippings do not get carted off to the landfill and instead use them as a natural mulch or compost! You may even consider planting a no-mow grass mix to reduce the need for mowing in the first place.

- Allow blooms to flourish in your lawn but be selective about which. The blooms you find in your lawn can run the gamut. While some are native species, others can be invasive and deeply detrimental to native wildlife. Use a plant-ID app to figure out which is which and aim to remove any invasive species taking root in your lawn. Encourage the growth of native species in your lawn, or even add their seeds in yourself.

- Avoid pesticides and fertilizers. One of the biggest downsides to turf-grass lawns is that they depend so heavily on chemical pesticides and fertilizers to appear homogenous. Avoid these applications unless entirely necessary (as may be the case when you are removing invasive species that have taken root in your lawn).

BECOME A WILDLIFE GARDENER

Shifting our perspective from viewing yards as human-centric spaces to sharing them with wildlife can be one of the biggest changes we make to our gardening approach. When you opt for native plants over turf grass, you're providing a host of benefits to people and to the hundreds of native wildlife species that need your help.



As a former special education teacher and assistant principal, I am always excited to ring in the new school year. As a parent, my greatest concern was my children's safety. This year we passed new laws to keep our students safe:

CS/CS/HB 1473 – School Safety revises provisions and reporting requirements for the school guardian program and school safety requirements. Changes include requiring all gates and access points to be shut and locked while students are present on campus, including after school hours. It requires schools to mark the safest location in every classroom and instructional area and notify students within the first few weeks of classes. It also requires the Office of Safe Schools to conduct three unannounced safety inspections each school year.

CS/CS/SB 994 – Student Transportation Safety. We have all seen that one driver who passes a stopped school bus while children are loading and unloading, putting them in danger. Unfortunately, many drivers get away with this. In 2023, the legislature allowed infraction detection systems to be installed on school buses. This new law requires buses with systems to have signage alerting drivers that they are being filmed. This footage can be used for determining criminal and civil liability. The court can fine up to \$400 for an infraction. Fines collected will go to the school district to further improve student transportation or a fixed amount can go to a vendor for services rendered in relation to installation; we can expect more systems on a greater number of buses.

The **Back-to-School tax-free holiday** runs from **July 29 to August 11**.

The **second 2024 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday** runs from **August 24 – September 6**.

I wish you and your families a happy, successful school year and a big thank you to all of our teachers, administrators, and staff.

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@my-floridahouse.gov or our office at (954) 424-6828. You can also reach me on my personal cell at (954) 668-3662.

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.

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.



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@southwesteranches.org



Clerk's Corner

by Debra Ruesga

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE JUNE 13, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Ordinance 2024-006 submitting to referendum amendments to the Town's Charter for the 2024 General Election.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-044 approving a purchase order with Metric Engineering, Inc. for environmental permitting services for the Southwest Meadows Sanctuary Park Wetlands and Canal Project.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-045 adopting the National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework as the standard for the Town.

Brief legislation from the June 27, 2024 Town Council Regular Meeting:

- Adopted Resolution 2024-046 approving a water service agreement with the City of Cooper City for 6591 Appaloosa Trail.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-047 approving a water service agreement with the City of Cooper City for 5775 SW 130 Avenue.

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.



SUPPORT THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

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



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.

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:
ecaceti@southwest ranches.org.**

FINANCE ACADEMY

by Emil Lopez



**" BUDGET WORKSHOPS
AND BUDGET HEARINGS"**
*The following publicly held
Budget workshop/meetings will
be held 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"

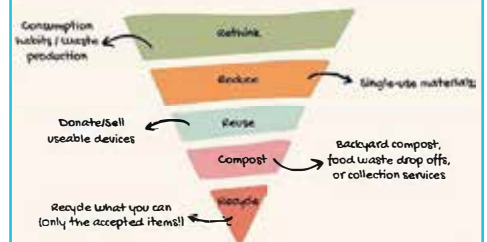
The Town welcomes participation from all vendors qualified to do business with the Town.

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

ZERO WASTE

WHAT CAN I DO TO
CREATE LESS GARBAGE.

