

## **IN TOUCH**

**TOWN HALL:** 13400 Griffin Road / Southwest Ranches, FL 33330 • **PHONE:** (954) 434-0008 • **FAX:** (954) 434-1490 **TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS:** Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm • **TOWN WEBSITE:** www.southwestranches.org **YOUTUBE:** Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel • **FACEBOOK:** facebook@SWRGOV

ELECTED OFFICIALS  Mayor Stove Profiture in	(054) 747 7460	shraithrauz@sauthwastranahas ara
Mayor Steve Breitkreuz Vice Mayor Bob Hartmann	(954) 343-7462 (954) 343-7447	sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org bhartmann@southwestranches.org
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Council Member Gary Jablonski	(954) 343-7456	gjablonski@southwestranches.org
Council Member David S. Kuczenski, Esq.	(954) 343-7472	dkuczenski@southwestranches.org
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Kathryn Sims, <i>Deputy Town Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7454	ksims@southwestranches.org
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Dan Stewart, <i>Deputy Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7443	dstewart@southwestranches.org
Jennifer McCarty, Records and Administrative Coordinator	(954) 343-7469	jmccarty@southwestranches.org
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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, Administrative Specialist, Newsletter Editor & Graphic Designer		skutz@southwestranches.org
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, Parks and Recreation Program Facilitator	(954) 343-7468	gceballos@southwestranches.org
Mayuli Betancourt, Administrative Assistant	(954) 343-7465	mbetancourt@southwestranches.org
TOWN SERVICES / BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING - (CAP GOVERNME	NT)	M-F 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Simo Mansor, Building Official	(954) 343-7448	swrinspections@southwestranches.org
Derlin Guevara, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446	swrinspections@southwestranches.org
Maria Perez, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7445	swrinspections@southwestranches.org
PLANNING		
Jeff Katims	(954) 554-8894	jeff@completecities.net
ZONING/PERMITTING		
Julio Medina, Community Development/Code Compliance Director CODE COMPLIANCE	(954) 343-7458	zoninginfo@southwestranches.org
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, Code Compliance Officer	(954) 343-7457	ccampos@southwestranches.org
Yirglhis Hernandez, Code Compliance Officer	(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	E I LOGWEL I IE IA : I
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 Volunteer Fire Rescue - Chief Bennett	(954) 952-4608 (954) 868-2057	
	(934) 808-2037	
TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES	(054) 747 7441	and the control of th
Potholes and Signs Down - Public Works Illicit Discharge - Environmental Response Line:	(954) 343-7441 (954) 519-1499	publicworks@southwestranches.org online complaint form at:
illicit bischarge - Environmental Response Line.	(934) 319-1499	http://www.broward.org/Environment/
		Resources / Pages / Enviro Complaint.aspx
OTHER		
WATER DISTRICTS - CANALS	(05.4) 470 5440	
Central Broward Water Control District	(954) 432-5110	www.centralbrowardwcd.org
East of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer) South Broward Drainage District	(954) 680-3337	www.sbdd.org
South Broward Drainage District West of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)	(954) 680-3337	w w w.sbuu.org
THESE OF STREET AVEILUCE (VOIDINGELY)		



A MESSAGE
FROM
Mayor
Steve
Breitkreuz

#### RANCHER ACADEMY

First and foremost, I want to wish you and your family a very special Independence Day. This is an incredibly important recognition of the start of our nation and all that has come afterward. I hope that you have a safe and memorable time with your family and friends. Also, as you celebrate, please be courteous towards your neighbors if you are planning on shooting off fireworks. This can be very traumatic to our animals. So, if this is part of your celebration on the fourth, please alert your neighbors, especially if horses are nearby. Just

as a reminder to horse owners, the Town does have ear plugs designed for horses that are available if you feel this would help. They are available at no charge and can be obtained at Town Hall.

Second, I also want to thank all those on our staff that did so much to pull together our 25th Town Birthday celebration. Hopefully, you were able to come out and join us at the celebration. But special thanks goes out to Susan Kutz. She has been working on this for over a year and just did an incredible job. We are fortunate to have the entire Town staff that we have, but this month, I want to recognize Susan. She has done an incredible job pulling this all together. Thank-you Susan!

