SOUTHWEST RANCHER The Official Town Newsletter

Are You Ready for HURRICANE SEASON?

Preparation today can make all the difference tomorrow.



TURN WASTE INTO GOLD See page 17

TRASH TALK: Zero Waste See page 17

Happy Father's Day

JUNE 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

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Joyce Marques, Engineering Inspector	(954) 343-7441	jmarques@southwestranches.org
December Lauretano-Haines, Parks, Recreation & Open Space Director	(954) 343-7452	dlauretano@southwestranches.org
Gilbert Ceballos, <i>Parks and Recreation Program Facilitator</i> Mayuli Betancourt, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 343-7468 (954) 343-7465	gceballos@southwestranches.org mbetancourt@southwestranches.org
-		
TOWN SERVICES / BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING - (CAP GOVERNME Simo Mansor, Building Official	(954) 343-7448	M-F 8:30 am - 4:00 pm swrinspections@southwestranches.org
Derlin Guevara, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446	swrinspections@southwestranches.org
Maria Perez, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7445	swrinspections@southwestranches.org
PLANNING		·······
Jeff Katims	(954) 554-8894	jeff@completecities.net
ZONING/PERMITTING		
Julio Medina, Community Development/Code Compliance Director	(954) 343-7458	zoninginfo@southwestranches.org
CODE COMPLIANCE		
Julio Medina, Community Development/Code Compliance Director	(954) 343-7458	jmedina@southwestranches.org
Manfred Velette, Assistant Code Compliance Director	(954) 343-7440	mvelette@southwestranches.org
Code Compliance Hotline	(954) 343-7449	
Concepcion Campos, <i>Code Compliance Officer</i> Yirglhis Hernandez, <i>Code Compliance Administrative Officer</i>	(954) 343-7457 (954) 343-7459	ccampos@southwestranches.org
Ismail Rashid, <i>Code Compliance Officer</i>	(954) 434-0008	yhernandez@southwestranches.org irashid@southwestranches.org
-	(334) 434 0000	indshid(disodthwestidhenes.org
WASTE/BULK/RECYCLING SERVICES	(954) 974-7500	
WM (Waste Management) REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS – Chief Bennett	(954) 868-2057	lbennett@southwestranches.org
MOSQUITO CONTROL	(954) 765-4062	bennett@southwestranches.org
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, Police Services Coordinator	(954) 693-8352	cdanner@southwestranches.org
Davie Fire Rescue Station 112	(954) 952-4608	
Volunteer Fire Rescue - Chief Bennett	(954) 868-2057	
TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES		
Potholes and Signs Down - Public Works	(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	(054) 470 5110	
Central Broward Water Control District	(954) 432-5110	www.centralbrowardwcd.org
<i>East of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)</i> South Broward Drainage District	(954) 680-3337	www.sbdd.org
West of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)		

TOWN BIRTHDAY PARTY



A MESSAGE

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz

FROM

Back in May of 1995, we moved our family to what was then unincorporated Broward County. We moved here, like many of you, because we wanted to have the open space. We wanted a bit more freedom from regulation, and we wanted to raise our family around animals and all the responsibility and discipline that raising a young family around animals can bring.

In those late 1990s, a number of attempts were made by municipalities around us to incorporate parts of what is now Southwest Ranches. That then brought

on the organization of a movement to start our own Town. While there are too many individuals involved to name them all, I do want to call out a few. First, I want to mention Gary Poliakoff who provided much of that initial legal guidance as well as smoothing the way in Tallahassee and finally becoming our initial Town Attorney. His contributions cannot be overestimated. Then, I want to recognize the initial Town Council:

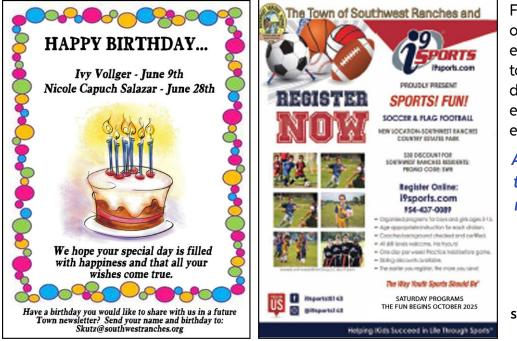
- Mayor Mecca Fink
- Council Member Johnny Dollar
- Council Member Freddy Fisikelli
- Council Member Aster Knight
- Council Member Forrest Blanton

"... These were all true pioneers in building our Town out of nothing. And the resident support was overwhelming..."

When we finally had the vote to decide on either joining another municipality or forming the town, over 90% of the voters were in favor of forming our own town. So much had to be done, and was done, by that initial group and all the residents that supported them, and at times corrected them. But we all had the same vision, to create a beautiful community where we could continue to preserve and celebrate our rural lifestyle.

