

# SOUTHWEST RANCHER

*The Official Newsletter of Southwest Ranches*

## JULY 2021 HIGHLIGHTS



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TO ALL  
SOUTHWEST RANCHES  
FIRST RESPONDERS AND  
FRONT LINE WORKERS



The Rural Public Arts and Design Board  
would like to invite you to  
Rolling Oaks Park  
(17630 Southwest 56th Street)  
on July 13, 2021 at 5:00 pm  
for a socially distanced drone photo.

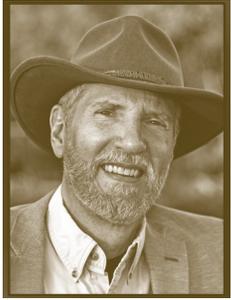


We can never thank you enough for all you  
do, but the memory of all Southwest Ranches  
First Responders and Front Line Workers  
together for a photo will be a cherished  
moment that we will all remember.



Please call (954) 434-0008





Mayor Steve Breitzkreuz

The Parks Board is constantly gathering input from residents regarding Town parks. This information may be new recommendations on uses or improvements for the park or it may be issues that people are seeing within the parks that need to be corrected. The Rural Public Arts Board recently spent time working on recommendations for the colors to be used to repaint a number of the structures in our parks. So, often the various boards work together to gather as much resident input as possible to continually work to improve our parks.

One of the ideas that has been in the works for a very long time is the improvement in the multi-purpose field at Country Estates Fishing Hole Park so it can be used for team sports. It could be baseball, softball, soccer, or some other team sport that requires a large open area. I am very excited this is moving forward. It is exciting because this has been a vision of one of our founding Council Members, Aster Knight. He also was instrumental in the creation of the Aster Knight Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation that assists in the funding of many of our projects. From day one he had a vision for having this open space fill the recreational needs of as many visitors and residents as possible, especially our own SWR youth.

As we move forward, the Parks Board is looking for your feedback. We have had issues of vandalism at a number of our parks. At Country Estates Fishing Hole Park we have replaced the basketball hoop three times, and we've also had broken windows and fencing. Now there is a concern that when we create this

open area, it could be damaged through the use of four wheelers and other off-road vehicles. We are considering cameras or creating a physical barrier. But we need everyone's help as well. I am asking that we all try to communicate just how important it is to respect our parks. They are unique, and they get a significant amount of use. So, it is up to all of us to ensure they are protected for everyone to use.

If you have any thoughts in this area, you can let me or the administration know. Or you can join in the next discussion of the Parks Board. They meet every month on the second Tuesday at 7:00 PM. Please check online for more details as we are transitioning from Zoom meetings to in-person meetings. Thank you for your assistance in keeping our parks the special place that they are!

It is my sincere honor to serve you as your Mayor and to enjoy and preserve our beautiful Town of Southwest Ranches together.

Steve



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 Philip at pchorath@swranches.org



Vice Mayor Bob Hartmann

When the coronavirus pandemic changed life as they knew it, some people were stirred to action.

Madison Sullivan was inspired to create the Madison's Mask project by her cousin Keri, who suffered an aneurysm and was hospitalized all alone during the pandemic. She wanted to make something that would protect others and lift their spirits. Ultimately, she and a group she organized here in our Town made over 1,200 fabric masks, each delivered with a note of encouragement written by children from a local elementary school, complete with their own artwork. She delivered the masks to the Pembroke Pines Police Department, the Davie and Southwest Ranches Fire Departments, Cleveland Clinic, Allied Home Health, two Alzheimer's homes, and the COVID-19 wing at New York Presbyterian Hospital. She also volunteered with the Miami Rescue Mission and Broward Outreach Center. Additionally, Madison was honored with the Bobcat Award of Excellence from West Broward High School for community service.

For these and her other initiatives, Madison is among the 15 high school seniors in Broward County who won a Silver Knight Award as part of this year's 63rd annual Miami Herald and El Nuevo Herald program recognizing outstanding high school seniors. She is the first recipient from West Broward High School.

The Miami Herald Silver Knight Awards is one of the nation's most highly regarded student awards programs. The purpose of this awards program is to recognize outstanding students who have not only maintained good grades but have also unselfishly applied their special knowledge and talents to contribute significant service to their schools and communities. The Silver Knight Awards program was instituted at the Miami Herald in 1959 by John S. Knight, past publisher of the Miami Herald, founder and editor emeritus of Knight-Ridder Newspapers and 1968 Pulitzer Prize winner.