Finally, I wanted to thank all that participated in our first Rancher's Academy this Spring, both our Town staff as well as the residents. I have written about this before, however, if you are not familiar with it, it is a program that we have put in place to familiarize our residents with the services that our Town provides, with a focus on preserving our rural lifestyle. So, what that means is that our Town staff provides some great services for our residents. From Code Compliance, ensuring that we remain within our rural designs, to engineering providing the expertise on upcoming projects that keep our properties, animals, and homes, protected as possible from flooding, as well as preserving our parks and open space, and really so much more.

"Also, as you celebrate, please be courteous towards your neighbors if you are planning on shooting off fireworks. This can be very traumatic to our animals. So, if this is part of your celebration on the fourth, please alert your neighbors, especially if horses are nearby. Just as a reminder to horse owners, the Town does have ear plugs designed for horses that are available if you feel this would help. They are available at no charge and can be obtained at Town Hall."

Also, it is designed for our local realtors, especially those not living in the Ranches, to get a feel for what makes the



Ranches a unique place to live and raise a family. Many times, residents move into the Ranches expecting an environment very similar to Weston, Pembroke Pines, or Cooper City. However, from our animals, to our multi use trails, to our dark skies, and our reactive code, we are much different. We appreciate our freedom and minimal regulation, but it is important that this is communicated to potential residents by realtors before they buy a home in the Ranches. So, communicating this to realtors is important.

We will be having another session of the Rancher's Academy this fall. If you have not yet participated, I would encourage you to join us. You can find the link on our website. www.southwestranches.org.

As always, thank-you for your trust and support in allowing me to serve as your Mayor. It is truly an honor that I never take for granted.

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



### A MESSAGE FROM

Bob Hartmann Vice Mayor

#### A Town Built by Its People: Celebrating 25 Years of Southwest Ranches

Nestled in the heart of Broward County, Southwest Ranches is more than just a town—it's a legacy of community vision, self-determination, and unwavering commitment to rural values. As we mark our 25th anniversary, we celebrate not only our shared past but also the unique spirit that continues to define and guide us.

Southwest Ranches didn't begin with a developer's blueprint or a political agenda. It was born from the collective will of residents who refused to let their identity be absorbed by neighboring cities. In the late 1990s, the threat of annexation loomed. But instead of watching their rural lifestyle vanish, our residents rallied—organizing, speaking out, and ultimately shaping a different future.

That future became a reality on June 6, 2000, when Southwest Ranches officially incorporated. What had long been a quiet collection of horse ranches, nurseries, and wide-open homesteads became a town — purposefully designed to preserve what made it special.

From the beginning, community made choices that set us apart. We implemented zoning laws requiring a minimum lot size of one acre. We intentionally limited commercial development. We passed on sidewalks and streetlights in favor of equestrian trails and starlit skies. These decisions weren't made nostalgia—they were acts preservation, drawn from a deep respect for the land and a shared desire to protect a lifestyle rooted in openness, space, and simplicity. But what truly makes Southwest Ranches extraordinary isn't just its landscape—it's the people who inhabit it.

From the rolling pastures of Rolling Oaks to the sun-dappled lanes of Sunshine Ranches, and from the tranquility of Green Meadow close-knit to the charm of Country Estates, our neighborhoods each bring their own identity to the table. Yet they are bound by the same core values: a fierce pride in our town, a commitment to rural living, and a belief that communities strongest when their residents are deeply involved.

Our residents don't just live here—they shape the very fabric of the town. Whether organizing much-loved community events like the ROCA Egg Hunt or Sunshine Ranches' Parties in the Park, serving on advisory boards, or lending a hand to a neighbor in need, the people of Southwest Ranches embody a spirit of volunteerism and collaboration that's increasingly rare in today's world.

This collective ethos extends to how we govern. Rather than build bloated municipal bureaucracy, we've taken a lean and intentional approach. By contracting out essential services like police, fire, and waste collection, we've maintained low taxes while delivering highquality services. This model allowsustoinvestininfrastructure and address the evolving needs residents-such of improving drainage systems and roadways—without sacrificing the principles we hold dear.

I have the honor of serving on the 12th Town Council, and I speak not only as an elected official but as a neighbor, a participant in this shared experiment in resident-led governance. We, the current council, are simply stewards—continuing the vision set forth by those who came before us. We build on their foundation, drawing from their wisdom and their care for this community.

