SOUTHWEST RANCHER

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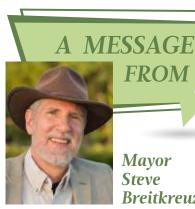


SEPTEMBER 2024

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Gilbert Ceballos- Parks and Recreation Program Facilitator	(954) 343-7468	gceballos@southwestranches.org
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Simo Mansor, Building Official	(954) 343-7448	swrinspections@southwestranches.org
Derlin Guevara, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446	swrinspections@southwestranches.org
Maria Perez, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7445	swrinspections@southwestranches.org
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Manfred Velette, Assistant Code Compliance Director	(954) 343-7440	mvelette@southwestranches.org
Code Compliance Hotline	(954) 343-7449	invelette (@southwestianenes.org
Concepcion Campos, <i>Code Compliance Officer</i>	(954) 343-7457	ccampos@southwestranches.org
Yirglhis Hernandez, Code Compliance Administrative Coordinator	(954) 343-7459	yhernandez@southwestranches.org
	(334) 343 7433	ynemanaez@southwestranenes.org
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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	
	(954) 764-4357 (HELP)	
Non-Emergency Davie Police Department	(954) 693-8200	
	. ,	avalana and davia flarav
Eddie Velazquez, <i>Detective</i>	(954) 693-8290	evelazquez@davie-fl.gov
Cheryl Danner, Police Services Coordinator	(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	(OF 4) 470 F110	
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.sbdd.org
West of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)		
nest of our normenae (voluneer)		



Mayor Steve **Breitkreuz**

FROM

I am continuing my efforts to ensure that an incinerator is not built here in Broward County and more specifically at a site that is in unincorporated Broward County but just outside of our Town. It is critical that we fight this potential incinerator solution.

I have been attending numerous meetings, developing alternate solutions both at the Town and County level. I am also your representative at the monthly Solid Waste Authority meetings as a member of the Executive Board. This has allowed me to make significant progress towards building a coalition of municipalities that are working towards more forward-thinking alternatives, which will protect our next generation, moving us away from a solution that would include incineration. I am fortunate to have been elected by my peers in the County to sit on this SWA Executive Board which meets regularly. Should I no longer be your mayor, this seat could go to any one of half a dozen municipalities. The board is currently building the Master Plan for the County for the next 40+ years. My goal is to continue this work to ensure that no incinerator ever pollutes the air or water for the residents of Southwest Ranches. If you would like to join in this effort, please contact me at 954-296-6018.

Also, I wanted to once again bring to your attention the new opportunity that we have for our youth here in Town, which I had proposed to Council several months ago and which is now kicking off. 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. I felt, and continue to feel, that this is an important step towards building a strong community. 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 dlauretano@southwestranches.org

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



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Right, BINGO AT THE BARN Page 14 Never Forget 09/11/01, HHW **Event Dates**

Page 15 September Town Calendar, September School Calendar, Happy Birthday

Back Cover: Council and Districts, Open Play Chess, Address Markers, **Emergency Alert Notification System**

The Town of Southwest Ranches Hosted a Life Ring Installation Ceremony in Memory of **ADEN PERRY**



The Town of Southwest Ranches in partnership with Aden Perry Life Ring Initiative, hosted a Life Ring Installation Ceremony, August 9, 2024, at the intersection of Hancock Road and Griffin Road, to kick off the introduction of life rings across the Town of Southwest Ranches. The ceremony pays homage to Aden's memory and equips community members with a Coast Guard-regulated rescue ring that could help save a life during an emergency, without needing to enter the water themselves.

A MESSAGE





FROM

Kuczenski, Esq.

Howdy Ranchers,

Most of the talk around Town concerns Broward County's proposed incinerator. I have written about this many times, and the reason I write about this disastrous concept is because I believe it is the most important issue for our Town. I began writing about this last year, and since then the Council has taken a unified position opposing any incinerator whether it is called waste to energy or anything else. Our solid waste disposal options are dwindling. Since, contamination rates for recyclables have gone through the roof, causing thousands of tons of recyclables to go to landfills every day. Compounding problems is capacity at Monarch Hill Landfill in Pompano, the County's only landfill and one of the largest in the country. It's near capacity at 20 stories high and is running out of room to expand horizontally. Now, here is the next problem. All of Broward is under a Legislative mandate to recycle at least 75% of our solid waste. Unfortunately, we are not there. If the mandate is not met, the likelihood of an incinerator becomes, unfortunately, more likely. This is because lawmakers in Tallahassee have established in law that if solid waste is processed in an incinerator, that processing will constitute 50% of the required 75% recycling mandate.