As said in previous columns, I am proud to know Madison and the Sullivan family. She is a person who will go far in life and achieve important things. This is another example of the recognition she deserves for her efforts and dedication to her family and community.

On July 13 at 5 PM, the Town's Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board is planning an appreciation event for our first responders and front-line workers. Since it is the rainy season, we have rain dates planned for 7/20, and 7/27. If you live or work in our Town and are a first responder (fire department, police department, or emergency medical services) or a front-line worker (health care, public health, or work in support of any of these important life-saving activities), regardless of where your agency is located, please join us at the Rolling Oaks Park located at 17630 SW 56 Street. This will be an opportunity to say thank you and an occasion to capture the moment with a photo of our indispensable members of the community.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to point out acts kindness and community, please contact me at 954-801-1758.



## Council Member Jim Allbritton

Where has the time gone?

As we welcome July 2021, I would like to take a journey back along the Highway 2020, which was filled with potholes and the challenges they brought. Covid reared its ugly head in late January and that pothole continued to grow sadly taking nearly 600,000 lives until mid-June when a vaccine was introduced to slow down the spread.

Job loss was a huge pothole for millions of people who had never experienced anything like it. Companies were closing their offices, factories were shutting down their production lines, restaurants and mom and pop businesses were laying off long time employees, even our own Town Hall closed to the public, but we still found a way to fill the potholes. Companies allowed their employee's to work from home, factories brought in skeleton crews to keep job loss low, restaurants created new ways to enhance take out and delivery service. Instacart created new jobs for people.

Schools shut down and virtual learning became the norm. Students graduating from high school and college were unable to enjoy the experience of walking across the stage to receive their diploma with their families watching in person, but then Zoom helped with that as we sat and watched our granddaughter receive her diploma via Zoom.

Our life's journey is filled with potholes and their challenges, and some

of them simply cannot be avoided. Sometimes it can be a health issue for you or a loved one. Sometimes it may be a simple misunderstanding about an issue or policy in Town that gets blown out of proportion. No matter what these potholes present, there is a fix if we all work together.

As we turn onto Highway 2021, the huge potholes we faced in 2020 are getting smaller every day. If there is an issue or policy concern you may have with the Town, please pick up the phone, reach out to your Town staff, your Mayor or your Council Member. I assure you we will all work hard to keep the issues from becoming potholes. By working together we all can enjoy the rest of the journey on Highway 2021 throughout Southwest Ranches.

Happy 4th of July to everyone. Stay safe, respect your neighbors and the animals.

Jim Allbritton District 3  
305-903-7043  
jallbritton@southwestranches.org

## *Town Clerk's Corner*

by Russell Muñiz



### **Brief legislation from the May 13, 2021 Town Council Regular Meeting:**

- **Adopted Ordinance 2021-010 amending Article 130** of the Town Code concerning Zoning Map Amendments to preclude rezoning of any property to a higher density than that of any abutting property.
- **Adopted Resolution 2021-052** approving an agreement with C Danner LLC for Police Civilian Coordinator services.

**To view these approved items in their entirety please visit the Town Clerk's Department page on the Town website and click on the Resolutions and/or Ordinances link.**

# AROUND THE TOWN

THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S

## MAYORS MONARCH PLEDGE

### Pollinator Month Spotlight: Atala Butterfly

BY DECEMBER LAURETANO-HAINES

The Atala (*Eumaeus atala*) butterfly is a Florida native that nearly became extinct but is making a comeback in Florida.

This small butterfly is velvety black, red and turquoise in color. Atalas are most active in early morning or late afternoon. Males perch on the top side of leaves, females usually hang upside down underneath.

For nectar, the Atala prefers white flowers. Some of their favorite nectar plants in our landscapes are Saw palmetto, Sabal Palm, Wild coffee, and Spanish needle.

Butterflies select host plants on which to lay their eggs because the plants provide nutrition specific to the needs of their young (*caterpillars*). Coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*) is Atala's host plant. After hatching, caterpillars eat the plant's leaves, which contain a toxic chemical that does not harm the butterflies but protects them from predators.

You can find Atala butterflies fluttering in shady areas where Coontie and nectar plants are abundant.



