

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The original Town Newsletter

EVERY DROP MATTERS

WATER MATTERS DAY
highlights the importance of water conservation through educational programs and community activities.
see page 14



ZERO WASTE
see page 7

RECYCLE RIGHT

see page 7



MARCH 2025

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
YOUTUBE: Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel • **FACEBOOK:** facebook@SWRGOV

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz (954) 343-7462
Vice Mayor Bob Hartmann (954) 343-7447
Council Member Jim Allbritton (954) 343-7461
Council Member Gary Jablonski (954) 343-7456
Council Member David S. Kuczenski, Esq. (954) 343-7472

TOWN STAFF

Russell Muñiz, *Town Administrator* (954) 434-0008
Kathryn Sims, *Deputy Town Administrator* (954) 343-7454
Danielle Caban, *Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator* (954) 343-7474
Debra M. Ruesga, *Town Clerk* (954) 343-7451
Dan Stewart, *Deputy Town Clerk* (954) 343-7443
Jennifer McCarty, *Records and Administrative Coordinator* (954) 343-7469
Tom Holste, *General Services Manager* (954) 343-7476
Hector Rodriguez, *Administrative Assistant* (954) 434-0008
Emil C. Lopez, *Town Financial Administrator* (954) 343-7473
Christina Semeraro, *Town Procurement Officer* (954) 343-7467
Rich Strum, *Deputy Financial Administrator* (954) 343-7442
Arianna Durbeej, *Senior Accountant* (954) 343-7477
Keith Poliakoff, *Town Attorney* (954) 909-0580
Rod Ley, *Public Works Director* (954) 343-7444
Emily McCord Aceti, *Community Services Manager* (954) 343-7453
Susan Kutz, *Administrative Specialist, Newsletter Editor & Graphic Designer* (954) 343-7460
Joyce Marques, *Engineering Inspector* (954) 343-7441
December Lauretano-Haines, *Parks, Recreation & Open Space Director* (954) 343-7452
Gilbert Ceballos, *Parks and Recreation Program Facilitator* (954) 343-7468
Mayuli Betancourt, *Administrative Assistant* (954) 343-7465

TOWN SERVICES / BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING - (CAP GOVERNMENT)

Simo Mansor, *Building Official* (954) 343-7448
Derlin Guevara, *Permit Technician* (954) 343-7446
Maria Perez, *Permit Technician* (954) 343-7445

PLANNING

Jeff Katims (954) 554-8894

ZONING/PERMITTING

Julio Medina, *Community Development/Code Compliance Director* (954) 343-7458

CODE COMPLIANCE

Julio Medina, *Community Development/Code Compliance Director* (954) 343-7458
Manfred Velette, *Assistant Code Compliance Director* (954) 343-7440
Code Compliance Hotline (954) 343-7449
Concepcion Campos, *Code Compliance Officer* (954) 343-7457
Yirglhis Hernandez, *Code Compliance Administrative Officer* (954) 343-7459

WASTE/BULK/RECYCLING SERVICES

WM (Waste Management) (954) 974-7500
REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS - Chief Bennett (954) 868-2057
MOSQUITO CONTROL (954) 765-4062
LOST AND FOUND ANIMALS (754) 224-0877

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY
Non-Emergency (954) 764-4357 (HELP)
Davie Police Department (954) 693-8200
Eddy Velazquez, Detective (954) 693-8290
Cheryl Danner, Police Services Coordinator (954) 693-8352
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 (954) 343-7441
Illicit Discharge - Environmental Response Line: (954) 519-1499

OTHER

WATER DISTRICTS - CANALS

Central Broward Water Control District (954) 432-5110
East of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)
South Broward Drainage District (954) 680-3337
West of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)

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jmarques@southwestranches.org
dlauretano@southwestranches.org
gceballos@southwestranches.org
mbetancourt@southwestranches.org