The alternative to an incinerator is termed Zero Waste, and many municipalities in Florida are successfully utilizing Zero Waste technology to drastically reduce solid waste going into landfills. The Broward Commission created a Solid Waste Working Group that contrived the Solid Waste Authority of which every signatory municipality has one representative. The Solid Waste Authority is tasked with establishing a solid waste master plan. This is where the one option floated by a couple of Broward Commissioners is the notorious incinerator. To challenge the incinerator option, every Broward resident must begin recycling. This does not mean that we should just throw everything into recycling. Doing that causes contamination of recycling. Further, contamination is what is causing complications with recycling because the contamination ruins other recyclables or causes expensive shutdowns of the facility to clean the contamination.

Our recycling is transferred to the recycling center, owned by WM, located on the western limits of Pembroke Pines. The center takes in discarded cardboard, glass, aluminum, plastic, and other recyclables from the area for recycling. The facility is the largest recycling center in the southeastern United States and can process up to 50 tons of recyclables an hour. The problem, according to a recent report, is that contamination – trash thrown into recycling bins that isn't supposed to be there – slows and sometimes negates the work being done to recycle the trash. Here are a few thoughts on how to better recy-



cle. If we can elevate the quality of our recycling, we can fight the proposed incinerator. First, our recycling and only recycling belongs in the recycling carts. Recycling is limited to (1) plastic bottles and containers, (2) paper, (3) glass bottles and containers, (4) fFlattened cardboard and paperboard, and (4) food and beverage cans.

Next, the recycling must be clean and dry. Anything that is dirty or wet does not belong in the recycling carts.

To the contrary, examples of items that do not belong in the recycling include, pizza boxes, food, liquids, Styrofoam, and foam food containers (these can be recycled only at Publix), green yard waste, batteries, paint, antifreeze, fluids, oil, aerosol cans, garden and pool chemicals, ammonia, computers, printers, any plastic shopping bags (these actually clog the processing machines at the recycling center requiring a periodic shut-down), clothing, furniture, metal pipes, florescent light tubes or bulbs. If you are not sure if the item is recyclable, just put the item in regular garbage to avoid expensive contamination.

Zero waste is a reasonable alternative and if successfully implemented, we can fight off the proposed incinerator. Fighting the incinerator cannot be accomplished by only a few residents. This will require all of us because the incinerator alternative is not acceptable.

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. My cell phone is 305-815-0990. 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.

The dog days of summer are still with us. With daily temperatures in the high 80s to mid-90s, it is essential that you stay hydrated. There is a very simple rule that I try to follow and that's the 10 X 10 rule. If you're outside moving and sweating, the rule is simple: Drink water before and after, then it's 10 ounces of water for every 10 minutes of exercise or strenuous activity. Hydration before, during and after - that's the key.

We are in the middle of hurricane season, and we must stay vigilant, as we can see these storms can develop very rapidly and their travel path is very unpredictable. By keeping your family's personal hurricane preparedness plan up to date you will be ready to make sure you, your family, your animals and your property are protected.

The three Broward County Advisory Boards, which I currently sit on, are

back in session after their summer break, and I am proud to say that I will again be representing the Town of Southwest Ranches by attending these meetings.

The Safety and Traffic Advisory Board has been sunset for this year. I would like to say that this board was one of the BEST that I have worked with. Board members Walt Butler, Rick Conrad, Ed Gonzalez, John Hadra and Luis Rodriguez rolled up their sleeves from day one, and the Safety and Traffic recommendations that they came up with and will present to Council for their approval will greatly benefit the Town. Thank you to Davie Police Lieutenant Bart and Davie Detective Velasquez for their valuable input at every meeting. Thanks to the Town Council for their support and a very Special Thank You to our Town Administrator Russell Muñiz, for being our Staff Liaison.

In closing I would like to commend the residents of Southwest Ranches for their tireless fight to keep any incinerator from being built, not just in Broward or Dade Counties, but anywhere in Florida.

I am truly proud to serve as your Council Member. 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







Greetings Neighbors,

As Southwest Ranches residents, you hold the key to shaping our community's future. The November ballot will feature some essential items that could directly impact us. According to our Town Charter, a document that plays a role similar to the US Constitution in governing our nation, the Town Council must review it periodically. Three years ago, the Council empaneled a group of residents to review and make recommendations. Once the Council reviews and approves, any changes must be adopted by referendum at a general election by our citizens. The Council accepted seven proposed changes and added a code compliance amendment earlier this year. Three of the recommendations were adopted two years ago, and this year, the Council approved the final five, which will be on the November 5th ballot. By state law, the ballot questions must be limited to 75 words and answerable by yes or no.