## SHOW YOUR TOWN SPIRIT

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

## MEET YOU at the PARK...

By Chris Brownlow with December Lauretano-Haines

Summer is here, with its long days and balmy evenings. We hope you will think of Southwest Ranches parks when planning for your outdoor fun.

One activity that park users in Southwest Ranches are enjoying is GEOCACHING.

Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use GPS and other navigational devices to hide and seek containers called "geocaches" or "caches" anywhere in the world.

In order to play this real world treasure hunting game the only necessities are a GPS-enabled mobile phone or other GPS device, and a Geocaching.com membership (free).

A participant navigates to a specific set of coordinates and then uses clues provided to look for the cache container hidden at the coordinates'

location. There are many different types of geocaches and levels of the game, from basic/beginner to complex, multi-cache locations.

Geocaches can be found all over the world and there are literally hundreds of caches within a few-mile radius of our own Southwest Ranches backyards! Many caches combine interest in geocaching with other special interests or skills, and locations can be quite diverse. They may be at your local park, at the end of a long trail ride, or in the parking lot of your favorite local shopping center.

To learn more about geocaching and how you can join in the fun of this real-world treasure hunting game with over 6 million geocachers worldwide, visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

If you would like information about Southwest Ranches' parks, contact the Town by email at [Dlauretano@southwesteranches.org](mailto:Dlauretano@southwesteranches.org) or by dialing 954-434-0008.



### MARTY KIAR BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

#### Veterans Receiving the Full Exemption for Service-Connected Total and Permanent Disability May Be Eligible for a Refund

A recent change in Florida law allows for certain disabled veterans to receive a property tax refund. While the refund requirements are very specific, some property owners receiving the Full Veteran's Exemption for Total and Permanent Service-Connected Disability may be eligible for a refund on their new homesteaded property's taxes. Effective tax year 2021, homesteaded property owners receiving the Full Veteran's Exemption for Total and Permanent Service Connected Disability on a newly acquired Florida property - who also received the Full Exemption for Total and Permanent Service Connected Disability on another Florida property in the immediately preceding tax year - may be eligible to receive a partial refund of the ad valorem taxes paid for the newly acquired property in the year the property is acquired, prorated as of the date of transfer of ownership.

If you believe you are eligible to receive this

prorated refund, please contact our office a 954-357-6035 or email us at [CSEmgmt@bcpa.net](mailto:CSEmgmt@bcpa.net)

#### BCPA Outreach Returning to Governmental Center West

Our Mobile Exemption & Information Team has returned to the Governmental Center West located at 1 North University Drive in Plantation on Wednesdays from 12:00pm – 2:00pm. Our staff is available to assist residents with filing for any exemption and is available to answer any property questions you may have. To view all our upcoming events, please visit <https://web.bcpa.net/ExemptionsExpress/calendar>

To schedule a virtual visit from the safety of your home, please visit our website at <https://web.bcpa.net/virtualvisits>

**The absolute deadline for applying for any 2021 exemption is September 20, 2021.**

If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 954.357.6904 or by email at [martykiar@bcpa.net](mailto:martykiar@bcpa.net)

Take care,

*Marty Kiar*

Marty Kiar, CFA

Broward County Property Appraiser



MartyKiarBCPA

@MartyKiarBCPA



- **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 <http://southwextranches.org/rapid-notify/> and [Broward.org/Emergency/Pages/AlertBroward.aspx](http://Broward.org/Emergency/Pages/AlertBroward.aspx).

#### Financial Assistance Advice

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

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

#### National Flood Insurance Program Changes

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

#### Get a Flood Insurance Policy

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

If your property is in the SFHA and you have a mortgage from a federally regulated or

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

If you would like to know if your property is in a SFHA you can use the interactive map viewer. Visit <http://southwextranches.org/departments/town-engineering/flood-insurance-information/> and select Flood Maps. You can also call (954) 434-0008, provide your address and zip code, and Town staff will assist you in determining SFHA information specific to your property.

#### Elevation Certificate Information

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

#### Water Quality and Flood Control Effects of Drainage Systems

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

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

#### Protect Property from Flooding

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

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

#### Build Responsibly

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

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

#### Flood Risk Specialist Available to Assist Residents

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

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# AROUND THE TOWN

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[engineering/flood-insurance-information/](#) for additional information.