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Back Cover: Council and Districts, Folllow us on Social Media



Have a birthday you would like to share with us in a future Town newsletter? Send your name and birthday to: Skutz@southwestranches.org After 25 years, the story of Southwest Ranches is a rare one in modern municipal history. It's the story of a town formed not from top-down mandates, but from grassroots resilience. It's a story that reminds us of what can be achieved when ordinary people come together around shared values and a common cause.

As we look to the future, the challenges will evolve, but our core mission must remain the same. Let us stay anchored in the principles that brought us here: self-reliance, collaboration, and a deep respect for the open land that defines us. Let's continue to nurture a town where voices matter, where differences are celebrated, and where progress is measured not only in miles of roads paved or feet of guardrail, but in the strength of our community bonds.

Southwest Ranches is more than a municipality. It's a home, a haven, and a heartfelt promise—one that we will continue to uphold for generations to come. **Keep us rural**. And thank you for being part of this enduring journey.

I am always here to help! Please call me if I can assist with any questions or Town issues or if you want to chat.

Bob - 954-801-1758



#### 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



### A MESSAGE FROM

Council Member David S. Kuczenski, Esq.

Howdy Southwest Ranchers, Happy July. Did you know that July was named by the Roman Senate in honor of Roman general Julius Caesar in 44 B.C.? It was the month of his birth. Before then it was called Quintilis, being the fifth month of the calendar that started with March.

In my writings, I keep reminding folks to keep your speed at 25 miles per hour where posted. I think this is important in preserving our rural lifestyle.

First, we have our residents riding horseback. While we often witness our equestrians riding handsomely along our trails, not all horses are predictable near vehicles and nature. Sometimes horses get spooked from sounds that startle them. The sound can be a loud exhaust or even the sound of bees. A spooked horse can become a dangerous situation.

Next, we have neighbors enjoying our beautiful environment including children playing. As a routine dog walker and an avid exercise enthusiast, I feel apprehensive when a vehicle approaches near where I am walking. I feel far more comfortable when a vehicle approaches at or below the speed limit and steers away at a comfortable distance. I slow down and wave to neighbors exercising on our roads. I appreciate the gesture and I am sure others do as well.

Finally, we have many animals roaming our roadways in our town, both day and night. Back in 2017, I experienced the trauma of witnessing a small dog being run over by a speeding vehicle. Not a week goes by that I do not see a dead animal on one of our streets that could have been easily avoided if the driver had simply slowed his/her speed. Last month, my little

dog, Django, escaped from a hole in the fence. A neighbor alerted me to his wandering when I was in my law office in Miami, and while I had the help of many neighbors, especially Ed and Robin, I was haunted by that day that I saw the little dog run over on Luray by a speeding motorist. He was found safe. In the meantime, I have requested Davie Police to be more aggressive in enforcing our speed limits. This request is not to bring in revenue because the amount the Town receives from speeding violations does not make it financially viable on its own, but rather it is to slow the excessive speeding. Additionally, excessive speeding is not limited to trucks and cars. We have people on motorcycles and four wheelers also driving carelessly. 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



## FLOOD SAFETY: KNOW YOUR RISK



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

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

#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ADVICE

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

For assistance regarding financial assistance options, please contact the Town's Engineering Department at (954) 434-0008, Broward

County's Mitigation Coordinator at (954) 831-3900 or visit:

https:/www.disasterassistance.gov/.

### NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM CHANGES

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

#### **GET A FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY**

Replacing household contents damaged by floods could place a significant financial burden on a homeowner or renter without flood insurance. Just a few inches of water from a flood can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Homeowner's insurance policies do not generally cover damage from floods. However, because the Town of Southwest Ranches participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy from an insurance agent and benefit from the premium discount available to all Southwest Ranches residents. Flood insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded previously. Please note that unless there is a special condition of the mortgage, there normally is a 30-day waiting period between the time flood insurance is purchased and the time coverage is in force. Though all home and business owners in these areas with mortgages from federally regulated or insured lenders are required to buy flood insurance, all residents should consider flood insurance to protect against significant financial losses.

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

If you would like to know if your property is in a SFHA you can use the interactive map viewer. Visit <a href="https://www.southwestranches.org/dep">https://www.southwestranches.org/dep</a> artments/public-works-engineering/flood-insurance-information-2/ and select Flood Maps. You can also call (954) 434-0008, provide your address and zip code, and Town staff will assist you in determining SFHA information specific to your property.

