

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The original Town Newsletter

Recycle
Right page 12

Celebrate the town's
25th Anniversary
Celebration page 9

Turn Waste Into
GOLD page 7

**ZERO
WASTE** page 7

*Happy
Mother's Day*

MAY 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](https://facebook.com/SWRGOV)

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	(954) 343-7462	sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org
Vice Mayor Bob Hartmann	(954) 343-7447	bhartmann@southwestranches.org
Council Member Jim Allbritton	(954) 343-7461	jallbritton@southwestranches.org
Council Member Gary Jablonski	(954) 343-7456	gjablonski@southwestranches.org
Council Member David S. Kuczenski, Esq.	(954) 343-7472	dkuczenski@southwestranches.org

TOWN STAFF

Russell Muñiz, <i>Town Administrator</i>	(954) 434-0008	rmuniz@southwestranches.org
Kathryn Sims, <i>Deputy Town Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7454	ksims@southwestranches.org
Danielle Caban, <i>Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7474	dcaban@southwestranches.org
Debra M. Ruesga, <i>Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7451	druesga@southwestranches.org
Dan Stewart, <i>Deputy Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7443	dstewart@southwestranches.org
Jennifer McCarty, <i>Records and Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7469	jmccarty@southwestranches.org
Tom Holste, <i>General Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7476	tholste@southwestranches.org
Hector Rodriguez, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 434-0008	hrodriguez@southwestranches.org
Emil C. Lopez, <i>Town Financial Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7473	elopez@southwestranches.org
Christina Semeraro, <i>Town Procurement Officer</i>	(954) 343-7467	csemeraro@southwestranches.org
Rich Strum, <i>Deputy Financial Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7442	rstrum@southwestranches.org
Arianna Durbeej, <i>Senior Accountant</i>	(954) 343-7477	adurbeej@southwestranches.org
Keith Poliakoff, <i>Town Attorney</i>	(954) 909-0580	keith@govlawgroup.com
Rod Ley, <i>Public Works Director</i>	(954) 343-7444	rley@southwestranches.org
Emily McCord Aceti, <i>Community Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7453	eaceti@southwestranches.org
Susan Kutz, <i>Administrative Specialist, Newsletter Editor & Graphic Designer</i>	(954) 343-7460	skutz@southwestranches.org
Joyce Marques, <i>Engineering Inspector</i>	(954) 343-7441	jmarques@southwestranches.org
December Lauretano-Haines, <i>Parks, Recreation & Open Space Director</i>	(954) 343-7452	dlaretano@southwestranches.org
Gilbert Ceballos, <i>Parks and Recreation Program Facilitator</i>	(954) 343-7468	gceballos@southwestranches.org
Mayuli Betancourt, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 343-7465	mbetancourt@southwestranches.org

TOWN SERVICES / BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING – (CAP GOVERNMENT)

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

PLANNING

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

Julio Medina, <i>Community Development/Code Compliance Director</i>	(954) 343-7458	zoninginfo@southwestranches.org
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CODE COMPLIANCE

Julio Medina, <i>Community Development/Code Compliance Director</i>	(954) 343-7458	jmedina@southwestranches.org
Manfred Velette, <i>Assistant Code Compliance Director</i>	(954) 343-7440	mvelette@southwestranches.org
Code Compliance Hotline	(954) 343-7449	
Concepcion Campos, <i>Code Compliance Officer</i>	(954) 343-7457	ccampos@southwestranches.org
Yirglhis Hernandez, <i>Code Compliance Administrative Officer</i>	(954) 343-7459	yhernandez@southwestranches.org
Ismail Rashid, <i>Code Compliance Officer</i>	(954) 434-0008	irashid@southwestranches.org

WASTE/BULK/RECYCLING SERVICES

WM (Waste Management)	(954) 974-7500	
REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS – Chief Bennett	(954) 868-2057	lbennett@southwestranches.org
MOSQUITO CONTROL	(954) 765-4062	
LOST AND FOUND ANIMALS	(754) 224-0877	Facebook@SWRLostandFoundAnimals

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY	911	
Non-Emergency	(954) 764-4357 (HELP)	
Davie Police Department	(954) 693-8200	
Eddy Velazquez, <i>Detective</i>	(954) 693-8290	evelazquez@davie-fl.gov
Cheryl Danner, <i>Police Services Coordinator</i>	(954) 693-8352	cdanner@southwestranches.org
Davie Fire Rescue Station 112	(954) 952-4608	
Volunteer Fire Rescue – Chief Bennett	(954) 868-2057	

TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES

Potholes and Signs Down – Public Works	(954) 343-7441	publicworks@southwestranches.org
Illicit Discharge – Environmental Response Line:	(954) 519-1499	online complaint form at: http://www.broward.org/Environment/Resources/Pages/EnviroComplaint.aspx

OTHER

WATER DISTRICTS - CANALS

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



A MESSAGE FROM

Mayor
Steve
Breitkreuz

things taken care of now before the season starts, it can take a lot of stress out of the season.