## Local Flood Hazards

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

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

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

## Protect Natural Floodplain Functions

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

## Map Services

Maps are an effective method of communicating information about flood hazards. Residents and businesses that are aware of potential flood hazards can take steps to avoid problems and reduce exposure to flooding. Therefore, the Town offers complementary maps to supplement and clarify the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with information on additional hazards, flooding outside mapped areas, development regulations that affect floodplain properties, flood insurance, natural floodplain functions, and property protection measures.

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

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

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

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 [rlfey@swranches.org](mailto:rlfey@swranches.org).

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



## LET'S NOT FORGET OUR HEROES

The Mission of the Military Heroes Support Foundation is to provide our military veterans direction and support in achieving an effective transition during their return home. The goal is to act as an advocate and liaison between service members, their families and available resources within the military and local communities. We work to maximize the effectiveness of all new and existing resources and to ensure accurate and timely communication to our men and women once in the home front. As always we will continue to support our military personnel deployed overseas with monthly shipments of care packages as well as monthly packages for our K-9s. We will endeavor to raise public and professional awareness and encourage our community to join us in the success of our mission.

MHSF is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.

The Town of Southwest Ranches collects donations for our troops and their families throughout the years. The following donations are appreciated and needed.

Toys, Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, Pepperoni or Similar Dried Meats, Boxes of Granola Bars or Similar, Individual Bags of Nuts, Dried Fruit, Trail Mix, Sunflower Seeds, Boxed and/or Individual Drink Packets, (Crystal Light, Walmart or Target Brand, Kool-Aid, Hot Chocolate), Foiled Packed Tuna and Chicken, Crackers, Baby Wipes (no larger than 2.5" wide packages).

Please drop off your contributions to Town Hall between 8:30 am - 5:00 pm or call (954) 434-0008 for curb-side pick-up.



## FOLLOW US ON THE TOWN'S OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook page: @SWRGOV
- Twitter account: @SWR\_gov
- YouTube: Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel



- Watch Town Council meetings
- Get updated information on Town events
- Quick notification to followers on emergency management issues

# AROUND THE TOWN

## CodeRED®

Keeping Citizens Informed

**SIGN UP FOR CODERED EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS FROM THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES.**

You will receive CodeRED alerts for emergency updates such as evacuation notices, weather warnings, hazardous traffic or road conditions, and other Town events.

You can self-register on the Town's website: [www.southwestranches.org](http://www.southwestranches.org). to receive notifications by either phone call, text or email.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Choice #1 - Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Choice #2 - Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Choice #3 - Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## Southwest Ranches FIRE RESCUE

The Southwest Ranches Firefighters have been training with numerous fire and medical drills. The live hands-on drills have been emergency medical delivery, emergency scene size ups, vehicle crashes, hose deployment, apparatus pumping, ladder operations and more. When the bell rings we intend to deliver the best service to our wonderful residents.

### Make an Emergency Plan: Hurricane Season is here:

We all know the drill, but this is a reminder to be prepared and do not wait to the last minute.

Make sure everyone in your household knows and understands your hurricane plan. In your hurricane plans include the office, kids' daycare, and anywhere you frequent. Ensure your business has a continuity plan to continue operating when disaster strikes.



### Covid-19

As of May 2021 (numbers are higher now), more than 10.1 million Floridians have now been vaccinated for COVID-19, and 984,509 Broward residents have been vaccinated with at least one dose. Several private sector corporations are offering incentives to assist in getting Broward County residents vaccinated. The offers have been posted to a new webpage on the Broward County coronavirus website.

## BROWARD.org

### ALERT!BROWARD SIGN UP

### EMERGENCY ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

AlertBroward notifications will provide subscribers with important information in critical countywide situations such as hurricanes, evacuations, curfews, and open shelters.

By signing up you'll receive time-sensitive calls to your home, business or mobile phones or emails.

<https://www.broward.org/Emergency/Pages/AlertBroward.aspx>

**ALERT!BROWARD SIGN UP**  
EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

**BROWARD COUNTY**  
FLORIDA

## Household HAZARDOUS WASTE Disposal Days

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

Location: Rolling Oaks Barn - 17630 SW 56th St., Southwest Ranches, 33331

**Saturday, July 10th, 2021 . 8:00am to 2:00pm**  
Document shredding - 10:00am to 1:00pm (4 boxes)  
Prescription drug drop off 10:00am to 2:00pm