#### **ELEVATION CERTIFICATE INFORMATION**

Elevation certificates for buildings are on file and may be obtained by visiting https://www.southwestranches.org/departments/public-works-engineering/flood-insurance-information-2/.

## WATER QUALITY AND FLOOD CONTROL EFFECTS OF DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

The success of the drainage system in your



neighborhood depends on proper maintenance of the system. The swales that are commonly

located between your yard and street are part of the neighborhood's storm water management system. Gutters, storm drainpipes, lakes, wetlands, swales and canals should be kept free of debris. It is against Town Code to dump trash in waters. The drainage system may provide both water quality and flood control benefits. Lakes, wetlands, swales and canals filter pollutants from runoff or allow pollutants to settle out. Check with the Town's Engineering Department before paving, 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 <a href="https://www.southwestranches.org/departments/public-works-engineering/flood-insurance-information-2/">https://www.southwestranches.org/departments/public-works-engineering/flood-insurance-information-2/</a>.

#### **LOCAL FLOOD HAZARDS**

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

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

Since portions of Southwest Ranches have been designated as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), it is advisable to check the interactive map viewer to see the location of your property with respect to the SFHA. Visit https://www.southwestranches.org/departments/public-works-engineering/flood-insurance-information-2/ and select Flood Maps. You can also call (954) 434-0008, provide your address and zip code, and Town staff will assist you in determining SFHA information specific to your property.

#### 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 in-formation 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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

- 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

## 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 TH SUBMISSION OF PHOTOGRAPHS TO THE TOWN CONSTITUTES "WORK MADE FOR HIRE." AND I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND AL RIGHTS TO THE WORK AND THE WORK PRODUCT, INCLUDIN MORAL OR OTHERWISE. THIS STATEMENT SHALL CONTROL OVE THE PROVISIONS OF 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106A(a) AND SHAL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER BY ME OF ANY RIGHTS IN THE WORK SE OUT IN OR OTHERWISE GRANTED BY 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106A(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 Mora relating to any continuiwsang interest I may have in the maintenance of modification of the Work, are expressly waived and, insofar as such rights at transferable, are assigned to the TOWN. MY work IS ORIGINAL AND I complies with all applicable patent, trademark and copyright laws, rule regulations and codes. I UNDERSTAND, ACKNOWLEDGE, AND AGREE THAT THROUGH THE CONVEYANCE OF MY SUBMISSION TH
WORK WILL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE TOWN AND MAY B USED, REPRODUCED, SOLD, OR MODIFIED BY THE TOWN IN TH TOWN'S SOLE DISCRETION.
TOWN'S SOLE DISCRETION.

SIGNATURE OF GUARDIAN FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18:

(Date)

(Date)



TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES Halloween Spooktacular Entry Form Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board 13400 Griffin Road, Southwest Ranches 33330 NAME: ADDRESS: EMAIL ADDRESS: SIGNATURE: (Date)

SIGNATURE:

## FINANCE ACADEMY

by Emil Lopez

## "BUDGET WORKSHOPS AND BUDGET HEARINGS"

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

#### Tuesday August 12, 2025, at 7PM

- Budget Workshop on Proposed FY 2025-2026 Budget

#### Monday September 15, 2025, at 6PM

- First Public Hearing for Tentative Milage (via resolution) and
- Budget Adoption for FY 2025-2026 (via ordinance – First Reading)
- Final Fire Protection and Solid Waste special assessment adoption (via resolution)

#### Thursday September 25, 2025, at 6PM

- Second Public Hearing for Final Milage (via resolution) and
- Budget Adoption for FY 2025-2026 (via ordinance – Second Reading)

#### "HOW TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE TOWN"

The Town welcomes participation from all vendors qualified to do business with the Town.
Please visit the Procurement page on the Town's website and complete the Vendor Application.







## FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES



## Bird Migration: Birds of the Atlantic Flyway

(as adapted from https://www.perkypet.com/articles/atlantic-flyway-migration)

Through the Fall and the Spring, many birds of North America set to wing in a twice a year ritual that sends them in search of food and breeding opportunities. In the Fall, they head South toward warmer climates with more food and less severe weather. In the Spring, it's a northward journey to breeding grounds.