One of the annual checks that I do is that I have several battery backup devices around the house for computers, routers, and other devices. Each year at this time, I verify that they are still operational, so I don't have any surprises during the hurricane season. If you find that you need to replace some of these batteries, please be sure to save the old batteries and bring them to the next hazardous waste pick up at Rolling Oaks Park for safe disposal. Those pick-ups are scheduled on a quarterly basis and can be found in the Rancher.

Finally, I would encourage you, if you have small children, to bring them in on the hurricane plans now, before there is any danger so that they can get comfortable with those changes now. Well before we get into more of a crisis mode.

However you handle your preparation, please consider getting ready now before the hurricane season starts in June, so that we are all well-prepared for the upcoming hurricane season. Also, look for a lot more tips and sound advice in the upcoming June Rancher.

*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;

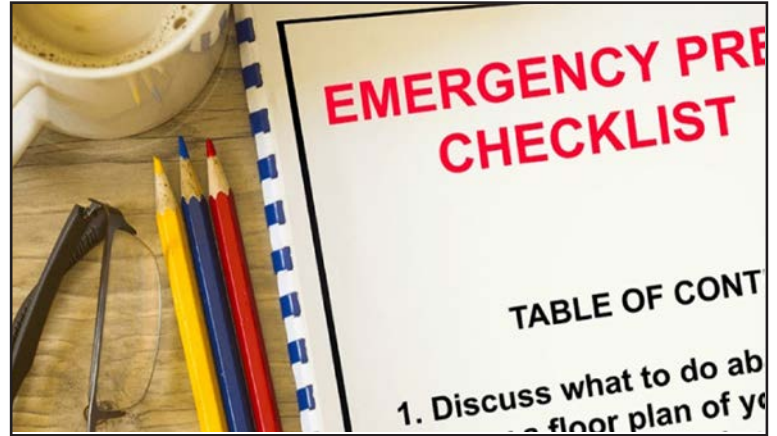
sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org;

[X@SteveBreitkreuz](#)

HURRICANE SEASON

While it seems like we have just seen a busy hurricane season come to an end not that long ago, believe it or not, another season is just around the corner starting on June first. So, now is the time to start getting prepared.

This is a great time to run to the store and stock items that you might need during the season such as the various hurricane supplies like refreshing your battery supply, as well food supplies such as canned goods as well as water. If we can get these



National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Day • May 15th



In 1962 President Kennedy proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officer Memorial Day and the week in which May 15th falls, as National Police Week.

On this National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Day, the Town of Southwest Ranches extends our deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the brave officers who have fallen in the line of duty. We Greatly Appreciate

these officers who went above and beyond and in doing so gave the ultimate sacrifice. May they Rest In Peace!

The week of the 15th of May is dedicated to Honoring All Law Enforcement Officers. With great pride and appreciation, the Town of Southwest Ranches thanks all members of the Law Enforcement communities across all cities, states and federal levels for their service and dedication to duty.

The Town is especially grateful for our partnership with the Davie Police for their continued readiness to address the safety and security needs of our community.

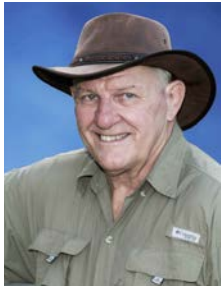
To all Law Enforcement Officers, stay safe and may God Bless.

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

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

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

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



A MESSAGE FROM

Council Member
Jim Allbritton

GOOD DAY SOUTHWEST RANCHES.

I have mentioned in previous articles that I am honored to represent our Town at the Broward League of Cities. Let me explain Who or What they are or do.

In 1957, the Broward County League of Cities was chartered to represent the then, 15 municipalities.

- The League is a non-partisan non-profit organization comprised of elected officials from Broward's 31 municipal governments and a representative from Broward County Commission.

- The League is a voluntary association that serves over 1.8 million residents and more than 125 associate government, non-profit and business organizations.

- The original charter provided a unified platform where representatives could help shape legislation and influence decisions on important topics such as education, transportation, growth and legislative decisions that crossed city lines and affected the entire County.