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

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

#### 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 - 4 tires (no rims) per household  
Used Oil & Filters

#### ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Computers, Cables DVD Players,  
Key Boards, Mice, Adapters,  
Monitors, Printers/Scanners,  
Radios, Stereo Components, TVs,  
Tape Players, VCRs

#### UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Appliances  
Asbestos  
Explosives or Ammunition  
Medical/Infectious Waste  
Non-Residential Waste

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

**CODE ENFORCEMENT HOT-LINE**  
**954-343-7449**

## Town Talk

Want to stay in touch and receive information on TOWN EVENTS?  
Send your email address to: [druesga@southwestranches.org](mailto:druesga@southwestranches.org)

# AROUND THE TOWN

## DID YOU KNOW?



Our new monthly Town Department Corner that will feature an article from each particular department.

**The Southwest Ranches Parks Department is leading efforts to protect wildlife habitats.**

Everyone loves nature—in theory. Who doesn't enjoy the sight of a butterfly or bird in flight or a squirrel dashing along a fence?

Supporting wildlife is not just a “feel-good” thing. We need to do more than loving what we see! Habitat loss is the main force driving current high rates of extinction. When humans develop land, wetlands, pastures, and tree-covered areas are degraded. The impact on wildlife is severe. The loss of just one plant species can trigger 30 other insect, plant, and animal species to also be lost. Extinctions occur naturally, but current rates are growing alarmingly—due to human activity.

### TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE!

In 2018, the Town earned the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat Certification. To maintain our certification, we must continue to take action and meet goals:

1. A certain number of Southwest Ranches properties must become Certified Wildlife Habitats each year.
2. The Town must provide education each year. Through our website, Town newsletter, and community events, we continue to share about wildlife habitats.

### WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

1. Wildlife needs your property can provide:
  - **Food:** foliage, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds, and nuts.
  - **Water:** sources like ponds, canals, wetlands, bird baths, puddle areas, and swales.
- Cover:** places to hide and feel safe such as shrubs, brush piles or even dead trees. Places to raise young.
2. Certify your property at <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify> and let us know.
3. **Spread the word:** Teach children. Tell neighbors and friends.
4. Practice sustainable gardening. Use native plants, conserve water, avoid using pesticides or herbicides, except in spot applications to help wildlife thrive with healthy habitat.

## COVID-19 IMPORTANT RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

**BROWARD COUNTY** [www.broward.org/coronavirus](http://www.broward.org/coronavirus)  
954-831-3900  
954-357-9500 (Broward County Call Center)  
954-743-9779 (Senior Citizen's Elder Hotline)

**BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
[www.browardschools.com/coronavirus](http://www.browardschools.com/coronavirus) [www.browardschools.com](http://www.browardschools.com)  
754-321-0000 (Main Switchboard)  
754-321-0911 (Emergency Hotline—Live Person)  
754-321-0321 (BCPS & Rumor Control Hotline)

### STATE OF FLORIDA

**FOOD PROGRAMS** [www.myflorida.com/accessflorida](http://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida) (SNAP)  
[www.feedingsouthflorida.org](http://www.feedingsouthflorida.org)  
Text: FLKIDSMEALS to PH# 211-211

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS**  
800-963-5337 <http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/index.php> (SHINE)

**SMALL BUSINESS & NON-PROFIT ASSISTANCE**  
[www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org) [www.floridadisaster.biz](http://www.floridadisaster.biz)

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN'S AFFAIRS**  
877-741-3400 (Veteran Clinical Contact Center)

**CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC)**  
Call: 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636), TTY: 888-232-6348.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/DCS/ContactUs/Form>

## PROTOTYPE BARN

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



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

**Please call or email Emily Aceti for more information: [eaceti@swranches.org](mailto:eaceti@swranches.org)**

## TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES BUDGET HEARINGS AND WORKSHOP

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

### THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2021

Preliminary Millage Rate and Initial FY 2021-2022 Fire Protection and Solid Waste (SW) special assessment Adoption at July Regular Council Meeting (all via resolutions) (7 pm)

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021

Budget Workshop on Proposed Budget (7 PM) - Mayor and Town Council

(Community Invited)

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

First Public Hearing for Tentative Millage and Budget Adoption introduced for FY 2021-2022 (via resolution and ordinance, respectively). Final Fire Protection and SW special assessment adoption (via resolutions) @ 6:00 PM. September Regular Council meeting @ 7:30 PM

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

Second Public Hearing for Final Millage and Budget Adoption (via resolution and ordinance, respectively) @ 6:00 PM. September Regular Council meeting @ 7:00 PM

# AROUND THE TOWN

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

## CALL TO ARTISTS!

Have you ever dreamt of painting a large scale mural? The Town of Southwest Ranches has a wall that is waiting for your creativity! The wall is located in Founders Park, behind CVS Pharmacy, on the southwest corner of Griffin and Flamingo Road.