• The first amendment asks, "Should the Charter of the Town of Southwest Ranches be amended to include the promotion of the Town's agricultural and equestrian character." Our Town's unique agricultural and equestrian activities are not just features but the essence of our identity, setting us apart in the region. It's felt that these characteristics should be highlighted in the Charter by amending its first sentence to read: "In order to preserve, protect, promote, and to enhance the quality of life and the rural residential, agricultural, and equestrian character of Southwest Ranches."

 The second amendment question is, "Should the Charter of the Town of Southwest Ranches be amended to clarify that term of office shall not commence until the election results have been certified." This amendment is proposed to ensure that the term of office for the newly elected council members does not begin until the election results have been officially certified. This change aims to maintain the integrity of our election process and ensure that all results are verified before the commencement of the term.

 The third amendment states: "Currently, the Town of Southwest Ranches' Charter states that Charter amendments require a sixty (60) percent vote of approval. Should the language of the Town's Charter be amended to clarify that Charter Amendments require "at least" sixty (60) percent approval by the voters?" This amendment is proposed to avoid potential legal challenges. As written, precisely 60% could be challenged in court to stop an amendment that garners more than 60% support by the voters. The change to 'at least' 60% approval would ensure that any amendment with 60% or more support is not challenged and can be implemented.

• The fourth amendment on the ballot is a housekeeping item. It asks, "Should the Charter of the Town of Southwest Ranches be amended to rename the Town's original Transition Article and to eliminate all of the outdated corporate formation language." Presently, Section 9.02. - Temporary nature of Article, says, "The following sections of this Article are inserted solely for the purpose of effecting the incorporation of the Town and the transition to a new municipal government. Each section of this Article shall automatically, and without further vote or act of the electors of the Town, become ineffective and no longer a part of this Charter at such time as the implementation of such section has been accomplished." These items provide the Town with the legal authority to begin operations as a municipality without having specific laws in place. All the required ordinances are in place so that this language can be removed from the charter.

• The final amendment is a recent addition to the list of changes. Presently, there are code compliance items that the Code Compliance Department may proactively address without a resident submitting a complaint, such as illegal filling. There are others, known as reactive enforcement, that require a resident complaint to be filed, such as if someone adds a shed, without the proper permits, put up 5 feet off the fence line within the setback limits of 25 feet. To move a code compliance item from reactive to proactive, if passed, this amendment would require a unanimous 5-0 of the Council, as opposed to a simple majority of three affirmative to change categories. Resident feedback at Council meetings indicates people like things the way they are and are opposed to making more of our code proactive. The amendment proposes, "Should the Charter of the Town of Southwest Ranches be amended to require five affirmative votes of the Town Council to add proactive items to the Town's proactive code enforcement list?"

I voted in support of putting these amendments on the ballot and recommending their passage by you, our residents. If you have any questions on these items or need clarification, please give me a call before election day.

Another item needs to be brought up. There is an old saying: "You get who you vote for, and if you don't know who you are voting for, you don't know who you are going to get." It's crucial to research the challengers running against the incumbents thoroughly. You know the incumbents, their records, and what they stand for. If not, their records are readily available. Look into the challengers. Don't let lots of signs on fences and yards all over Town, slick mailers, or large campaign account balances persuade you. Look at the character of the candidates; do they have criminal records? Look at where their contributions come from. Are they from residents or businesses and professionals who want to do business in Town? Look at their prior history with the Town. Have they served on citizen advisory boards? Did they attend Council and advisory board meetings before election season? Are they long-time members of their local HOA? In other words, have they been active in the Town before deciding to run for office? And finally, why are they doing this; what's in it for them? These are essential things to know before voting for someone who would try to change the character of our Town over time. Remember, your vote matters. Let's shape our community's future together.

Finally, with a heavy heart, I want to inform you of the passing, on August 2. 2024, of Deborah Goff Rose, AKA Red. Red was a founder of our Town and a long-time member of Rolling Oaks Civic Association; she has served our community since the Town was founded on the Parks Board, has served on other Town boards over the years, and was a regular attendee at the Council meetings. Red was involved in everything she could be and was a familiar face at most Town and Rolling Oaks events. She had a huge heart, would help anyone in need, and was always there for her friends. She will be missed by our community, my family, and our friends.