- The Leagues Current emphasis is much like the original charter: the organization is dedicated to the identification and resolution of problems that affect the day-to-day operations of local governments, including legislation at the county, state and federal levels.

- The Broward League of Cities is a member of the Florida League of Cities, which serves to unify local governments

throughout the state.

- The Florida league of Cities represents more than 400 cities.

"As your representative, I bring back information from all 31 municipalities about all the good legislation and bad legislation that is coming down from the State and Federal Government."

As I mentioned before is it my honor to represent the Town of Southwest Ranches as your District #3 Council Member.

I hope to see each one of you at our June 7th Birthday Party at the Rolling Oaks Barn. This looks to be a Party that will be remembered for a long time. A SPECIAL THANKS to Ms. Susan Kutz, the Town Staff and all the Volunteers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at;
954-343-7461 or 305-903-7043,
jallbritton@southwestranches.org



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Back Cover Council and Districts, 25th Anniversary Celebration Parade Entry Form, Household Hazardous Waste Event





A MESSAGE FROM

Council Member
David S. Kuczenski, Esq.

Howdy Ranchers,

I hope everyone is doing well. May is named after the Greek goddess Maia, the Greek Goddess of Spring. I have two topics of concern that I wish to share with you. Recently, Davie Police, in conjunction with other law enforcement departments in Broward apprehended two culprits for alleged mail theft in Sunshine Ranches. Upon booking, one of the perpetrators was turned over to I.C.E. Congratulations to Davie Police for a job well done. I guess I am

supposed to say, these folks are innocent until they are proven guilty.

Second, you may begin to see officers from Florida Highway Patrol stopping vehicles within our Town.

We have the Honor of hosting FHP to conduct road weight enforcement within our town.

Trucks carrying excessive weight causes our roads to wear out prematurely. The road deterioration caused by excessive weight then costs all of us for maintenance.

As your Council Member from District 4, my goal is 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. It has been an honor to serve you on the Council.


Very Truly Yours,
David S Kuczenski, Esq.
Council Member District 4

SHOW YOUR TOWN SPIRIT



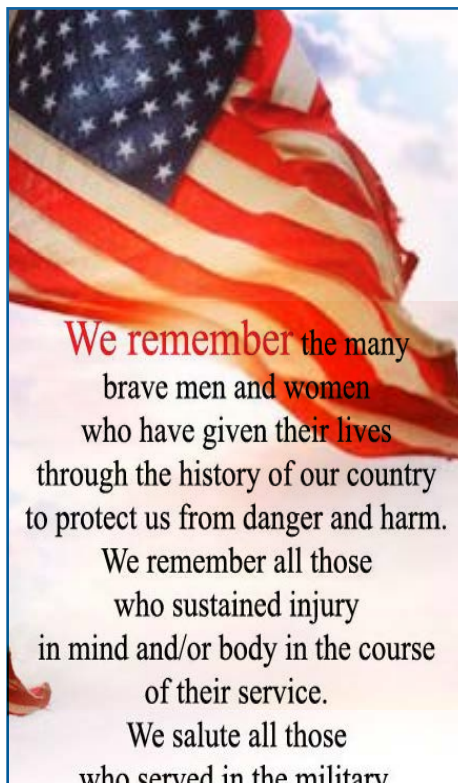
SWR stickers are made for residents by the Country Estates Homeowners Association.
Stickers are \$1 each and are available at Town Hall, 13400 Griffin Rd.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...
These two birthdays were unintentionally excluded in the March issue.
Please join us in celebrating:
Juliet Hernandez – March 20th
Yesenia Hernandez – March 25th
Grace Witcher - May 3rd



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



We remember the many brave men and women who have given their lives through the history of our country to protect us from danger and harm.

We remember all those who sustained injury in mind and/or body in the course of their service.

We salute all those who served in the military.

The Town of Southwest Ranches and i9SPORTS
i9sports.com

PROUDLY PRESENT
SPORTS! FUN!

REGISTER NOW

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.
- Stibling discounts available.
- The earlier you register, the more you save!

The Way Youth Sports Should Be®

SATURDAY PROGRAMS
THE FUN BEGINS OCTOBER 2024!

Helping Kids Succeed in Life Through Sports®



BOATING SAFETY

With Memorial Day and summer upon us, boating activity in Florida is at its peak. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Florida ranks number one in the nation for the number of registered boats. In 2023, the state had 659 reported boating accidents and 59 boat-related deaths, highlighting the urgent need for stronger boating

regulations and education.