Waste hierarchy at home



A TRUE PIONEER OF SUNSHINE RANCHES



Ruth Wolff
IN LOVING MEMORY

RUTH WAS A LONGTIME RESIDENT OF SUNSHINE RANCHES. SHE WAS ACTIVE IN THE PROCESS TO INCORPORATE AS A TOWN IN 2000. ATTENDING MANY OF OUR TOWN MEETINGS, RUTH WAS LOVED AND ADMIRER BY MANY WHETHER SHARING PERSONAL TIME, ATTENDING TOWN EVENTS, SEEING HER AT PUBLIX, OR RIDING HER BICYCLE OR GOLF CART AND WAVING HELLO TO EVERYONE WITH A SMILE ON HER FACE. BEAUTIFUL AND VIBRANT RUTH WILL BE MISSED.



MARTY KIAR

BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

2024 TRIM Notices

The Broward County Property Appraiser's Office mails the TRIM (proposed tax) Notices in August of each year. This is NOT a tax bill but shows your property's 2024 Just/Market Value, exemptions, and proposed taxes as set by the various taxing authorities. The TRIM Notice is your opportunity to review your 2024 Just/Market Value and ensure you are receiving all the tax-saving exemptions you are eligible for. **Please note: the deadline to apply for all 2024 exemptions is September 18, 2024.**

Florida Statutes require our office to use January 1 as the date of assessment each year. The 2024 Just/Market Values are based on the market data from 2023. Our office must consider changes in market conditions – up or down – when developing the Just/Market Values each year.

The Property Appraiser's Office does not set or collect property taxes. If you have questions about the proposed tax rates, the contact information and public hearing dates for the individual taxing authorities are listed to the right of each agency name on your TRIM Notice.

I Recently Applied for Homestead Exemption - Why Is It Not Showing?

Florida Statutes require our office to use January 1 as the date of assessment and to determine exemption eligibility each year. If you purchased your home after January 1, 2024, you are eligible for 2025 Homestead Exemption. The 2025 exemptions will show online in December and be included for the 2025 tax year.

I Had Homestead Exemption Last Year - Where Did My Exemptions Go?

If you purchased your home in 2023, you may have "inherited" the previous owner's exemptions last year. These 2023 exemptions were removed at the end of 2023, so are no longer showing on your TRIM Notice for tax year 2024. Fortunately, you can still late file for 2024 Homestead and any other exemptions you may qualify for until September 18, 2024. To apply online, please visit our website at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Homestead> or scan the QR code below.

I Am a Senior Citizen - Why Isn't the Senior Exemption Showing?

The Senior Exemption is both an age and income-based exemption that is not automatically applied to a property because of the income requirement. To be eligible for this exemption, an applicant must be age 65 or older as of January 1, 2024 and have an adjusted household gross income for 2023 not exceeding \$36,614. If you believe you qualify for this additional exemption, you can still late file until September 18, 2024. To review the exemption requirements and to apply for this exemption, please go to our website at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/SeniorExemption>

If my office can be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact me at martykiar@bcpa.net.

Take care,

Marty Kiar, JD, CFA
Broward County Property Appraiser



Scan for All
Tax-Saving
Exemptions



Scan for
BCPA website



Scan to Apply for
Homestead
Exemption

FLHSMV

FLORIDA HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES

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

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

HALLOWEEN SPOOOOOOOOKTACULAR

SPOOKY

BOO!

"DOUBLE, DOUBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE:
FIRE BURN AND COLDIRON BUBBLE" ~ WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOWNS 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



TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES Halloween Spooktacular Entry Form

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

CELL: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

(Date)

PARKS & RECREATION



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



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



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



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



The Town of Southwest Ranches and



i9SPORTS
i9sports.com

PROUDLY PRESENT

SPORTS! FUN!

SOCCER & 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 ages 5 to 14 (ages 5-7)
- Ages appropriate instruction for each sport
- Certified instructors, referees and coaches
- All skill levels welcome. No tryouts!
- One day per week Practice plus bonus games
- Safety always a priority
- Fun and friendly atmosphere. No stress or pressure!

Sponsored and supported by the Town of Southwest Ranches



i9sports143

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The Way Youth Sports Should Be®

SATURDAY PROGRAMS
THE FUN BEGINS OCTOBER 2024!

Helping Kids Succeed in Life Through Sports®

As of January 1, 2021, the penalties for failing to stop for a school bus and passing a stopped school bus on the side where children enter and exit doubled. It is imperative that all motorists properly stop for school buses so all of Florida's children can arrive at school or home safely.