In the so-called Atlantic Flyway, a bird migration pattern that goes along the East Coast of North America, birds move through U.S. and often into Canada. Some migrating birds, including the duck-like Eider and the Snowy Owl, can fly all the way to Greenland, the massive island nation East of Canada.

The states generally covered by the Atlantic flyway include Alabama, Connecticut,

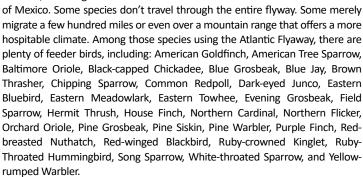


Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. A significant section of Canada is also included in the flyway. The provinces and territories these

birds head toward include Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Yukon Territory.

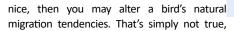
#### LIST OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Audubon Society explains that about 500 bird species use the Atlantic Flyway, which actually covers a relatively small landmass. Instead, much of the flyway is over or very close to water, including the East Atlantic and the Gulf



#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

When you make a long trip, you're tired — so expect birds to be just as exhausted as they complete each leg of their migration. You can help migrating birds by providing them with a safe and welcoming place to rest, recover and refuel before they set out again. If you make things welcoming enough, they might even opt to stay for the season. Some people believe that if you make things too



every bird understands the risks of "staying put" and the possibility of getting "stranded" by the weather. If they're staying in and around your yard, it's because they want to, not because you're tricking them to stay.





To make your yard more enticing to your feathered friends, a collection of feeders and waterers is important. Just as important is a place to roost and an opportunity for proper shelter. For birds, shelter is a very relative concept. Certain birds have few requirements on what makes for proper overnight accommodations. Others have very specific needs for nesting. Look into the nest boxes that are appropriate for the birds that live in your area. Plant trees and bushes that create natural shelter. Move feeders to areas where predators can't hunt. If you have a barn or shed, add some areas where birds can safely roost.

- Ruby-throated Hummingbirds: The primary hummingbird of the East Coast, Ruby-throats are beautiful and fun to watch. Keep your feeders bug free with this nectar feeder, which includes an ant moat and bee guards. Looking for something with a little more style, try this decorative glass bottle hummingbird feeder.
- Orioles: While the oriole population is slowly growing, these birds can be hard to attract to a feeder. Still they definitely know feeders that are built for them, including this beautiful nectar feeder. If you're not sure there are orioles in your area, try an inexpensive oriole feeder first.
- Sparrows: Though not as flashy as some other birds, sparrows are certainly cute. They can refuel in your backyard too. Since sparrows are small birds, they appreciate the protection of caged feeders. Another option is a domed feeder that thwarts big birds like European Starlings.
- Song birds: Liven up your backyard by drawing in some songbirds. The Northern Cardinal loves sunflower seeds, and this wire-mesh feeder works perfectly. The chatty sounds of an American Goldfinch are always welcome, and you can draw them in by the dozens with a thistle feeder.

















#### PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

After a hurricane or other emergency, residents may experience prolonged power and phone outages and may not be able to leave their home or let others know that they are in need. If you feel you are at risk due to a disability, heath issue, regardless of age, and would like a "WELLNESS CHECK" from our Southwest Ranches Volunteer Fire Department please call Town Hall (954) 434-0008 and give us your name, and or loved one's name, address, phone number and email address so we may add you to our list.

While we hope we don't have a disaster, we need to be prepared. If you or a loved one live alone in Southwest Ranches, please consider signing up for this service. If resources are needed, they will be able to refer residents accordingly.

## Thank VOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

This heartfelt message acknowledges the invaluable contributions of volunteers that helped with the TOWN'S 25th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION ON JUNE 7TH. It warmly expresses gratitude for the time, energy, and dedication that made the event a memorable milestone. By the commitment, care, and kindness of these volunteers, it emphasizes the essential role played in the celebration's success. Such recognition not only fosters a sense of community but also encourages continued involvement and support. It's a testament to the power of collective effort and the deep appreciation for those who help bring a community together.