So, the town was officially formed in June of 2000. And over the last 25 years, I believe that we have created the most beautiful and desirable place to live in all of Broward County. That is what open spaces, minimal regulation and a love of nature and animals will result in, when applied with a lot of hard work by the entire community.

So, this June 7th, we are celebrating our 25th birthday! It is an incredible event full of special guests, fun events, and even a few surprises. Please come out and join me and the rest of your Council in this celebration. This is a very special day for all of us. But what makes it even more special is sharing it together. So, whether you moved 30 years or more ago, or last week, or sometime in between, please come out and share this very special day, celebrating all that has been accomplished to preserve our rural lifestyle for the next generation to enjoy.



Finally, I also want to thank all those on staff that helped make this special event what it is, with special thanks to Susan Kutz, who has been working diligently for a very long time to ensure that this day was special for everyone. Thank-you Susan!

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

Council Member Gary Jablonski

Hi everyone.

Exciting things are happening in our Town this month with our 25th Birthday. It is amazing that 25 years have passed since we incorporated, it seems like yesterday and yet here we are. We stand on solid financial footing thanks to our outstanding administration. Our Parks are being developed at a rate that we can afford. Our Town has become an unbelievable living destination thanks to all our Policies, and our Town Council has become a great cohesive body putting the residents first and foremost in our decision making.

Where am I going with all this is simple. We are having a huge celebration on June 7th at Rolling Oaks Park. This party is for all our Town residents and there will be lots to do and see at the park. We will have Train rides for the kids, water slides, Merry-goround, Live bands and DJs plus a lot of Barbeque for everyone. All of this NO' CHARGE to the residents and visitors. WE were able to raise the funds through some pretty generous donations, a big THÁNK YOU to all our sponsors who are too numerous to name here.

I hope to see everyone there. We have a parade starting at 10 AM south of the park on SW 178th Avenue that will be exciting to see, so arrive early. Our Town Staff have been working on this event for months and it shows with all the things to do and enjoy about what makes our Town so great.

It's my honor and privilege to serve you. Gary.



A MESSAGE FROM

Council Member David S. Kuczenski, Esq.

Howdy Southwest Ranchers,

Happy June. Can you believe we already halfway through are 2025? Along with being halfway through 2025, June also marks the beginning of the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season. I wish to ask everyone to do an assessment of your property for trees that need trimming or cutting down. Trees and branches that are dead become aerial objects during a hurricane. If you have invasives, depending on the size, you may need to inquire whether a permit will be necessary to remove exotics. It is better to make an inquiry instead of finding out after the fact.

This month we will also have our Town's 25th Birthday celebration. I hope to see you there.

Additionally, please keep your speed at the posted speed limit signs. The speed limits are set to keep our neighborhoods safe for houseback riders, children, families exercising, domestic animals and wildlife.

As Council Member, for District 4, I aim to preserve Southwest Ranches' unique rural lifestyle and minimize any changes to it. Together, let's protect and maintain what makes our community special.

I also strive to return all phone calls within 24 to 48 hours. If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me. As always, it has been an honor to serve as your voice on the Council.

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



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TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES



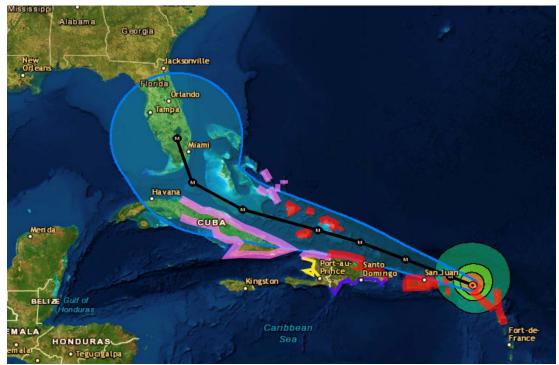
Hurricane Season is June 1 – November 30

PRE-RECORDED EMERGENCY MESSAGE FOR SOUTHWEST RANCHES RESIDENTS: (954) 343-7455 Southwest Ranches Town Hall General Info. (954) 434-0008

Before an emergency threatens, all Broward County residents should have a plan in place to help ensure their safety, including those who have disabilities and/or health issues that put them at risk in an emergency. All residents should be prepared with basic needs such as water, food, medicine and gas in case electricity or telephones are cut off for an extended period. If you are unable to prepare an emergency plan for yourself, ask a family member or friend to help you or go to: <u>Hurricane 10 Steps to</u> <u>Preparedness (broward.org)</u>. Before a weather emergency or other disaster strikes, you should know what you need to do and where you need to go to be

"Ready. Set. Safe."

Hurricane Preparedness Guide (broward. org)



HURRICANE TERMINOLOGY



TROPICAL CYCLONE - A warm-core non-frontal synoptic-scale cyclone, originating over tropical or subtropical waters, with organized deep convection and a closed surface wind circulation about a well- defined center. Once formed, it is maintained by the extraction of heat energy from the ocean at high temperature and heat export at the low temperatures of the upper troposphere. They differ from extratropical cyclones, which derive their energy from horizontal temperature contrasts in the atmosphere (baroclinic effects).