M-F 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
swrinspections@southwestranches.org
swrinspections@southwestranches.org
swrinspections@southwestranches.org

jeff@completecities.net

zoninginfo@southwestranches.org

jmedina@southwestranches.org
mvelette@southwestranches.org

ccampos@southwestranches.org
yhernandez@southwestranches.org

lbennett@southwestranches.org

Facebook@SWRLostandFoundAnimals

evelazquez@davie-fl.gov
cdanner@southwestranches.org

publicworks@southwestranches.org
online complaint form at:
<http://www.broward.org/Environment/Resources/Pages/EnviroComplaint.aspx>

www.centralbrowardwcd.org

www.sbddd.org



A MESSAGE FROM

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz

As has been said many times, the one constant in this world is “change”. What does this have to do with Southwest Ranches? Well, as I went through the campaign season of 2024, I had countless conversations with residents. Many of those had to do with the retention of our Rural Lifestyle. Certainly, this lifestyle means different things to different people but at a high level, I have found that most residents see this as an appreciation for our open spaces, a “live and let live” philosophy, and an appreciation of nature and any and all animals, large or small. I know that

this is why my wife and I moved here 30 years ago.

As time goes on and the world continues to change, people come and go from the Ranches. If one wants to have more of a suburban lifestyle, not really focused on the Rural Lifestyle elements that I described above, South Florida provides countless options. One needs to look no further than Pembroke Pines, Weston and beyond. However, if you are seeking this Rural Lifestyle, while there are other communities that come close, none other than Southwest Ranches really provides it. And that is why we strive so very hard to preserve it. Because should we ever lose it, then there will be no options left for a Rural Lifestyle such as we enjoy here in Southwest Ranches.

The good news is that I spoke to many new residents that did not necessarily move here for a Rural Lifestyle but once they were here and got a taste of it, they have truly come to appreciate it. And that is very encouraging. However, that is not always the case. At times, people move here and try to bring suburbia here with them. So, it is important for us to provide education both before residents move to the Ranches and after they are here.

To help accomplish this I have asked the Town Administration to assist with the creation of a multi-evening event, called the “**Rancher’s Academy**”. The purpose is to educate residents, and also realtors who are less familiar with our Town but who sell properties here in the Ranches, on what residents can expect when they move to the Ranches, and why it is such a special and unique place. This would be things such as animal noises and perhaps smells, the lack of street lights, open communities without the use of gates, as well as open spaces. We also want to highlight the ability to teach the next generation accountability and responsibility through the appreciation of all animals, as well as the freedom associated with minimal governmental involvement in your property as long as you respect your neighbors. I believe that this education will be an important tool to help promote and protect this rural lifestyle, ensure that properties are presented properly to potential buyers and that all residents, new and old timers such as me, can get an appreciation of just how special the Ranches truly is.



If you would like to join and see what this is all about first hand, you can contact

As always, thank-you for your trust and support in allowing me to serve as your Mayor.

It is truly an honor that I never take for granted.

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz
954-296-6018;
sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org;
X@SteveBreitkreuz



A MESSAGE FROM

Bob Hartmann
Vice Mayor

Hi Neighbors,

About eight years ago, Mayor Steve Breitkreuz, then a council member, suggested establishing a farmers market as a new feature in our town. The Council supported the idea, and several residents, including myself, expressed enthusiasm. The main question was where to locate it. The challenge was finding a suitable location due to restrictions on some of our parks and the need for a central, visible spot. The problem was solved when the developers of The Palace at Weston approached the town to store fill on town property while they built the new assisted living facility next to Publix on Weston Rd. A deal was struck between the two parties for a fee and significant fill to be left behind. This created a perfect future location for the long-desired farmers market, a dream we have been nurturing for so long, which would be available once the Palace project was completed.

In late 2022, the Council requested the town administrator to find an experienced vendor to organize

and manage the farmers market. The Cioli Group, a host of international markets and events, was contracted in March 2023, and the grand opening of the SWR Community Farmers Market was on March 26. There were about 20 vendors, and plans were to close for the summer months. Success and the right partners can change plans.

The farmers market was open to customers year-round beginning in the summer of 2024. Our residents, vendors, and organizers braved the occasional early afternoon rain. They sometimes needed to cancel due to nasty weather forecasts, but the summer activities, overall, were viewed as a success. After a successful holiday season that supported as many as 70 vendors and kept the parking lot full all day, the Council approved adding Sundays to the schedule. My usual market day is Saturdays; however, I visited on a Sunday in January, and the Market carried the same crowd vibe of enthusiasm as any busy Saturday. I want to thank the Ciolis for the job they do managing the farmers' market and the mayor for his vision. While this effort involved many people, he deserves credit for the idea alone.