The mural should reflect the rural lifestyle, wildlife, or natural beauty of Southwest Ranches.

The Town is offering a stipend of \$2,500.00 plus up to \$1000.00 in material costs.

For information email Susan at:  
Skutz@southwest ranches.org or call 954-434-0008.  
Deadline: July 1st, 2021



TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES  
**PUBLIC WORKS AND**

**WASTE PRO**  
(954) 967-4200

**SOLID WASTE**

All solid waste should be contained inside your 40 gallon container and not exceed 50 lbs.



Broward County Public Schools

**It's SUMMER Time** Let's have a GOOD TIME

## Waste Collection

**MAKE SURE YOUR GARBAGE, BULK AND RECYCLE ARE OUT BEFORE 7 AM**

### TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES - Waste Collection Map & Schedule



TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS ON STIRLING ROAD...Please remember you are in AREA 1A for your bulk schedule.

**RESIDENTIAL BULK MAY BE PLACED IN THE SWALE THE SATURDAY BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED BULK COLLECTION DAY. (ORD 2008-07) PAGE 6**

#### Weekly **SOLID (GARBAGE)** Waste Days

Area 3	Area 2	Area 1
Wednesday & Saturday	Tuesday & Friday	Monday & Thursday

#### **BULK** Collection Service Dates by Area

Month	Area	WEDNESDAY Only	Area	TUESDAY Only	Area	MONDAY Only
JULY 2021	3-A	7/14 - 7/28	2-A	7/13 - 7/27	1-A	7/12 - 7/26
	3-B	7/07 - 7/21	2-B	7/06 - 7/20	1-B	7/05 - 7/19
AUGUST 2021	3-A	8/11 - 8/25	2-A	8/10 - 8/24	1-A	8/09 - 8/23
	3-B	8/04 - 8/18	2-B	8/03 - 8/17 - 8/31	1-B	8/02 - 8/16 - 8/30

**RECYCLE** collection occurs once per week: Area 1 every Monday • Area 2 every Tuesday • Area 3 every Wednesday

### ATTENTION SOUTHWEST RANCHES KIDS UNDER 13...

Give us your **BEST SHOT OF NATURE AND WILDLIFE IN SOUTHWEST RANCHES**

The Rural Public Arts and Design Board would like to showcase your photo skills in the Town's newsletter.

We invite children ages 13 and under who live in Southwest Ranches to submit their favorite photo. This is for our young photographers to enter some type of nature or wildlife picture within the Town.

- ~ No adult assistance.
- ~ All photos should be the work of the child photographer.
- ~ One (1) entry per child.
- ~ Photos should be submitted in the highest quality (resolution) possible.
- ~ The Town reserves the right to reject any submittal.

Please email your photo, in JPEG format to: Skutz@southwest ranches.org along with your name, age, phone number, and a caption about your photo (about 137 characters with spaces).

Submissions will be accepted until further notice.

Any questions please let me know.  
(954) 343-7460

### FRAUDULENT ACTIVITY IS RISING...

**A TIP TO HELP PROTECT YOUR MAIL!**

- Pick up your mail regularly.
- Don't leave letters in the mailbox for several days, over the weekend or even overnight.
- If possible make checking your mailbox part of your daily routine.
- Look into purchasing a mailbox with a lock.



### Attention Social Media Student Experts!

- Are you a SWR Resident in High School or Attending College?
- Are you savvy with social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube?
- Are you interested in receiving much needed volunteer hours?
- Are you interested in making a difference in your community by helping the Town communicate with residents and people following us on social media?

If the answer to all of these questions is yes, then we have a great opportunity for you. The Town is currently seeking a social media/public information intern to assist the Town with its outreach efforts. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Assistant Town Administrator Russell Muniz at (954) 434-0008 or rmuniz@southwest ranches.org.