In 2022, 17-year-old Luciana Fernandez was tragically killed when the driver of the boat struck a channel marker in Biscayne Bay. Another passenger, Katerina Puig was left permanently disabled and the driver was ultimately charged with felony vessel homicide. To prevent tragedies like this, Representatives Oliver and Lopez sponsored HB 289, or "Lucy's Law," a bill I am proud to cosponsor.

The bill makes numerous changes to the law including:

• If a person who operates a vessel is involved in an accident, leaves the scene without attempting to provide aid, share their identifying information, or contact law enforcement, they commit a:

◦ A second-degree misdemeanor if the accident results in property damage only

◦ A third-degree felony, ranked as a level five offense if the accident results in injury to a person other than serious bodily injury.

◦ A second-degree felony, ranked as a level six offense if the accident results in serious bodily injury.

◦ A first-degree felony if the accident results in the death of another person or an unborn child.

• Under the bill, anyone who leaves the scene of an accident that results in death must be sentenced to a minimum prison term of four years.

• The bill revises the penalties for reckless operation of a vessel to mirror the penalties for reckless driving.

◦ Second-degree misdemeanor, if reckless operation does not result in an accident.

◦ First-degree misdemeanor, if reckless operation results in an accident that causes damage to the property or person of another.

◦ Third-degree felony if reckless operation results in an accident that causes serious bodily injury.

• The bill aligns the sentencing requirements for a Boating Under the Influence (BUI) manslaughter conviction with those for a DUI manslaughter conviction by imposing a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of four years for a conviction for BUI manslaughter.

For more information on the bill visit www.FLHouse.gov.

Be safe in the water this Memorial Day!

Remember our office is dedicated to assisting constituents in every possible way. If you or someone you know needs help with a state issue, such as Medicaid and unemployment, please reach out to my office at (954)872-1757.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please reach out to me at Robin.Bartleman@myfloridahouse.gov or my cell at (954) 668-3662.

Thank you for your continued support!

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.

REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS

HIGHLY VISIBLE DAY OR NIGHT

Order today...

this could help save your life or someone you love.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

MOUNTING PREFERENCE:

Vertical (up/down) _____

Horizontal (left/right) _____

COLOR PREFERENCE:

_____ green w/white letters

_____ blue w/white letters

\$20.00

Make check payable to:

Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue

17220 Griffin Rd., Southwest Ranches 33331

Information call: Chief Bennett: 954-868-2057



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



TRASH TALK:

ZERO WASTE ADVISORY BOARD EDITION

- *Town Administrator Russell Muniz Muñiz represented the Town proud, with his presentation at the Zero Waste Forum held at Anne Kolb Nature Center.*
- *Board Members and Southwest Ranches residents attended the Zero Waste Forum and learned about many different Zero Waste initiatives to share with the Town and residents.*
- *The Board is planning a Zero Waste educational event at the Town's 25th Birthday Party.*
- *A WM Recycle Tour scheduled for April 30th. Please contact Dan Stewart at Town Hall if you'd like to attend.*
- *The Board invites all Town residents to attend and provide input at the monthly Zero Waste Advisory Board meeting.*



CALLING ALL TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES YOUNG ARTISTS ...

If your child enjoys drawing, we invite them to create a picture of their favorite part of the TOWN'S ANNIVERSARY PARTY (June 7th)

Paper and crayons will be available on the tables under the tent.

Submitted drawings may even be selected for a chance to be featured in the 2025-26 Town Calendar or Town Newsletter.

Email: Skutz@southwestranches.org

TURN WASTE INTO Gold

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PART OF OUR RESIDENTIAL COMPOST PILOT PROGRAM?

Sign up on the Town's website at <https://www.southwestranches.org/> under Hot Topics.

START YOUR HOME COMPOSTING JOURNEY WITH SOUTHWEST RANCHES.

13th Annual Photo Contest



The theme this year is...
"ENJOYING OUR TOWN"

Residents, please submit your photos no later than
September 9th with entry form and caption.

GET YOUR CAMERAS READY!

Bring your cameras to the 25th Anniversary Celebration
there will be many photo opportunities throughout the event.
Families are encouraged to capture unforgettable
moments—whether it's your child getting their face painted,
enjoying the wet slides, riding the merry-go-round, visiting
the petting zoo, or engaging in any other activity they love at
the party.

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

Email your favorite photo to:
Skutz@southwesttranches.org

UNITY IN DIVERSITY 5K RUN/WALK

SATURDAY APRIL 5, 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS



RESIDENTS OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES



Come and celebrate at "The Barn" located at 17630 SW 56th Street.