There are some other dates you may want to add to your calendar. In last month's Southwest Rancher, *(continued on page 5)*



Antonio and Audrey Salciccioli

- Front Cover** Happy St. Patrick's Day
- Page 2** In-Touch Town Contact Info
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- Page 6** Robin Bartleman Article, Prototype Barn, Open Play Chess, Stay in Touch with Engineering
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- Back Cover** Council and Districts, 25th Anniversary Celebration Parade Entry Form, Household Hazardous Waste Event



I mentioned that we have coordinated a visit to WM's Reuter Transfer Station recycling facility, located east at Pembroke Rd, off US 27, in March. All our recycling from SWR goes to this facility. It processes approximately 100 tons of potential recycling materials daily. The facility is not just fascinating; it's an eye-opener. I encourage you to visit if you're available.

I found it remarkably interesting as I learned more about properly recycling and how the recycling industry is picking up, so more of our pre-used materials are finding new uses. You will also learn why putting grocery store bags and pizza boxes in your recycling bin is a terrible idea.

WM offers a unique opportunity to learn about our recycling process. The facility tour on Thursday, March 20th, at 10 AM, is open to residents 14 years and older. It's a chance to see the process from where trucks dump their loads to the staging of the finished recycled materials. After

the tour, there's a Q&A session to discuss the facility and your questions. These tours are exclusive, with each limited to just 15 people. If you're keen on joining us for this insightful 1-hour tour, I urge you to act quickly as space is filling up fast. To secure your spot, please email me (BHartmann@southwestranches.org) your name, phone number, and the number of attendees planning to join us. Don't miss this unique opportunity to gain valuable insights into our recycling process.

Finally, as Earth Day approaches, Broward Sierra Group hosts a yearly celebration of our planet Earth. This year, from 9 am to 4 pm on Sunday, March 23rd, 2025, festivities will be held at Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood; one of the participants on hand will be our own Broward Clean Air organizer, Richard Ramcharitar.

This celebration brings together environmental organizations, speakers, community leaders, and nature enthusiasts. Key Exhibitors include: Broward County Resilient


Environment Department, City of Hollywood's Sustainability Advisory Committee, Sea Turtle Oversight Protection (STOP), and Broward Clean Air to name a few.

There will also be presentations from great speakers such as Dr. David Davis on the impact of plastic on the human brain; Noah Siegel, from The Fruitful Field, on regenerative agriculture; and Adam Roberti, from the Xavier Cortada Foundation, on eco-art and environmental awareness

Join us for a day of learning, inspiration, and commitment to protecting our planet. The Earth Day celebration promises to be a day filled with insightful presentations, inspiring performances, and a commitment to our planet's well-being. It's an event that will leave you feeling inspired and motivated to make a difference in our community.

I am always here to help! Please call me if I can assist with any questions or Town issues or if you want to chat. **Bob - 954-801-1758**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...
this February birthday was missed...
Katherine Easley - February 16th
Logan Ricardo - March 1st
Brendan Gill - March 8th
Bertha Bonilla - March 10th
Roger Cruz - March 12th
Todd Thomason - March 30th



We hope your special day is filled with happiness and that all your wishes come true.

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

BROWARD SIERRA GROUP WELCOMES ALL TO
EARTH DAY 2024
A FREE FAMILY EVENT
SATURDAY, MARCH 23
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM
AT THE ANNE KOLB NATURE CENTER
751 SHERIDAN ST. HOLLYWOOD, FL
THIS YEAR'S THEME:
UNITING BROWARD THROUGH RESILIENCE



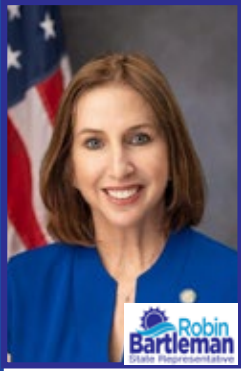
There's something for everyone at this fun, free, educational and entertaining event!