TROPICAL DEPRESSION - A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained surface winds (one-minute average) of 38 mph (33 knots) or less.

TROPICAL STORM - A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained surface winds ranging from 39-73 mph (34 to 63 knots).

HURRICANE - A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher.

MAJOR HURRICANE - A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 111 mph (96 knots) or higher, corresponding to Category 3, 4 or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

EYE WALL - An organized band of cumulonimbus clouds immediately surrounding the center of the tropical cyclone.

STORM SURGE - Is a rise in sea level that occurs during tropical cyclones, intense storms also known as typhoons or hurricanes. The storms produce strong winds that push the water into shore, which can lead to flooding. This makes storm surges very dangerous for coastal regions.

EXTREME WIND - An Extreme Wind Warning will be issued if sustained winds of 115 mph or greater are expected to begin in a specific area within the hour.

TROPICAL STORM WATCH - Is issued when Tropical Storm conditions, including winds of 39-73 mph, pose a POSSIBLE threat to a specified coastal area within 48 hours.

TROPICAL STORM WARNING - A tropical cyclone containing sustained winds of 39-73 mph is expected in the next 36 hours or less.

HURRICANE WATCH – A hurricane may pass near or through the area within 48 hours. **HURRICANE WARNING** – A hurricane is expected in 36 hours or less; all precautions should be taken immediately. <u>Hurricane Preparedness Guide (broward.org)</u>

Category	Wind Speed (mph)	Damage
1	74 - 95	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage
2	96 - 110	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage
3	111 - 129	Devastating damage will occur
4	130 - 156	Catastrophic damage will occur
5	> 156	Catastrophic damage will occur

A detailed description of the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is available at http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshws.php.





- Before the storm develop a hurricane plan.
- Charge all cell phones.
- Fill all vehicles with gasoline.
- Store all important documents in sealed plastic containers.
- For insurance purposes, create visual and written records of all assets.
- Take current photos of the interior and exterior of your home and other outdoor assets.
- Have a plan in place for all family pets and livestock.
- Know in advance where you and your family will go if an evacuation order is issued.
- Have all family medications and medical supplies on hand including:
 - o Prescriptions and over-the-counter medications
 - o Oxygen
 - o Insulin
 - o Any other medical supplies that may be required by a member of the household.
- Do not place bulk out when a storm is imminent as bulk items may become projectiles causing damage to property and possibly animals and humans.
- Know your area's risk of hurricanes.
 Sign up for the Town's warning system: HQE Emergency Alert System – SWRanches.sircom.org/public.
- If you are at risk of flash flooding, watch for signs such as heavy rain.
- Practice going to a safe shelter for high winds, such as a FEMA safe room. The next best protection is a small, interior, windowless room in a sturdy building on the lowest level that is not subject to flooding. Based on your location and community plans, make your own plans for evacuation or sheltering in place.
- Become familiar with your evacuation zone, the evacuation route, and shelter locations. Gather needed supplies for at least three days. Keep in mind each

person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.

- Plan well in advance if you will need help leaving or need public transportation.
- Keep important documents in a safe place or create password-protected digital copies.
- Protect your property. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves in plumbing to prevent backups. Consider hurricane shutters. Review insurance policies.
- Check batteries and stock up on canned food, first aid supplies, drinking water and medications.
- Have on hand an extra supply of cash.
- Fuel and service family vehicles.
- Be ready to live without power, water, gas, phone, and Internet for a long time.

Trim all trees and vegetation at the beginning of hurricane season. Do not trim trees when a storm is imminent. They can become missiles during a storm, which cause severe damage.





- Remain calm.
- Stay indoors in a secure location or your "safe room." The strongest part of a house is usually away from windows and exterior doors.
- Place towels along windowsills and at the bottom of the door heading outside to keep water from coming in.
- Use flashlights, not candles or kerosene lamps, during the storm.
- Elevate valuables to tabletops or higher places if flooding occurs.
- Be aware that tornados can appear anytime during a hurricane. Monitor your local

radio stations and if a tornado warning is issued, take cover in an interior hallway or "safe room."

- Stay indoors until the storm has passed. A calm period during the eye of the storm may cause some people to think the storm has passed. Remain indoors until the news stations say it is safe to move about the area.
- If your house starts to break apart, cover yourself with a mattress. If your safe room is a bathroom with a bathtub, get in the tub under a mattress.
- Limit telephone use to urgent calls only.

STAY SAFE AFTER THE STORM

- Assume that all downed power lines are energized. Stay away and call 911.
- Avoid standing water. It may be hiding downed power lines, hazardous objects, and wildlife.
- Do not venture out at night.
- Traffic lights and signs may be down. Drive only in case of emergency. Treat each intersection as a four-way stop.
- Separate vegetation debris from structural debris.
- Place all hurricane debris away from mailboxes, power poles or utility boxes.
- Do not obstruct fire wells or hydrants.
- Trash must be in front of your residence to be removed.
- Trash left in the street is a safety hazard.
- Refer to the Town of Southwest Ranches

website, social media, emergency notification, message boards and prerecorded emergency messages for debris pick up scheduling updates.