As always, it's a pleasure to serve our families in SWR. If you have questions about anything town-related, please give me a call.

Bob Hartmann 954-801-1758.



2024 Olympics



Adrienne Lyle in Paris

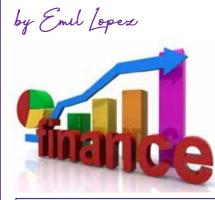
Two dressage riders from Southwest Ranches go to the Paris Olympics.

Zen Elite Equestrian was incredibly honored to have our horse Helix and his rider, three-time Olympian Adrienne Lyle, represent the USA Dressage Team at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Zen Elites Bohemian and Endel Ots were also on the team as the Alternate Pair for the USA. We are proud to have our roots in Southwest Ranches, Florida, and to represent the community on the world stage. We thank the community for the incredible support. And, huge congrats to our riders and horses. You made us so proud!



Endel Ots in Paris

FINANCE ACADEMY



"BUDGET WORKSHOPS AND BUDGET HEARINGS"

The following publicly held Budget workshop/meetings will be held in Council Chambers:

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.

TRE BURN AND COL YOU ARE MVITED TO HALLOWEEN SPOOKTA DEADLNE ~ O AWARDS WILL BE GIVI ~ O	PARTICIPATE IN THE TOWNS FIRST CULAR YARD DECORATING CONTEST. TO REGISTER YOUR HOME: CTOBER 18TH. ~ JUDGING: CTOBER 21ST. ~ IN TO IST, 2ND 6 JRD PLACE WINNERS: CTOBER 25TH. ~ TO ISKUTZ@SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG TOWN OF SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG Halloween Spocktacular
NAME: ADDRESS: PHONE: CELL: EMAIL ADDRESS: SIGNATURE:	Entry Form Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board 13400 Griffin Road, Southwest Ranches 35350
×	

FLOOD SAFETY: Know your Risk

• **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.

• <u>Be alert for gas leaks</u>. 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 *htps://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.*

National Flood Insurance Program Changes

In accordance with 2014 Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is continuing to gradually phase out flood insurance premium subsidies on certain policyholders. The changes have and will have the greatest impact on properties located within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) that were built prior to the adoption of Broward County's first FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) on October 26, 1972, or prior to December 31, 1974, without elevation certificate information. For more information on the National Flood Insurance Program changes visit *FEMA.gov/flood-insurance-reform*.

Get a Flood Insurance Policy

Replacing household contents damaged by floods could place a significant financial burden on a homeowner or renter without flood insurance. Just a few inches of water from a flood can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Homeowner's insurance policies do not generally cover damage from floods. However, because the

Town of Southwest Ranches participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy from an insurance agent and benefit from the premium discount available to all Southwest Ranches residents. Flood insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded previously. Please note that unless there is a special condition of the mortgage, there normally is a 30-day waiting period between the time flood insurance is purchased and the time coverage is in force. Though all home and business owners in these areas with mortgages from federally regulated or insured lenders are required to buy flood insurance, all residents should consider flood insurance to protect against significant financial losses.

If your property is in the SFHA and you have a mortgage from a federally regulated or insured lender, flood insurance is required. Even if you do not have a mortgage and you live in the SFHA or you live outside of the SFHA, all property owners and renters should carefully consider the benefits of flood insurance to protect against significant financial losses from floods. For more information visit the following sites: Floodsmart.gov and *FEMA.gov/national-flood-insurance-program*.

If you would like to know if your property is in a SFHA you can use the interactive map viewer. Visit *http://southwestranches.org/depart-ments/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://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineer-ing/floodinsurance-information/ and* select Flood Maps. Youcan 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.

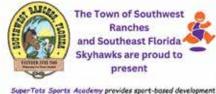
A GIS mapping application for Southwest Ranches that is publicly available includes layers related to natural floodplain functions, specifically wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat. The map includes Broward County's wetland data to provide a comprehensive picture of where wetlands are located within 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

PARKS & RECREATION



Soccerlots'

Hoopsteriots

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

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 October

Wednesdays 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. 15 to 3 years

Starting October

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 October

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

Wednesdays 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. 4 to 5 years

programs where children discover and develop athletic, motor, a social skills. SuperTots' curriculum is specifically designed to

promote development alongside a healthy, active lifestyle.