Visitors can enjoy:

- Nature hikes and kayaking around the natural mangrove areas of the park.
- Live music.
- Food trucks.
- Art displays from our annual Youth Plastic Waste Art Contest, with judging and prizes announced on site.
- More than 14 exhibitors with hands-on activities and information about conservation and environmental efforts.
- Notable guest speakers using art to educate about climate change and sea level rise.
- Updates about Earth's rising temperature and climate change, Florida Panther news and updates, and using meditation to connect with nature.

• **Much, much more!**

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in programs, services and activities must contact Broward Sierra Group at 954-329-5447 at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled event.



MARCH - BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

March 4th marks the first day of the 2025 Legislative Session. If you are interested in receiving regular newsletters or have questions about information you see in the news, please email me at : Robin.Bartleman@myfloridahouse.gov.

March is also recognized as Brain Injury Awareness Month, a time to educate ourselves on the impact of brain injuries and the importance of prevention, early detection, and support for those affected. There are more than 5.3 million individuals in the US who are living with a permanent brain injury-related disability. There are many different forms of brain injury, and each type has its unique challenges.

One type of brain injury is Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS), which is now referred to as Abusive Head Trauma. SBS usually occurs when a parent or other caregiver shakes a baby out of anger or frustration, often because the baby will not stop crying. This action can cause the baby's head to move violently back and forth, which can result in a fatal or permanent brain injury.

To address the issue of SBS and to aim for prevention, I am sponsoring a bill this Legislative Session aimed at increasing education on this type of brain injury. The bill will ensure that new parents receive educational materials about SBS

and safe sleep to keep our children safe.

Adults are also at risk for brain injury. Older adults should pay close attention to traumatic brain injury (TBI). According to Brain Line, people ages 75 and older have the highest rates of TBI-related hospitalizations and death. They also recover more slowly and die more often from these injuries than do younger people. TBIs can occur from hitting your head due to a fall (falls are the leading cause of TBI), a blow, shaking, or strong rotational injury to the head. There are also acquired brain injuries, which are the result of a stroke, tumor, or brain inflammation. Some symptoms of brain injury can be affected balance, blurred vision, confusion, difficulty speaking clearly, headache, memory problems, and seizures. If you suffer from a fall or have an injury to your head, you should seek medical attention immediately.

I am committed to serving you and addressing any concerns you may have. Please feel free to reach out at any time with ideas, questions, or suggestions. You can contact me via email at Robin.Bartleman@myfloridahouse.gov, my personal cell at (954) 668-3662, or my office at (954) 424-6828. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

PROTOTYPE BARN



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

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

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

Southwest Ranches Presents
Open Play Chess
 3rd Saturday of the month
 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



STAY IN TOUCH WITH ENGINEERING

Fill for horse stalls does not require a fill permit. In addition, a permit may not be required if a small amount of sand is required to replenish a horse arena. However the Town recommends that a property owner or leasee contact our office to assure that the type of work being performed falls under this criteria prior to performing the work. A phone call to us will help prevent a possible warning from Code Enforcement and double fees when it comes to acquiring the required permit.

Please call: (954) 434-0008 or
Email: jmarques@southwestranches.org

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Below is the annual volume of office paper recycled

| Event | Pounds | Tons | Year |
|-------|--------|------|-----------|
| | 5,000 | 2.5 | 1/11/2025 |

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Business Name: | Town of Southwest Ranches |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Trees Saved: | 42.5 |
| Water Saved: | 17500 |
| Oil Saved: | 1157.5 |
| Landfill Space: | 7.5 |

| Event Volume | Attendees |
|--------------|-----------|
| 2.5 tons | 73 |

Based on service and volume averages, as compiled by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Recycling one ton of office paper saves 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 463 gallons of oil, and 3 cubic yards of landfill space.