The town wishes to thank the following in alphabetical order

**Rose Allbritton Alina Amaral Alexis Betancourt** Mayuli Betancourt Lee Bennett **Gilbert Ceballos Cheryl Danner Davie Fire Rescue Davie PD Josh Dykes** Leo Eskenazi **Karen French Blane Heintz Brooke Hendrick** Joann Hollingsworth **Christine Kutz** 

Donald Kutz
December Lauretano-Haines
Jennifer McCarty
George Morris
Laurie Morse
Dylan Paternoster
Kathryn Sims
Sally Stark
Taylor Stark
Kathy Sullivan
Madison Sullivan
SWR Volunteer Fire Rescue
Laura Warren
Maggie Yeshua and
Town Staff



## PROPERTY TAXES AND THE STATE BUDGET

Florida's families and seniors are struggling - the cost of property insurance, increases in Condo and HOA fees, and property taxes are making it difficult for us to keep our roofs over our heads. There has been a lot of discussion in the news media about how to help and what should be done about property taxes, which pay for our municipal

services such as police, fire, parks, roads, trash pickup, county jails, and schools. These services have real costs and the money must come from somewhere. Unlike many states, Florida does not have a personal income tax—this protection is enshrined in our State constitution. As a result, we rely heavily on property taxes and sales tax to fund vital public services.

Property taxes, or ad valorem taxes, are calculated based on a property's assessed value - not income or purchases. These taxes apply to real property, including land, buildings, and permanent structures. Florida's Office of Economic and Demographic Research, in 2019 found that 67.4% of all municipal tax revenue came from property taxes and 72.6% of county tax revenue came from property taxes. If property taxes are eliminated a new funding source would have to be identified. The House convened a Select Committee on Property Taxes to explore bold, long-term reforms.

Some of the proposals being reviewed include:

Local Referendums: Cities and counties would ask voters whether

to eliminate property taxes on homesteads.

- New Homestead Exemptions:
  - o \$500,000 exemption for all homesteads
- o \$1 million exemption for seniors (65+) or residents who've owned their homes for 30+ years
- Assessment Cap Reforms:
  - o For homesteads: a flat 3% cap over any 3-year period
  - o For non-homesteads: increase from 10% to 15% over 3 years
- Foreclosure Protections: Preventing foreclosure due to property tax liens on homesteads

These proposals, if advanced, would likely require voter approval. As your State Representative, I will advocate for fiscally responsible solutions that protect our communities and ensure sustainable funding for essential services. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please be sure to call or email me at robin.bartleman@myfloridahouse.gov or 954-668-3662.

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, unemployment, or DMV, please reach out to my office at (954)872-1757.

Thank you for your continued support and Happy Fourth of July!

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!



## STORIES FROM THE WOOD

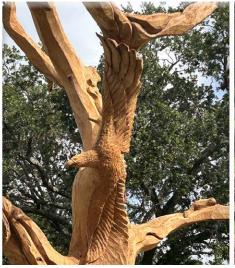
Josh Landry - Chainsaw Sculpture

I believe the reason that people across the country seek out my work goes beyond my experience as a chainsaw sculptor. I am deeply interested in people and preserving their stories and I think they are at ease sharing details of their lives with me. I am then able to translate those details into enduring legacies. For me, being able to take a 20ft solid oak stump and make it dance and breathe with the chapters of their story is an honor.













# TRASHTALK: ZERO WASTE ADVISORY BOARD EDITION

- A focus was made for the Town's 25th Birthday Celebration to use more items that could be recycled or composted.
- In coordination with WM a recycling tour is scheduled for June 30th for interested residents (come see for yourself how our recycled trash is actually sorted and prepared to be sold to be repurposed)
- Limited number of spots left to sign up for the pilot Residential Compost Program please contact Town Hall to add your name to be included in the program!
- RFP for Zero Waste Consultant has been posted on the Town's procurement page

### 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.

## 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





BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE MAY 8, 2025 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2025-054 supporting the Platinum Permitting Process of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-055 awarding Filthy Organics, LLC, the contract to provide a Pilot Composting Program for the Town.

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.



When buying/acquiring real estate, do not assume the property taxes will remain the same as the current owner's taxes. Under Florida law, a change in ownership requires the property to be reassessed at current full market value the year following the change of ownership OR if a Homestead Exemption is added/removed from the property. This reassessment could result in higher property taxes for the new owner than what the seller was paying. Please use our Tax Estimator to approximate your new property taxes based on the reassessed value.