The Town of Southwest Ranches and









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NEW LOCATION-SOUTHWEST RANCHES COUNTRY ESTATES PARK

530 DISCOUNT FOR SOUTHWEST RANCHES RESIDENTS: PROMO CODE: SWR

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The Way Youth Sports Should Be"

SATURDAY PROGRAMS THE FUN BEGINS OCTOBER 2024!

Helping Kids Succeed in Life Through Sports®

register online: i9sports.com (954) 437-0089

Any questions? Email : broward@skyhawks.com







(source: https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2018/ April-May/Animals/Moths)

"Butterflies get our attention because they are active during the day, and most of them are brightly colored," says National Wildlife Federation Naturalist David Mizejewski. "But moths also are all around us, and they can be equally beautiful if we just take a closer look." Moths in fact are far more abundant than butterflies, with roughly 14,000 species in North America and more than 150,000 worldwide. "For every species of butterfly on the planet, there are 19 species of moth," says University of Delaware entomologist Doug Tallamy. He adds that scientists as well as lay people have favored butterflies over moths, so the insects remain relatively unstudied. Because moths play vital roles in most of the world's terrestrial ecosystems, they deserve much more attention. As flying adults, for example, moths pollinate a large number and variety of plant species. When other insects go to sleep, moths work the night shift, visiting some of the same flowers as diurnal pollinators but also night-blooming plants that daytime fliers miss. Voracious eaters, moth caterpillars return important nutrients to the soil through their feces. And moths are a significant source of food. "Due to their sheer numbers in the landscape, moths and their caterpillars provide a critical food resource for a vast number of wildlife species," Mizejewski says.



Moths and butterflies both belong to a large order of insects, Lepidoptera, a name that refers to the tiny scales covering the wings of most of these insects. Each group has evolved its own unique set of traits. The best known, of course, is that most butterflies are diurnal while moths fly at night. But some moths, particularly brightly colored species such as the hummingbird clearwing and Virginia ctenucha moths, also fly during the day. Moths' bodies generally have more scales than those of but-



terflies, which makes them look fuzzier. When resting, butterflies hold their wings open, exposing all four, while moths tend to cover their hindwings with their forewings. And while butterfly antennae end in hooks or clubs, moth antennae are either feathery or end in tapered tips—an adaptation they use to locate host plants and to detect the chemical signals, or pheromones, of other moths from hundreds of yards away. Within the moth group, scientists have discovered a world of variation in size, shape, and color. The smallest moths, members of the family **Nepticulidae** and known as micro moths, could individually fit onto the head of a pin. These tiny insects have hindwings that look like feathers, and they feed not on nectar but on honeydew, a sugary liquid waste produced by aphids. The largest moths—and among the most spectacular—belong to the family **Saturniidae**, or giant silk moths.



An astonishing variety of wildlife species eat moths. "Not only do birds and bats consume moths at every stage of the insects' life cycle, so do lizards, small rodents, skunks and even bears," Mizejewski says. Other insects, including hornets and ants, prey on moth caterpillars, and both spiders and beetles feed on moth pupae tucked away in their cocoons. Many wasp species sting and paralyze both caterpillars and pupae, depositing the live prey in underground chambers for their own larvae to eat. One species of predatory beetle has even synchronized its life cycle to match that of the gypsy moth, laying eggs only after the moth's caterpillars are available to feed its young. But perhaps no wildlife rely more on moths for food than do birds during the breeding season. Contrary to what many people believe, "most birds do not reproduce on berries and seeds," Tallamy says. "Ninety-six percent of all terrestrial birds rear their offspring on insects, primarily the caterpillars of moths." Even birds that typically eat seeds will switch to insects when they are rearing chicks. Compared to other insects, he says, "caterpillars are relatively large prey. It would take 200 aphids to equal the biomass of a single medium-sized caterpillar." These soft insects also provide large amounts of fat and protein without much of the hard-to-digest chitin that insects such as beetles contain. And for successful nesting, birds need a lot of caterpillars. Carolina chickadees, for example, require 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to rear a single clutch of four to six offspring.



Questions About Your 2024 Property Assessment or Exemptions?

Our office mailed over 777,000 TRIM (proposed tax) Notices to Broward County property owners last month. The 2024 Just/Market Values are based on the market data from 2023 as Florida Statutes require our office use January 1 as the date of assessment each year.

The TRIM Notice you received shows your 2024 Just/Market Value, any tax-saving exemptions you are receiving, and the proposed tax amounts as set by the various taxing authorities listed on the notice.