786.890.3282 | THESHREDFORCE.COM



TRASH TALK: ZERO WASTE ADVISORY BOARD EDITION

- Planning to set up creative, educational, and engaging events in Town
- Partnering with other municipalities already engaged in zero waste initiatives
- Digital Signs on the road to remind us to "Please Recycle"
- Setting up tours at WM Recycling Center - if interested contact Dan at Town Hall
- Join us at the Broward Sierra Group, Earth Day, March 23rd at Anne Kolb Nature Center 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
- We welcome participation from all Town residents. We meet monthly and is included on the Town Calendar

RECYCLE RIGHT

Any way you slice it, bread bags, dry cleaner bags and other plastic film **CAN NOT** go in your curbside recycling cart.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE

**UNITY IN DIVERSITY
5K RUN/WALK**

SATURDAY, 5TH APR, 2025

Mark your calendars and be part of this unforgettable event. Whether you're running, walking, cheering, or sponsoring, your presence makes a difference. Let's show the world that diversity is our strength and unity is our mission.



Scan to Signup



**CALLING ALL CLASSIC CAR ENTHUSIASTS!
ENTER YOUR CAR IN THE
TOWN'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY**



JOIN THE PARADE
JUNE 7TH AT THE ROLLING OAKS PARK 11-3

PARADE STARTS 10:00 AM ON MATHER & AVOCADO

IF YOU HAVE A VINTAGE BEAUTY, A HOT ROD, OR A TIMELESS CLASSIC, DON'T MISS THE CHANCE TO CELEBRATE YOUR PASSION, CONNECT WITH FELLOW SOUTHWEST RANCHES CAR LOVERS AND CREATE UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES. LET'S MAKE THIS THE BEST PARADE YET.

TO REGISTER AND SECURE YOUR SPOT EMAIL:
LURIEMORSE64@GMAIL.COM



Join Us at the 23rd Annual Southeast Florida NIGP Reverse Trade Show!

The annual Reverse Trade Show, hosted by the NIGP Southeast Florida Chapter, is a premier opportunity for vendors and businesses to connect with government procurement professionals and department buyers. This year's event is scheduled for **Thursday, April 10, 2025, at the Coral Springs Gymnasium, located at 2501 Coral Springs Drive, Coral Springs, Florida 33065, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.**

This unique event flips the traditional trade show format: Vendors have the chance to visit booths staffed by government agencies, providing direct access to decision-makers and insight into procurement processes. Attendees will gain valuable information about upcoming projects, bidding opportunities, and how to establish successful partnerships with public agencies. Early bird registration ends April 4th. **Visit <https://www.nigpsefl.org>** for registration and sponsorship details.

Celebrating Public Procurement Month in March

March is Public Procurement Month, a time to recognize the critical role public procurement professionals play in ensuring public funds are spent wisely, ethically, and transparently. From acquiring essential goods and services to managing contracts and fostering fair competition, their work supports efficient and accountable government operations.

Nationwide, public procurement impacts community life by funding infrastructure, equipping first responders, and supporting schools. In Southwest Ranches, these efforts ensure responsible stewardship of public resources. This month, we honor the profession's contributions to building thriving, well-served communities across America.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Residents of
Southwest Ranches...**

**Join us as we
celebrate
The Town's 25th
Anniversary
Saturday June 7th, 2025
11-3:00pm at
Rolling Oaks Park**



The celebration will kick off with a parade at 10:00 AM sharp on Mather Boulevard in Rolling Oaks.

~

- Bring your bathing suits and towels to enjoy a variety of wet slides for both kids and adults, along with dry slides for those who prefer to stay dry.
 - There will be rides, games, face painting, Catabella Train Express, live music featuring the Shane Duncan Band, DJ Diego, Petting Zoo, and much more.
 - A shuttle service, generously sponsored by Ryan Case, will be available to transport you from the parade to the party.
- Mark your calendars for a day filled with fun and unforgettable memories!**

Email Susan for additional information
Skutz@southwestranches.org

come and join the fun



PARKS & RECREATION

Rolling Oaks Park

Country Estates Park



The Town of Southwest Ranches and Southeast Florida Skyhawks (licensed and insured) 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

NO CLASS ON THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 17TH 2025



Tuesdays 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. 1.5 to 3 years
Tuesdays 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. 4 to 5 years
From February 4th to March 25th 2025



Wednesdays 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. 1.5 to 3 years
Wednesdays 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. 4 to 5 years
From February 5th to March 26th 2025

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 or call Owner & Manager: Farid Issoulaimani (954)955-2573

DISTRIBUTION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT OR RECOMMENDATION BY BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

register now
<http://register.skyhawks.com>

The Town of Southwest Ranches and



REGISTER NOW

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 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 earlier you register, the more you save!