If you are moving to a new home and have held a Homestead Exemption anywhere within Florida during the past three tax years, you may be eligible to transfer your Save Our Homes (SOH) benefit to your new home to help lower the property's assessed value and subsequent taxes. The Portability Estimator available online helps you approximate what your new property taxes will be using any portability you may be transferring from another property.

The Property Appraiser does not set or collect taxes. Tax rates/fees are set by individual taxing authorities each year based on their budgetary needs. All property tax billing and collecting is handled by the Broward County Tax Collector's Office. Should you have any questions regarding payment of taxes, please visit the Tax Collector's website or contact them directly at (954) 357-4829 or revenue@browardtax.org.

Homestead Exemption and Portability save eligible property owners thousands of dollars each year. Click here for more information on tax-saving exemptions such as Homestead, Senior and all other available exemptions. The deadline to apply for any 2025 exemption is September 17, 2025.

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

Take care,

Martykan

Marty Kiar, JD, CFA







PHOTO BY Tracey Moyer "Book Ends"

# \* \* July 2025

Property Appraiser Office 10:30 - 12:30pm Town Hall  BULK ZONE 7 BULK ZONE 8 BULK ZONE 9 BULK ZONE 10 BULK ZONE 10 BULK ZONE 11 BULK ZONE 10 BULK ZONE 11 BULK ZONE 10 BULK ZONE 11 BULK ZONE 10 BULK ZONE 11 CODE Special Magistrate Hearing Task Force Meeting - Town Hall 7pm - Town Hall 7pm	rmers' Market 90 Griffin Rd. m - 3:00pm  ULK ZONE 12 / Event 8 - 2 dding 8 - 2 prop Off 10 - 2 ng Oaks Park 30 S 56th St. mers' Market 0 Griffin Rd.
• Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7pm • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting-Town Hall 7pm • CODE Special Magistrate Hearing Town Hall 9am • Town Hall 7pm • Town Hall 7pm • Town Hall 7pm	/ Event 8 - 2 dding 8 - 2 J Drop Off 10 - 2 ng Oaks Park 30 S 56th St. mers' Market
	n - 3:00pm
13 14 15 16 17 18  • Schools & Education Advisory Board  • Parry Plan Advisory  • Comprehensive Plan Advisory  16290	TMERS' Market OG Griffin Rd. m - 3:00pm
20 Part Public Arts & Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Town Hall 7pm -	THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY MARKET OF GRIFFIN Rd. m - 3:00pm
BULK ZONE 1 BULK ZONE 2 BULK ZONE 3 BULK ZONE 4 BULK ZONE 5 BU  27 28 29 30 31  Sunshine Ranches HOA ZOOM 7 - 9pm  BULK ZONE 7 BULK ZONE 8 BULK ZONE 9 BULK ZONE 10	ULK ZONE 6





## 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:	را
green w/white letters	
blue w/white letters 20.00	
Make check payable to:	7
Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue	
17220 Griffin Rd., Southwest Ranches 33331	
Information call: Chief Bennett: 954-868-2057	,



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

**PRSRT STD US POSTAGE** PAID MIAMI, FL **PERMIT** #622



#### TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!



YouTube **YouTube:**Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel

**UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS** 

Asbestos Explosives or Ammunition

Medical/Infectious Waste

Non-Residential Waste

Appliances

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



F Florida Technical Consultants

#### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & **BULK DROP OFF EVENT**

Saturday, July 12th, 2025 . 8:00am to 2:00pm Location: Rolling Oaks Barn - 17630 SW 56th St., Southwest Ranches, 33331 Document shredding from 8-2pm . prescription drug drop off 10-2pm

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

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

Computers, Cables DVD Players,

Monitors, Printers/Scanners, Radios, Stero Components, TVs,

Key Boards, Mice, Adapters,

Tape Players, VCRs

#### ACCEPTABLE HHW ITEMS

Aerosol Cans Antifreeze/Coolant/Paint Batteries & Auto Batteries BBQ & Camp Size Propane Cleaners Fluorescent Tubes/Bulbs Garden Chemicals Latex/Oil-Based Paint

Pesticides Pool Chlorine Tires (Up to 4 tires per household no rims) Used Oil & Filters

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

# Let's Get Connected for Our Latest News & Updates Instagram\_ @townofswr YouTube https://tinyurl.com/SWRYouTube @swrqov