- NOTE: commercial property, plant nurseries and vacant lots will not be cleared by government-funded pickup services.
- Take photos of all damaged areas and possessions. Make temporary repairs to protect your property from further damage. Cover damaged roofs and windows with plastic. Keep records of all bills and payments for insurance estimators. It is the responsibility of residents to remove any downed trees not blocking roadways or power lines.

A WORD ABOUT FLOOD INSURANCE

The Town of Southwest Ranches participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). To ascertain your flood risk, go to <u>www.floodsmart.gov</u> to find out if your property is at risk of flooding. THE FEDERAL NFIP DOES NOT COVER HOMEOWNERS OR RENTERS! YOU MUST HAVE YOUR OWN INDIVIDUAL FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY. Standard homeowner's insurance policies do not cover losses due to floods.

PROTECT YOUR POOL

- Keep water in the pool as it will protect the pool's finish from sand and flying debris. You may lower the water level, but no more than one to two feet. Otherwise, hydrostatic pressure could cause the pool to pop out of the ground.
- Add extra chlorine to the water to prevent contamination.
- Turn off the power to the pool equipment.
- Remove the pool pump motor and store it indoors in a dry place or wrap the motor in a plastic material such as a garment bag and secure it tightly with tape or rope.
- Remove all loose items from the pool area (furniture, pool cleaning equipment, and potted plants)
- After the storm, reinstall the pump, return the water level to normal; clean pool thoroughly; balance the pH, super-chlorinate, and run the filter until the water is clean. <u>Hurricane Preparedness Guide (broward.org)</u>



Shelter INFORMATION

PLEASE NOTE: not all shelters may be open during a state of emergency. In the event of an

evacuation order, monitor Broward County's website, <u>www.broward.org/hurricane</u>, news reports or call the Broward County Emergency Hotline—311 or (954) 831-4000 for specific shelter openings. Emergency shelters are a service of the Broward County Commission, American Red Cross, Broward County School Board and Florida Department of Health. **Please visit:** <u>www.broward.org/hurricane/pages/shelter.aspx</u> for shelters that are open.

GENERAL POPULATION SHELTERS:

Fox Trail Elementary School, 1250 Nob Hill Rd., Davie 33324
 West Broward High School, 500 NW 20th Ave., Pembroke Pines 33029
 Gator Run Elementary School, 1101 Glades Parkway, Weston 33327
 Panther Run Elementary School, 801 NW 172nd Ave., Pembroke Pines 33029



SHELTER OPTIONS FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Special Neuron If you have a medical condition that requires a greater level of care than provided at a general population shelter, but you do not require hospitalization or a medical institution, a special needs shelter may be appropriate for you. These shelters offer basic medical assistance and monitoring. Pre-registration for the special needs

shelter is open throughout the year and requires your physician's involvement. To request or obtain an application for a Special Needs Shelter, call Broward County Emergency Management at (954) 831-3902 (TTY 954-831-3940). Pre-registration is strongly encouraged to ensure the shelter will be adequately prepared to meet your needs.

- Talk to your physician or health care provider about a realistic plan for your safety. Know what you can and can't do and which medicines you need to remain healthy.
- If you undergo routine treatments administered by a physician's office, clinic, or hospital (such as dialysis), are a home healthcare client, or require oxygen supplies, call your service provider to discuss their plans for continuing service to you in an emergency.
- Consider your sheltering options and decide on a sheltering plan that is appropriate for your needs. You should have a plan, even if your plan is to shelter at home. <u>Hurricane Preparedness Guide</u> (broward.org)

VULNERABLE POPULATION REGISTRY



This Registry is a joint partnership between municipalities and Broward County. All information provided will be held in strict confidence as required by state law.

WHAT IS IT? The Vulnerable Population Registry is a tool that municipalities can use to help evaluate residents' needs in their communities and assist in planning a response in an emergency. While registering in the database is not a guarantee that you will be provided services or placed on a priority list for responders, it will help responders be better prepared to meet your needs in a recovery. You only need to register once.

<u>PRE-REGISTER</u>: If you are at risk due to a disability, frailty, or health issue, regardless of age, you elect to stay at home in the event of a hurricane or other emergency. In advance, and before a storm threatens, online at: Broward.org/Registry, by calling the Broward County Call Center at 311 or (954) 831-4000 (TTY 954- 831-3940).

CARING FOR OUR FOUR-LEGGED FAMILY MEMBERS PET-FRIENDLY SHELTERS



A pet-friendly shelter operated by Broward County and the Broward County Humane Society is available to residents with pets on a first-come, firstserved basis. Advance, in-person registration is recommended, but not required. For more information call the Humane Society at (954) 989-3977.