The celebration will kick off with a parade at 10:00 AM sharp on Mather Boulevard and Avocado Manor 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.

come and join the fun

come and join the fun

Email: Skutz@southwestranches.org

FLOOD SAFETY:

Know Your Risks

- **Do not walk through flowing water.** If you must walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure the depth of the water ahead.
- **Do not drive through a flooded area.** Do not drive around road barriers; the road may be washed out.
- **Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.** Electrical current travels through water. If possible, report downed powerlines to FPL. Do not use appliances or motors that are wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried.
- **Look out for animals, especially snakes.** Small animals that have been flooded out of their habitat may take shelter in your home.
- **Look before you step.** After a flood, the ground and floors can be covered with debris. Surfaces that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.
- **Be alert for gas leaks.** If your house is serviced by gas, do not smoke, use candles or open flames unless you know the gas has not built up. Make arrangements to turn off your electricity and gas.

To sign up to be notified via voice message, text and email for important public safety information during a storm visit <https://swranches.sircom.org/public>.



Financial Assistance Advice

If your home or business is damaged by a flood, you may be required to meet certain building requirements to reduce further flood damage by coming into compliance with local, state, and federal criteria. To help with these costs, financial assistance such as grants, loans, rebates and the NFIP's Increased Cost of Compliance Coverage may be available.

For assistance regarding financial assistance options, please contact the Town's Engineering Department at (954) 434-0008, Broward County's Mitigation Coordinator at (954) 831-3900 or visit Disasterassistance.gov.



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



Elevation Certificate Information

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



Water Quality and Flood Control Effects of Drainage Systems

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

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



Protect Property from Flooding

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

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



Build Responsibly

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

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



Flood Risk Specialist Available to Assist Residents

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



Local Flood Hazards

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

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

Since portions of Southwest Ranches have been designated as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), it is advisable to check the interactive map viewer to see the location of your property with respect to the SFHA. Visit <http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/floodinsurance-information/> and select Flood Maps. You can also call (954) 434-0008, provide your address and zip code, and Town staff will assist you in determining SFHA information specific to your property.



Protect Natural Floodplain Functions

Although much of the natural flood plain system in South Florida has been altered and is frequently over-drained, efforts are being made to enhance many historical wetlands and canals to restore them to a more natural state. These flood plain and wetland areas buffer flood flows, remove pollutants from our surface waters, recharge groundwater and create diverse habitat systems for plants and animals. The Southwest Ranches Comprehensive Plan includes policies pertaining to flood plains and wetlands. The plan provides for protection and creation of surface waters, protection and wetlands preservation.



Map Services

Maps are an effective method of communicating information about flood hazards. Residents and businesses that are aware of potential flood hazards can take steps to avoid problems and reduce exposure to flooding.

Therefore, the Town offers complementary maps to supplement and clarify the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with information on additional hazards, flooding outside mapped areas, development regulations that affect floodplain properties, flood insurance, natural floodplain functions, and property protection measures.

A GIS mapping application for Southwest Ranches that is publicly available includes information you will need for a flood insurance policy including whether your property is in a SFHA, the community number, panel number and suffix, FIRM date, FIRM zone, base flood elevation and the elevation datum used. Additional FIRM information is also available showing areas of concern such as whether your property is located within a floodway.

The Town has mapped local drainage problem areas within the Town. In addition, the Town has a map providing information about past floods that have occurred. If you live in one of these areas, we would like to have a discussion with you regarding potential remedies.

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

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

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

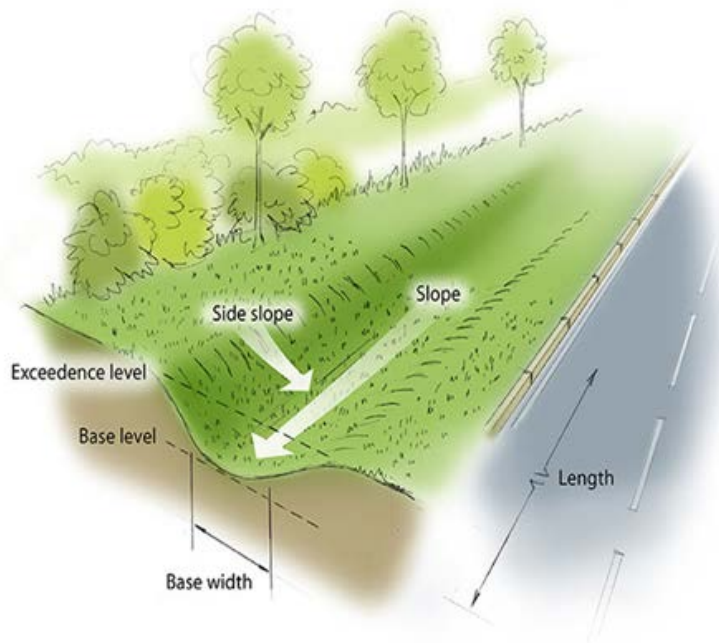
Source: Broward County Flood News, Summer 2018, Volume 24, Issue 1