Licensed and Insured-BRAM Group, LLC dba i9 Sports

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@i9sports143

The Way Youth Sports Should Be®

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THE FUN BEGINS OCTOBER 2024!

Helping Kids Succeed in Life Through Sports®

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



FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES

What is the Name of that Bird (Part 2)

Here are a few more species to add to your neighborhood backyard bird-watching activities

Mockingbird



Brown Thrasher



Ibis



Limpkin



European Starling



Collard Dove



Screech Owl



Red-bellied Woodpecker



Purple Martin



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.

● **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: <https://www.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 <https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance>.

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](https://www.floodsmart.gov) and <https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance>.

If you would like to know if your property is in a SFHA you can use the interactive map viewer. Visit <https://www.southwestranches.org/departments/public-works-engineering/flood-insurance-information-2/> 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 <https://www.southwestranches.org/departments/public-works-engineering/flood-insurance-information-2/>.

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 drainpipes, 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, grading 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 <https://www.southwesteranches.org/departments/public-works-engineering/flood-insurance-information-2/>.

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 <https://www.southwesteranches.org/departments/public-works-engineering/flood-insurance-information-2/> 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*



BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE JANUARY 23, 2025 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Ordinance 2025-005 adopting Minimum Interior Space Requirements to Maintain Canines.
- Adopted Ordinance 2025-006 adopting the Public Camping or Sleeping Prohibition.
- Adopted Ordinance 2025-007 Amending the Town's Noise Ordinance.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-036 approving Site Plan Modification APP SP-87-24 to 6670 Dykes Road.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-037 purchase of Lenovo Laptops for Town.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-038 reinstating the Public Safety and Traffic Committee

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



LATE FILING EXEMPTION DEADLINE - SEPT. 17, 2025

Your Homestead Exemption automatically renews each year provided there is no change in the ownership or use of the property. If you are already receiving Homestead Exemption on your current home, you do not need to reapply.

If you have not yet applied for your 2025 Homestead Exemption, Limited-Income Senior Exemption or any other exemption, you can still file until September 17, 2025. To view all the tax-saving exemptions available to qualified applicants, please visit our website at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Homestead>.

Senior Exemption: This exemption is both age and income-based and must be applied for separately from the Homestead Exemption. To be eligible for this exemption, an applicant must be age 65 or older as of January 1, 2025 and have a household adjusted gross income for 2024 not exceeding \$37,694. To view the exemption requirements and to apply online, please visit our website at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/SeniorExemption>.

Disability Exemption: This exemption is available to every blind person or totally and permanently disabled person who is a bona fide resident of Florida. Here is the link to the exemption requirements: <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/DisabilityExemption>.

Veteran & Military Exemptions: Veterans with a service-connected disability and the un-remarried surviving spouse are entitled to an additional exemption. An active duty servicemember who is receiving Homestead Exemption may qualify for an additional exemption if deployed outside the United States serving in support of designated military operations. Please visit <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/VeteransExemption> to review the Veteran & Military Exemption requirements and online applications.

Surviving Spouse of First Responder Exemption: Un-remarried surviving spouses of a first responder who died in the line of duty may be eligible for an exemption of the full assessed value of a Homesteaded property. Here is the link to the exemption requirements: <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/FirstResponderExemption>.

Once the September 17, 2025 statutory "late filing" deadline has closed, we cannot accept any more 2025 exemption applications regardless of any good cause reason for missing the late filing deadline.

Property owners who moved to a new home in 2025 can pre-file for tax year 2026 at https://bcpa.net/homesteadonline_with_portability/web/index.aspx.