PET-FRIENDLY SHELTER operated by the American Red Cross and the Broward County Humane Society is also available to residents with pets who either live in an evacuation area or in a mobile home anywhere in Broward County.

PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED; CALL 954-989-3977.

DESIGNATED PET-FRIENDLY SHELTERS:

Falcon Cove Middle School, 4251 Bonaventure Blvd ., Weston, FL 33332; **Everglades High School,** 17100 SW 48th Court, Miramar, FL 33027

CARING FOR LARGE ANIMALS

- No one can guarantee where your animal will be safe. The decision is yours. If you cannot make your property safe because of the condition of the barn, trees, power lines, low lying land prone to flooding, or general condition of the neighboring properties, plan on evacuating your horse or large animal at least 48 hours before the storm.
- Review all tips provided and implement as many as possible.
- Remove or secure tools and loose objects.
- Board up barn windows.
- Whether you decide to keep your animals in the barn, the pasture, or trailer them out of the area, it is very important that you have them haltered, preferably with a leather halter, and have them well identified.
- For horses, attach a fetlock or mare band to your animal with your contact information written in permanent ink on the band. Place the animal's identification and contact information on a waterproof luggage tag and braid it close to the base of the horse's tail.

- Attach identification and contact information to the halter. Secure it tightly in a plastic bag and affix it to the halter with packing tape.
- If your animal is tattooed or has a microchip, make sure that the ownership information is current in the registration database.
- Spray paint your area code and telephone number on the side of the animal in a contrasting color. Use acrylic paint because it should wear off in 1-2 weeks.
 - Shut off electricity to the barn before the storm. Unplug any appliances inside the barn so that they will not become energized by an electrical surge due to a lightning strike. This minimizes the chances of a fire.
- Water: Have enough water for up to 5 days.
- Food: Be sure you have adequate supplies of hay and grain prior to the storm. You may not be able to get out for several days or longer. Grain should be stored in water-proof containers, and if possible be removed from all floors. The hay should be at least 2 feet off the floor and covered well, in the event of leaks.

SAFETY TIPS:

Generators are useful on a temporary basis, but they can be extremely dangerous. Hazards include carbon monoxide poisoning from toxic engine exhaust, electric shock, electrocution, and fire.

- Use a licensed electrician to install a permanent generator.
- Obtain the necessary permits
- Use the generator according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Place portable generators outside in a wellventilated area, NEVER inside a home including garages or crawl spaces.
- Do not connect it directly to your house, as the power generated may flow into power lines causing damage.
- You cannot see or smell carbon monoxide. If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get outside to fresh air immediately.
- Install battery-operated or plug-in carbon monoxide alarms with battery back up in your home.
- Do not refuel a generator while it is running.
- Do not store fuel indoors.



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Hurricane Preparedness Guide (broward.org)



Those affected by a natural disaster can unfortunately become victims of bad-acting businesses and individuals out to profit from the misfortune of others. Florida has a tough price gouging law designed to protect its residents and guests from becoming victims during or after a disaster.

Q: WHAT IS PRICE GOUGING?

Florida Statute 501.160 states that during a state of emergency, it is unlawful to rent, sell, lease, essential commodities, dwelling units, or self-storage facilities at an unconscionable price. A price is presumed to be unconscionable if: (1) there is a gross disparity between the price charged during the state of emergency and the average price during the 30 days before the state of emergency or (2) the price grossly exceeds the average price the same or similar commodity was available in the trade area during the 30 days before the declaration of the state of emergency unless the seller can justify the price by showing increases in its costs or market trends.

Q: HOW DO I AVOID B ECOMING A VICTIM OF PRICE GOUGING?

The best method to avoid price gouging is to plan ahead.

Prepare for a disaster before it happens, so you have the supplies you need on hand. By creating a disaster preparedness kit that contains non-perishable supplies such as batteries, generators, canned goods, bottled water etc. needed for the storm season, not only will you diminish the opportunity to be price gouged on an item, but you may also avoid long lines or shortages that may leave you without a necessary item as a named storm approaches.

DISASTER KIT CHECKLIST

- ✓ Water: One gallon of water per day, per person for three to seven days. Non-perishable snacks and canned goods: Enough for at least three to seven days.
 - ✓ Manual can opener.
 - ✓ Spare clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes.
 - ✓ Bedding: for a small space.
 - ✓ Prescription medications.
 - ✓ Personal hygiene items: toilet paper, hand sanitizer, toothbrush, wipes, etc.
 - ✓ Special items: for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.
 - ✓ Electronics: fully charged devices and portable charger.
 - ✓ Garbage Bags.
 - ✓ Spare cash.
 - Important documents: passports, birth certificates, insurance information, emergency numbers, SSN, etc.
 - ✓ First-aid kit: bandages, gauze, scissors, gloves, and more.
 - ✓ Quiet games: books, puzzles, toys, etc.
 - ✓ Eyeglasses, contact lenses, and hearing aids with extra batteries.
 - \checkmark Pet care items: food, water, bedding, pet waste bags or litter.
 - Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and batteries.
 - ✓ Extra set of keys: for the cars and house.