MAINTAIN YOUR SWALE

In Southwest Ranches, swales can be found along the front of your property and are there to contain water runoff. The centerline of the swale is typically 12 inches below the edge of pavement. This ensures that the roads are clear after a rain event.

Do not fill them in or plant in these areas. The swale should be clear of all obstructions in order to work efficiently. You should keep your swale well-mowed and free of litter and debris so water can flow freely. Check swales periodically for both erosion or natural build-up of sediments. If water collects in the swale, leave it alone - it means the system is working!

A swale is one of the most common type of stormwater best management practice (BMP). Swales not only convey stormwater but also help to treat runoff by reducing nutrient loading. Because swales have a wide and relatively flat profile, rainwater collected within them is slowed significantly. The reduction in the velocity of the runoff promotes temporary ponding. Reducing the water's speed allows for suspended solids such as heavy metals, eroded soil particles, and other pollutants to settle and filter into the swale's vegetation cover. Stormwater staging in the swale allows the water to percolate into the soil, helping to reduce the volume and amount of pollutants transported downstream. The pollutant reduction will improve the water quality in surrounding water bodies.



MAINTAIN YOUR SWALE

- Mow the swale.
- Remove and then compost leaves and grass clippings.
- Keep good grass growth.
- Minimize use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.
- Aerate soils to restore percolation rate.
- Inspect for erosion. Any damaged sod should be replaced immediately.

DO NOT MISUSE YOUR SWALE

- Do not pile garbage, trash, leaves, limbs or debris in swales - this adds pollutants, which can wash into downstream waters.
- Do not park vehicles in the swale - this compacts the soil so less runoff is absorbed.
- Do not plant trees or shrubs or place obstructions within the swale.

LET THE WATER POND

- Runoff should temporarily pond in the swale for up to 72 hours.

ACROSS

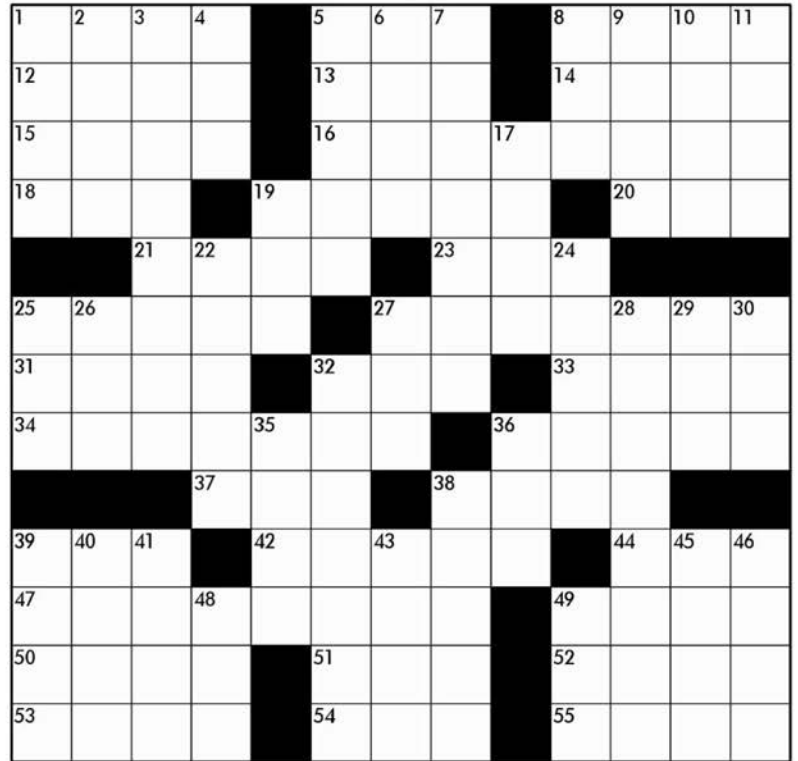
1. Chief
5. Poke
8. Nocturnal birds
12. Killer whale
13. Beer
14. Cure
15. Abound
16. Convert to Islam
18. Label
19. Blossom
20. Colour
21. Responsibility
23. Victory sign
25. Celtic priest
27. Higher political houses
31. Yin and -
32. Assist
33. Routine
34. Makes beloved
36. Put
37. Male sheep
38. Parts of week
39. Choose
42. Shaving tool
44. Male cat
47. Goes before
49. Survive