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

Take care,
Marty Kiar
Marty Kiar, JD, CFA



PHOTO BY: -----
"Aster Knight
Parks Foundation"



March 2025

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|----|
| | | | | | 28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers' Market 1 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm | |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7pm • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting Town Hall 7pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CODE Hearing - Town Hall 9am • Broward County Property Appraiser Office - Town Hall 10:30 - 12:30pm • Zero Waste Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm | 4 | 5 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Matters Day Tree Tops Park 9-3 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | |
| | 9 | 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivanohe Estates HOA Meeting - 6pm • Parks, Recreation Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rancher Academy Town Hall Chambers 6 - 8:30 pm • Zero Waste Task Force Meeting - Town Hall 7 - 9pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm • Purim begins at sundown | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm OPEN PLAY CHESS 10am-2pm Town Hall | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | |
| 16 | | 17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rancher Academy - Town Hall Chambers 6 - 8:30 pm • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm BINGO at the BARN 6 - 9pm | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FLOW MOBILE DMV EVENT - Town Hall 10 - 2:00pm • Sunshine Ranches HOA ZOOM 7 - 9pm | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | |
| 30 | 31 | 1 | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm | BULK ZONE 1 | | | | | | |

Broward County School Calendar 2025

| MARCH | | | | |
|-------|----|----|----|----|
| M | T | W | T | F |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 31 | | | | |

~ Friday, March 21st ~
Employee Planning - no school for students

~ Monday, March 24th - 31st ~
Schools Closed

COMEDY CORNER

Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?

Cos they're always a little short.

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

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SOUTHWEST RANCHES RESIDENTS
Save the date - June 7th for the Town's 25th Birthday Celebration

If you would like to participate in the parade email:
Lauriemorse63@gmail.com

We're having a parade!

The Lineup for the parade is 10:00 am on Mather Blvd. and SW 63rd Manor, and the parade will be heading to Rolling Oaks Park where the party starts from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Please be environmentally conscience when decorating your cart, vehicle, or float and refrain from using balloons or other materials that could harm our animals and environment.

PLEASE NOTE THE APRIL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT DATE HAS CHANGED TO...

SATURDAY MAY 3rd, 8:00am -2:00pm (SAME TIME)

SHREDDING 8:00am -2:00pm (SAME TIME)

DRUG DROP OFF - 10:00am -2:00pm (SAME TIME)

This service is provided for Town residents only. Proof of residency is required.

NOTE: Event may be cancelled due to rain, excessive winds or other hazardous conditions as determined by the Town.

| ACCEPTABLE HHW ITEMS | ELECTRONICS RECYCLING | UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS |
|--|--|---|
| Aerosol Cans Antifreeze/Coolant/Paint Batteries & Auto Batteries BBQ & Camp Size Propane Cleaners Fluorescent Tubes/Bulbs Garden Chemicals Latex/Oil-Based Paint Pesticides Pool Chlorine Tires (Up to 4 tires per household no rims) Used Oil & Filters | Computers, Cables DVD Players, Key Boards, Mice, Adapters, Monitors, Printers/Scanners, Radios, Stereo Components, TVs, Tape Players, VCRs | Appliances Asbestos Explosives or Ammunition Medical/Infectious Waste Non-Residential Waste |

For more information call Town Hall (954) 434-0008

Town Council

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

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| VICE MAYOR BOB HARTMANN District 1 | Council Member GARY JABLONSKI District 2 | MAYOR STEVE BREITKREUZ | Council Member JIM ALLBRITTON District 3 | Council Member DAVID S. KUCZENSKI, Esq. District 4 |
|--|--|---|--|--|

The Town of Southwest Ranches does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the data, and the data are available for limited purposes. The Town of Southwest Ranches wants to provide full accessibility to our services, records, and activities. If you are not able to access any of the content of this website please contact Roseell Hince at rhince@southwestranches.org or call 954-434-0008 so that we can provide a solution or provide the information in an accessible format. If you use assistive technology (such as a screen reader, etc.) and have difficulty accessing any information, please identify the specific information or material you seek access to, the website address of the material with which you request access or assistance, the problem you experienced, and your contact information so that the Town may provide you with the necessary assistance. Please contact our office if there is any additional information that we can provide.

Map is Not to Scale
Date: 12/22/2022
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