IMPORTANT

NUMBERS Emergency: 911 Davie Police Department non-emergency: (954) 693-8200 Monday-Friday 8:30am–5:00pm Pre-recorded emergency number for residents: (954) 343-7455

Broward County Hurricane Hotline & Emergency Shelter: (954) 831-4000 or: 311

Broward County Human Services Department Special Needs Shelter Registration: (954) 831-3902 / TTY (954) 831-3940 Broward County School District Hotline During Emergencies Only: (754) 321-0321

Broward County Animal Care & Regulation: (954) 359-1313

Disaster Assistance Insurance Helpline 1-800-22-STORM - TTY 711

FEMA Hotline:1-800-621-3362

American Red Cross, Broward Chapter: (954) 797-3800

Florida Power and Light (FPL): 1-800-4-OUTAGE

CANALS: East of Volunteer Rd: (954) 432-5110 West of Volunteer Rd: (954) 680-3337 C11 Canal: (954) 452-4814

HELPFUL WEBSITES: American Red Cross Broward Chapter - Browardredcross.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) www.fema.org

FOLLOW US ON THE TOWN'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE: www.southwestranches.org



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



FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES

FWC Thanks Building Owners for Hosting **Rooftop-Nesting Shorebirds**

(adapted from: https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLFFWCC/bulletins/3dc3148)



While shorebirds and seabirds typically nest directly on beaches along our coasts, species including black skimmers, least terns, roseate terns and American oystercatchers increasingly use gravel rooftops to nest and raise chicks. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) thanks building owners and managers

hosting shorebird and seabird species nesting on their roofs this season. Most rooftop nesting occurs between April and September, but rooftop nesting can begin as early as February for American oystercatchers in some regions. Shorebird and seabird nesting season takes place in Florida between Feb. 15 and Sept. 1 – varying by region and county.

rooftops Building provide important alternative nesting habitat for shorebirds and seabirds, as most nesting species on rooftops are imperiled. Approximately 50% of Florida's last tern population relies upon



rooftops for nesting.

If you own or manage a building where shorebirds or seabirds are nesting on the roof, you can help with nesting success by giving the nesting birds space and coordinating with your

FWC Regional Shorebird Biologist . To find a regional shorebird biologist near you, go to MyFWC.com/Shorebirds and click on "Shorebird Nest Dates and Contacts." Building owners and managers are key to the success of shorebirds nesting on rooftops. If you have shorebirds or seabirds nesting on your roof, it is recommended to wait to conduct routine maintenance and nonemergency repairs until after shorebird nesting season ends in September. If unexpected repairs are required during the nesting season, FWC's regional shorebird biologists can work with building owners to determine if take could occur and how to apply if a permit is needed. Don't own or manage a building where shorebirds or seabirds are nesting? You can still help with nesting success this season whether on the beach or on the water:

nodubun

• If you are staying at a hotel or visiting a business that has rooftop



nesting birds, thank management and staff for supporting shorebird and seabird conservation.

• Become a Qualified Rooftop Monitor.

• Keep at least 300 feet from nesting birds, walk around flocks of birds and stay out of posted areas. Getting too close to nesting shorebirds, seabirds and wading birds can cause them to fly away, or flush, from their breeding sites, leaving vulnerable eggs and chicks exposed to the elements and predators.

• Keep pets at home when going to the beach. Even well-behaved dogs can frighten shorebirds, causing them to abandon their eggs and chicks. If you bring your dog with you to the shore, go to a beach where

they're allowed and follow all leash laws. Properly stash all

trash. Trash and food attract scraps predators, such as raccoons and crows, that prey on shorebird eggs and chicks. Litter on beaches and in the water can entangle birds, turtles, and



other wildlife. Beachgoers can help beach-nesting birds and other native wildlife by properly disposing of all trash. Fishing line can be deadly to waterbirds, sea turtles and other wildlife, so be sure to dispose of it properly. To find a monofilament recycling station near you, visit mrrp.myfwc.com.

• Reduce barriers and hazards for beach-nesting birds, turtles, and other wildlife by filling in human-made holes in the sand and removing personal gear from the beach before sunset. Clean and flat beaches help wildlife navigate and use the beach and reduce the risk of getting stuck in holes or in personal gear, especially at night.

 Look for Critical Wildlife Area closures. Be on the lookout for signs designating Critical Wildlife Areas on the beach or coastal islands these areas are closed to public access to protect high concentrations of wading birds and shorebirds while they nest and raise their chicks. **Boaters** and



beachgoers can help nesting birds by keeping distance and noise volumes low near CWAs.