It is important to remember the Property Appraiser's Office does not set or collect taxes.

If you believe you are entitled to a Homestead Exemption or any other exemption not shown on your TRIM Notice, you may still late file for any 2024 exemption until September 18, 2024. For a list of all the available tax-saving exemptions and to apply for these exemptions online, please visit our website at https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Homestead or call us at 954-357-6830.

If you have any questions about your 2024 Just/Market Value or exemptions, please email or call us prior to September 18, 2024.

Exemptions & General Questions	CSEmgmt@bcpa.net	954-357-6830
Residential Property	ResTRIM@bcpa.net	954-357-6831
Condo/Co-op & Timeshares	CondoTRIM@bcpa.net	954-357-6832
Commercial Property including Duplexes	CommercialTRIM@bcpa.net	954-357-6835
Tangible Personal Property	tpp-docs@bcpa.net	954-357-6836
Agricultural Property	pshortsleeve@bcpa.net	954-357-6162
Report Homestead Fraud	DPSC@bcpa.net	954-357-6900

If you have questions or concerns about any of the proposed tax rates or non-ad valorem fees, including fire assessments, please contact the taxing authority listed on the TRIM Notice.

<u>The ABSOLUTE deadline to file an application for any 2024 exemption or</u> to appeal your property's 2024 Just/Market Value with the VAB is September 18, 2024.

Value Adjustment Board

The Value Adjustment Board (VAB) is an independent quasi-judicial review board. If you believe your Just/Market Value is not what a buyer would have reasonably paid for your property on January 1, 2024, you should first contact our office. If after speaking with one of our appraisers, you still do not agree, you can file an appeal with the Broward County Value Adjustment Board. If you were denied an exemption, you may also file an appeal with the Value Adjustment Board challenging this denial. The absolute deadline for Value Adjustment Board petitions is September 18, 2024. If you would like to file a petition online, please visit the VAB website at https://bcvab.broward.org/axiaweb2024. Should you have any questions for the Value Adjustment Board, they can be reached at yab@//yab@

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

Take care,

au

Marty Kiar, JD, CFA



by Debra Ruesga

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE JULY 11, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

• Adopted Resolution 2024-048 approving an agreement with Bergeron Emergency Services for temporary debris management sites.

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE JULY 25, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Ordinance 2024-007 Amending the Capital Improvements Element and Adopting the Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements for Fiscal Years 2024-2028.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-049 approving Site Plan 85-23 for Fifth Third Bank.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-050 approving an agreement with FPL for a temporary staging area for emergency recovery operations during mass power outages.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-051 approving an agreement with Tetra Tech, Inc. for monitoring services of debris removal.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-052 setting the Proposed Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2025.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-053 setting the preliminary Solid Waste Assessment rates for Fiscal Year 2025.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-054 setting the preliminary Fire Assessment rates for Fiscal Year 2025.

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.

Attend free workshops in your area.



SET YOURSELF **APART IN TODAY'S** JOB MARKET

Learn skills for job searching, interviewing and networking with our free in-person workshop.

Attend our FREE, in-person workshops and learn how to master the online job search, effectively network, and ace the interview!

Register by:

1-866-740-7588

Additional Details:

Online Registration Required at:

https://events.aarp.org/event/aadd5777-0025-437 8-b210-209021c3f825/summary

AARP

Phone:

Online:

Date & Time: Thursday September 5, 2024 11:30 AM-1:30 PM ET

Location: Town of Southwest Ranches (Council Chambers) 13400 Griffin Road Southwest Ranches, Florida, 33330

What else is going on in your state? Find out now by visiting aarp.org/<ST>



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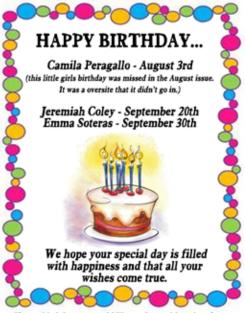




SEPTEMBER 2024

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Have a birthday you would like to share with us in a future Town newsletter? Send your name and birthday to: Skutz@southwestranches.org



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

Send your email address to: druesga@southwestranches.org





Council Member Council Member Council Member Council Member Jim Allbritton Bob Hartmann Steve Breitkreuz David Kuczenski Gary Jablonski District 4 District 1 District 2 Mayor District 3 Magi is Not to Ser In Sec of Softward Number does not prevent the source to constitute of the data on the cities are possible to instrume possible to inst Date: 12/22/2023 a Technical Co