50. Prefix, alr
51. Land measure
52. Unique thing
53. American wildcat
54. Sail
55. Monster

DOWN

1. Clump of trees
2. Region
3. Hemmed in by ice
4. Vietnam
5. Prisons
6. As well as
7. Greatly loved
8. Electrical resistance unit
9. Dam
10. Loll
11. Toboggan
17. Prayer ending
19. Immature flower
22. African river
24. In good time
25. Change colour of
26. Fled
27. Sister
28. Drinking to
29. Etcetera
30. Witness
32. Battle fleets

Puzzle #08



answers on page 14

35. River in central Switzerland
36. Normal
38. Administered medicine to

39. Iridescent gem
40. Victim
41. Sea bird
43. Nil
45. Finished

46. Lake
48. Person steering boat and directing rowers
49. Card game

RECYCLE RIGHT

No Polystyrene Foam & Plastic

Polystyrene foam, plastic "to-go" containers and cups are made of non-recyclable materials, and are not acceptable in the curbside recycling program.

<https://www.wm.com/us/en/recycle-right/recycling-101#guide>

FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Florida's bats are facing many challenges, but there are ways you can help.

(source: <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/bats/help/>)

Loss of natural roosting sites

Bats rely on roosting sites to sleep in during the day. There are many kinds of roosting sites. Commonly, these include live and dead trees, dead palm fronds, Spanish moss, old structures, and caves. When these sites are destroyed, bats must find new places to live and may have to travel far to do so.

Death due to disease

Outside of Florida, a disease called white-nose syndrome (WNS) has killed millions of cave-roosting bats and is spreading rapidly. WNS has not reached Florida, but the reduction of populations of some bats outside of Florida are negatively impacting populations within Florida.

Disturbance in hibernation caves

Entering caves while bats are hibernating causes stress to bats. This increases the need to spend more energy finding food resources during the winter. This stress can cause death if compounded with WNS. Traveling between caves from out of state can also spread the fungus that causes WNS to Florida.

How to help our bats

1. Spread the word that bats help people by eating large amounts of mosquitoes and agricultural pests in Florida.
2. Leave snags, Spanish moss, and dead fronds in your yard and neighborhood if they don't create safety hazards. These natural materials make great homes for bats.
3. Construct a bat house and garden for bats in your yard or neighborhood.
4. Follow proper bat exclusion techniques if you have bats in your home or other structures.
5. Do not enter Florida caves with shoes, clothing or equipment that has been used in caves outside of Florida.
6. Report unusual bat behavior (a bat grounded or being aggressive) to the FWC.

Bats in Florida

Vesper Bats



Free-tailed Bats





BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE MARCH 13, 2025 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2025-043 approving a water services agreement with the City of Sunrise for 5601 Thoroughbred Lane.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-044 approving a contract with REP Services for playground equipment for Equestrian Park.

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE MARCH 27, 2025, TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2025-045 approving the Agreement with Complete Cities Planning Group for Planning, Zoning, and Land Use Services.

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.



Puzzle #08



MARTY KIAR

BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

Copies of Deeds are Public Records & Available for Free Online

We often hear of mailings aimed at Broward County property owners offering to provide the owner with a copy of their deed or previously recorded document. The company will provide this service for a fee; however, most documents are available online for free.

Deeds and many other important documents are already available online and free on Broward County's Records website and linked from our office's website. To search for a recorded deed on our website, simply search for the property record at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Record-Search> and click on the blue "Book/Page or CIN" number located under "Sales History for this Parcel" on the property record page. This will link you to the recorded document in Broward County Records where you can print a copy from their website.

Deeds recorded prior to January 1, 1978 and recorded deeds utilizing social security numbers must be ordered in person or by written request to County Records. To search for documents recorded with Broward County Records, go to <https://officialrecords.broward.org/AcclaimWeb> and select your search criteria. Documents matching these criteria will be displayed and you can print a copy of the selected document. Broward County Records may be reached at 954.831.4000 should you need additional assistance.

Once the deed is recorded with the Broward County Records Division, it is provided to our office so the property record can be updated. If a property owner is registered with our free Owner Alert notification service, the owner will receive an email/text notification of this change along with the link to the recorded document to ensure the change was done at the owner's request. Property owners can register for Owner Alert online at <https://web.bcpa.net/owneralert>.