For more information, go to MyFWC.com/Shorebirds and click on "Rooftop Nesting." Spring is an active time for many of Florida's wildlife species. For more information on wildlife in Spring, visit MyFWC.com/





UPCOMING EVENTS

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Residents of Southwest Ranches...

Join us as we

celebrate The Town's 25th Anniversary Saturday June 7th, 2025



The celebration will kick off with a PARADE that starts at 10:00 AM sharp on Mather Boulevard and Avocado Manor (SW 63rd Manor)

> PARTY AT THE BARN 11:00 -3:00 PM

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.

Email Susan for additional information Skutz@southwestranches.org



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 BIRTHDAY 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



"DOUBLE, DOUBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE; FIRE BURN AND COULDRON BUBBLE" - william shakespeare SOUTHWEST RANCHES RESIDENTS ... YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOWN'S HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR YARD DECORATING CONTEST. **DEADLINE TO REGISTER YOUR HOME:**

~ OCTOBER 17TH. ~

JUDGING: ~ OCTOBER 20TH. ~ AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN TO 1ST, 2ND & 3RD PLACE WINNERS: ~ OCTOBER 24TH. ~

EMAIL YOUR ENTRY FORM TO :SKUTZ@SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG



TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES

Halloween Spooktacular Entry Form Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board

13400 Griffin Road, Southwest Ranches 33330

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	
CELL:	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	
SIGNATURE:	
	(Date)



BOATING SAFETY

This legislative session, I was proud to sponsor CS/HB 751 – Law Enforcement, Correctional, and Correctional Probation Officer Benefits – alongside Representative J. Sapp. The bill was inspired in part by the story of Deputy Andy Lahera, who was critically injured while directing traffic at a high school graduation in Citrus County. Despite the severity of his injuries, Deputy

Lahera faced difficulties obtaining health insurance coverage due to narrow definitions in state law.

This bipartisan legislation ensures that law enforcement, correctional, and probation officers who are seriously injured during training or in the line of duty receive full health insurance coverage—paid for by their employer. The coverage also extends to their spouse and dependent children.

Previously, only certain types of injuries were eligible for this benefit. With this bill, any qualifying injury sustained while on duty is now covered. It's a meaningful way to support those who put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities.

Deputy Lahera's wife attended the House hearing and watched from the gallery as the bill passed off the floor—a powerful reminder of the real lives this bill will impact.

As of writing this article, the bill is headed to the Governor's desk. To see the current status of this bill please visit www.FLHouse.gov or call my office.

As a reminder, it's crucial to take proactive steps to prepare ourselves, our families, and our communities for the potential impacts of severe storms. June marks the beginning of hurricane season, and while Florida residents are no strangers to hurricanes, each year brings new challenges and the need to stay vigilant.

REDUCE

REUSE

RECYCLE

Hurricane preparedness is not just about securing your home—it's also about having a plan, understanding your insurance coverage, knowing your evacuation zone, and ensuring your community is ready. Stock up on emergency supplies like non-perishable food, water, medications, flashlights, batteries, and important documents. If you or a loved one has special medical needs, be sure to register for the Vulnerable Population Registry by calling the Broward County Call Center at 311 or 954-831-4000.

For Broward County residents, visit www.broward.org/hurricane for checklists, evacuation zones, shelter information, and more.

If you have questions about hurricane preparedness, need help understanding HB 913, or require assistance with any staterelated issue, my office is here to help. Please don't hesitate to contact me at (954) 872-1757 or on my cell at (954) 668-3662. You can also email me at Robin.Bartleman@FLHouse.gov.

Let's stay safe and prepared this hurricane season—and continue standing strong as a community.

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!



RECYCLE RIGHT



March into a new month by recycling right. Remember that every time you recycle, you re giving that item a second life to serve a new purpose and save natural resources.

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

TRASH TALK: ZERO WASTE ADVISORY BOARD EDITION

- Look for us at the Town Birthday Party Stop by and get your Zero Waste swag.
- Limited number of spots left to sign up for the Town's residential Pilot Compost Program (first 100 homes signed up are at no cost).
- We have arranged for special agreement with WM to set up Recycling Tours Is recycling for real...Come see for yourself!
- The board has approved the RFP for Zero Waste Consultant and requested it be sent to Town Council for consideration.
- New Broward County Ordinance for Recycling Batteries more news to come. Continue to bring batteries to quarterly Household Hazardous Waste event at the Rolling Oaks Barn.

WASTE MANAGEMENT IS NOT JUST FOR GARBAGE

Its time to Rethink Recycling: Recycle Right Every Day.

Did you know recycling just one aluminum can saves enough energy to:

Run a TV for two hours?

Power a 14-watt CFL bulb for 20 hours

Power a computer for three hours?

When you think of the difference just one person could make, imagine the positive impact whole communities could have by recycling.

wm.com/recycleright



Erk's Corner

by Debra Ruesga

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE APRIL 10, 2025 TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING:

 Adopted Resolution 2025-046 opposing State Senate Bill and House Bill 565 regarding auxiliary containers.