Pay extra attention to the lower speed limits in school zones – and obey them!

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

Watch for and obey signals from school crossing guards.

Parents are encouraged to review safety tips with their children to make sure they are safe on and around school buses and school zones.

Tell children to never speak to strangers at the bus stop or get into the car with a stranger. Children should tell parents, the bus driver and a teacher at school if a stranger tries to talk to them or pick them up.



<https://www.flhsmv.gov/safety-center/child-safety/school-bus-safety/>

Camping

Word Search



BACKPACK
BOOTS
BUG REPELLENT
CABIN
CAMPER
CAMPFIRE
CAMPGROUND
CANOE
COMPASS
FISHING
FLASHLIGHT
GEAR
HAMMOCK
HIKE
INSECTS
LANTERN

W P V H K F L A S H L I G H T Q D W
O B U G R E P E L L E N T M T S A N
O X F L H F V S T C E S N I T T Q R
D T Y J A L N Y M N C L D O E X N K
S R N K M H I L C A B Q O R Y E Z L
R D C H M M Z A M C J B F Z R V K S
T O I F O Q Y P R R F A P U L J J L
M K P Z C C F L F T L T T C D W G E
E N F E K I L S N L A A P W A N V E
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S A K E C A J E P O G R K K R M I I
A M C J T M M R D N N N L J R D X N
P P A G W N D T I Z G A T L L N J G
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MAP
NATURE
OUTDOORS
ROPE
SLEEPING BAG
TARP
TENT
TRAIL
TREES
WALKING
WATER BOTTLE
WATERFALL
WILDLIFE
WOODS

CURRENT BOARDS AND WHAT THEY DO

Schools and Education Advisory Board

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

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

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & BULK DROP OFF EVENT

Saturday, September 28th, 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

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

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Computers, Cables DVD Players,
Key Boards, Mice, Adapters,
Monitors, Printers/Scanners,
Radios, Stereo Components, TVs,
Tape Players, VCRs

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

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)



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: Michelle Breeden
- Just having a snack .(From the
2024 Photo Contest Calendar)



AUGUST 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm
				BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
4 • Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7pm • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting Town Hall 7pm	5	6 • Broward County Property Appraiser Office -Town Hall 10:30 - 12:30pm • Zero Waste Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	7 • CODE Hearing - Town Hall 9am	8 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm	9	10 • 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 6	
11	12 • Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	13 Budget Workshop on Proposed Budget - Town Hall 7pm	14 • BIG RED BUS -OneBlood Blood Drive -Town Hall 10-2pm • Zero Waste Broward Task Force Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	15 • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	16	17 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	
18 • Rural Public Arts & Design Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	19	20 • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	21 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	22 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm	23	24 • 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 6	
25	26	27 • Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56th St. 7pm	28 FLOW MOBILE DMV EVENT - Town Hall by appointment only • Sunshine Ranches HOA Meeting - ZOOM	29	30	31 • 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	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Carmen Carvajal - August 3rd
Madison Pijuan - August 20th
Janet Pijuan - August 20th
Emma Enriquez - August 26th
Tessa Knight - August 27th
Juliette Coley - August 29th
Rose Allbritton - August 31st

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

ABC 1 2

AUGUST

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

Monday, August 5th thru Friday, August 9th
Employee Planning
(no school for students)
Monday, August 12th
First Day of School

TOWN TALK

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

Send your email address to:
druesga@southwestranches.org



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



Printed on Recycled Paper

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI, FL
PERMIT
#622

facebook

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facebook@SWRGOV

YouTube

YouTube:
Town of Southwest Ranches
Official Channel



Twitter:
@SWR_Gov

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



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



Are you getting emergency notifications and other critical information about what is going on in our town?

Sign up for HQE Systems to be certain that you are among the first to know about an:
evacuation order, weather warning, hazardous road conditions and other notices requiring your immediate attention and/or action.

Register for HQE Systems online at:
swranches.sircom.org/public
Get notified immediately via telephone, text message or email.

If you need additional information please call 954-434-0008 or email: Tholste@southwestranches.org



Southwest Ranches Presents
Open Play Chess
Saturday, August 17
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
dlaretano@southwestranches.org
(954) 343-7452