Legal Surveys – Property Boundaries

Owners are not required to file surveys with our office -- unless they are seeking to split or combine parcels -- so we very rarely see copies of legal property surveys. Property owners should have a copy of their legal property survey in the closing documents when they purchased the property. This survey defines the property's boundaries, legal description and any easements or restrictions to help resolve any property line disputes and can be used for any permitting requirements.

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



MartyKiarBCPA
@MartyKiarBCPA

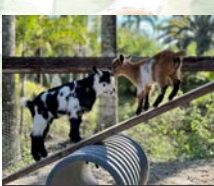


PHOTO BY: DEBRAH MORRIS
"See Saw, You saw, WE saw,
Let's See Saw"

May, 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 • Public Safety & Traffic Committee - Town Hall 7pm	2	3 • Soccer & Flag Football - Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 7- 1:00pm • HHW EVENT 8-2, Shredding 8-2, Drug Drop Off 10-2 Rolling Oaks Park 17630 SW 56th Street • Farmers' Market - 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm
4 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm	5 CINCO de MAYO • Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7pm • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting-Town Hall 7pm	6 • Broward County Property Appraiser Office 10:30 - 12:30pm Town Hall • Zero Waste Advisory Board Town Hall - 7pm	7 • CODE Special Magistrate Hearing - Town Hall 9am	8 BULK ZONE 4 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm	9 BULK ZONE 5	10 BULK ZONE 6 • Soccer & Flag Football - Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 7:30am - 1:00pm • 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
11 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm	12 • Schools & Education Advisory Board - Town Hall 7pm	13 • Parks, Recreation Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	14 • Zero Waste Broward Task Force Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	15	16	17 • Soccer & Flag Football - Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 7:30am - 1:00pm • 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	
18 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm	19 • Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	20 • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	21 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	22 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm	23	24 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm
BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12	
25 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm	26 Memorial Day	27 • Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56th St. 7pm	28 • FLOW MOBILE DMV EVENT - Town Hall 10 - 2:00pm • Sunshine Ranches HOA ZOOM 7 - 9pm	29	30	31 • Soccer & Flag Football - Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 7:30am - 1:00pm • 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	

BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOL CALENDAR				
MAY				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30
- Monday, May 26th - Schools and Administrative Offices Closed				



TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES Annual PHOTO CONTEST entry form Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board - 13400 Griffin Road Southwest Ranches, Florida 33330	
NAME:	_____
ADDRESS:	_____
PHONE:	CELL: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS:	_____
CAPTION FOR PHOTO: I UNDERSTAND, ACKNOWLEDGE, AND AGREE THAT THE SUBMISSION OF PHOTOGRAPHS TO THE TOWN CONSTITUTES A "WORK MADE FOR HIRE," AND I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO THE WORK AND THE WORK PRODUCT, INCLUDING MORAL OR OTHERWISE. THIS STATEMENT SHALL CONTROL OVER THE PROVISIONS OF 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106(A) AND SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER BY ME OF ANY RIGHTS IN THE WORK SET OUT IN OR OTHERWISE GRANTED BY 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106(A), VISUAL ARTISTS RIGHTS ACT OF 1990. All other rights in and to the Work, including but not limited to all rights in the nature of "Droit Moral" relating to any continuuwsang interest I may have in the maintenance or modification of the Work, are expressly waived and, insofar as such rights are transferable, are assigned to the TOWN. MY work IS ORIGINAL AND IT complies with all applicable patent, trademark and copyright laws, rules, regulations and codes. I UNDERSTAND, ACKNOWLEDGE, AND AGREE THAT THROUGH THE CONVEYANCE OF MY SUBMISSION THE WORK WILL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE TOWN AND MAY BE USED, REPRODUCED, SOLD, OR MODIFIED BY THE TOWN IN THE TOWN'S SOLE DISCRETION.	
SIGNATURE:	_____ (Date)
SIGNATURE OF GUARDIAN FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18:	_____ (Date)



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



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!

PRSR STD
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Facebook:
facebook@SWRGOV



YouTube:
Town of Southwest Ranches
Official Channel

CLICK ON QR CODE
TO VISIT US AT

WWW.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG



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!

Line-Up: 9:00 AM at Mather Blvd. & Avocado Manor
Parade Begins: 10:00 AM sharp, heading to Rolling Oaks Barn
Party Time: 11:00 AM - 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 seeks 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 Russell Muniz at rmuniz@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
PR Florida Technical Consultants