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE APRIL 24, 2025 TOWN COUNCIL **REGULAR MEETING:**

 Adopted Resolution 2025-047 approving 5th Modification to the Agreement with Superior Towing.

• Adopted Resolution 2025-048 authorizing the proper disposition of Surplus Inventory.

 Adopted Resolution 2025-049 approving the Renewal of the Agreement with Reliance Contractors Inc. for Town-Wide Facilities Maintenance Services

 Adopted Resolution 2025-050 approving the Renewal of the Agreement with EDJ Service LLC. Town-Wide Parks for and Properties Maintenance Services.

 Adopted Resolution 2025-051 approving the Renewal of the Agreement with EDJ Service LLC. for Town-Wide Right of Way Maintenance Services.

 Adopted Resolution 2025-052 approving the Renewal of the Agreement with Budget Sprinkler Repair LLC. for Town-Wide Irrigation Maintenance Services.

 Adopted Resolution 2025-053 appointing Harry Hipler, Esq., as the Alternate Special Magistrate.

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.

MARTY KIA

2025 Estimate of Taxable Values

The preliminary 2025 property values are now showing on our website at web.bcpa.net. Florida Statutes require our office use January 1 as the date of assessment each year. Our office must consider changes in market conditions - up or down - when developing the Just/Market Values. The 2025 Just Values are based on the market data from January 1, 2025 back through January 2, 2024 with January 1, 2025 as the date of assessment. If you purchased your property in 2025, your 2025 purchase price along with comparable market data from 2025 will be used in setting your property's 2026 Just/Market Value. Our office will mail the 2025 TRIM (proposed tax) Notices to all Broward property owners in mid-August. This notice will show your property's 2025 Just Value, Assessed/Save Our Homes Value, all tax-saving exemptions you are receiving, and the proposed tax rates as set by the various taxing authorities listed on the notice.

Quarterly Tax Payment Installment Plan

While the Property Appraiser's Office does not set or collect taxes, our office receives many calls from residents inquiring about installment tax bills and their recently approved exemptions. The Broward County Tax Collector is responsible for the billing and collecting of property taxes.

For property owners on the 2025 installment payment plan, the first two installment payments (June 2025 and September 2025) are based on the previous (2024) tax year. This means residents who have been approved for 2025 Homestead Exemption or other exemptions will not see these 2025 exemptions on either the June or September installment bills. The final two 2025 installment bills (December 2025 and March 2026) will be adjusted to include any 2025 exemptions or changes to the property's taxable value. The deadline to apply for Broward County's Installment Payment Plan was May 1, 2025. Should you have any questions regarding the payment of property taxes, the Tax Collector's Office can be reached at 954.357.4829 or by email to revenue@browardtax.org.

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

arter Marty Kiar, JD, CFA



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

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 8×10 (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@southwestranches.org

	PHOTO BY: ROBIN DITZEN "Little things making a Bigge	er Impact"		Ju	ne 2	2025
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 • Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church <u>19200 Griffin Rd. 7pm</u> • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting-Town Hall 7pm	• CODE Special Magistrate Hearing • Town Hall 9am • Broward County Property Appraiser Office 10:30 - 12:30pm Town Hall • Zero Waste Advisory Board Town Hall - 7pm	4	• Public Safety & Traffic Committee - Town Hall 7pm	6	7 • The Towns 25th Anniversary Celebration 10-3:00 pm Rolling Oats Park <u>17630 SW 56th St.</u> • 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
8 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm	9 • Schools & Education Advisory Board • Town Hall 7pm	10 • Parks, Recreation Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	11 • Zero Waste Broward Task Force Meeting • Town Hall 7pm	12 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING • Town Hall 7pm	13	14 • 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
• Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm	• Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board Meeting • Town Hall 7pm	17 • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting • Town Hall 7pm	18 • Blood Drive <u>-Town Hall 10-4pm</u> • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	19 JUNETEENTH BELDOMONT Town Hall Closed	20	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
22 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm	23		• FLOW MOBILE 25 DMV EVENT • Town Hall 10 - 2:00pm • Sunshine Ranches HOA ZOOM 7 - 9pm	26 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING • Town Hall 7pm	27	28 • 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
29 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm	30 • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting • Town Hall 7pm BULK ZONE 7					

MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK



"At the Town Council Meeting held on April 24th, a proclamation was read recognizing Municipal Clerk's Week, observed from May 4th to May 10th."

BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOL CALENDAR

	IVI		VV		F	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
	30					
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TUESDAY, JUNE 3rd. - Last Day of School WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4TH -Employee Planning - (no school for students) MONDAY, JUNE 30th - Report Cards Issued



THE TOWN IS EXCITED TO PARTNER WITH DUSTIN DUBOIS OF... *Filthy Organics, LLC* for the upcoming Residential Compost Pilot Program. We look forward to increasing residential participation in our efforts towards becoming a **zero waste** town!

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