PHOTO BY:

Natalie Soto "The view around here is always FARMtastic!"  
(From the 2021 Photo Contest Calendar)

# CALENDARS

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
<b>July</b>					1	2	3
4 	5 • TOWN HALL CLOSED <b>AREA 1B BULK</b>	6 • Code Hearing Town Hall 9 am <b>AREA 2B BULK</b>	7 • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall - 7 pm <b>AREA 3B BULK</b>	8 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - 7 pm	9	10 • Household Hazardous Waste & Electronic Drop Off 8 am - 2 pm Shred-A-Thon 10 am - 1 pm Drug Drop Off 10 am - 2 pm Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56 St.	
11	12 • Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm <b>AREA 1A BULK</b>	13 • Bid Opening IFB 21-006 Installation of Hancock Rd Guardrails 11:00 a.m. • First Responders and Frontline Workers - Rolling Oaks Barn - 5 pm <b>AREA 2A BULK</b>	14 Q & A with the Mayor - Virtual 7:00 pm <b>AREA 3A BULK</b>	15	16	17	
18 • Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board - Town Hall 7 pm <b>AREA 1B BULK</b>	19	20 <b>AREA 2B BULK</b>	21 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting Town Hall 7 pm <b>AREA 3B BULK</b>	22	23	24	
25 <b>AREA 1A BULK</b>	26 • Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56 Street, 7 pm <b>AREA 2A BULK</b>	27	28 • Sunshine Ranches HOA Town Hall - 7:30 pm <b>AREA 3A BULK</b>	29	30	31 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - 7 pm	

Please note that effective July 1, 2021 all Town Council Meetings and Advisory Board meetings will be held in person at Town Hall unless explicitly stated otherwise.

## 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/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### MOUNTING PREFERENCE:

vertical (up/down) \_\_\_\_\_ horizontal (left/right)

### COLOR PREFERENCE:

\_\_\_\_\_ green w/white letters \_\_\_\_\_ blue w/white letters

Make Checks payable to:

Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue  
17220 Griffin Rd,  
Southwest Ranches, Fl. 33331

For additional  
information contact

Chief Bennett at 954.868.2057



We would like to wish the following  
Southwest Ranches resident a  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY...**

~  
**Ralph Bellman**  
July 28



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

## BULK RULES



- **AVOID A FINE OF \$500.00** - Bulk cannot be placed out earlier than the Saturday prior to your scheduled bulk pick up date.
- **AVOID A FINE OF \$500.00** - Landscaper or Contractor generated waste on your property must be removed by that vendor for disposal.
- Bulk Piles over-the-limit of **12 Cubic Yards** per household will be picked up and the vendor will bill the resident the additional yardage at the rate of \$17.50 per cubic yard.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT 12 CUBIC YARDS IS EQUIVILANT TO THE SIZE OF A VOLKSWAGON BEETLE (APPROXIMATELY 8 FEET WIDE BY 10 FEET LONG AND 4 FEET TALL).**

If you have a request or complaint, please click on the Waste Pro button on our website:  
[www.southwestranches.org](http://www.southwestranches.org) or call: (954) 967-4200.

# 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  
**TOWN HALL TWITTER ACCOUNT:** @SWR\_Gov • **YOUTUBE:** Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel • **FACEBOOK:** facebook@SWRGOV

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

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

## **TOWN STAFF**

Andy Berns, <i>Town Administrator</i>	(954) 434-0008	aberns@southwestranches.org
Danielle Caban, <i>Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7474	dcaban@southwestranches.org
Russell Muñiz, <i>Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7450	rmuniz@southwestranches.org
Debra M. Ruesga, <i>Deputy Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7451	druesga@southwestranches.org
Sandy Luongo, <i>General Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7476	sluongo@southwestranches.org
Susan Kutz, <i>Administrative Specialist</i>	(954) 343-7460	skutz@southwestranches.org
Martin Sherwood, <i>Town Financial Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7473	msherwood@southwestranches.org
Rich Strum, <i>Town Controller</i>	(954) 343-7442	rstrum@southwestranches.org
Venessa Redman, <i>Senior Procurement &amp; Budget Officer</i>	(954) 343-7467	vrredman@southwestranches.org
Gina Lawrence, <i>Town Accountant</i>	(954) 343-7477	glawrence@southwestranches.org
Keith Poliakoff, <i>Town Attorney</i>	(954) 909-0580	kpoliakoff@southwestranches.org
Rod Ley, <i>Public Works Director</i>	(954) 343-7444	rley@southwestranches.org
Philip Chorath, <i>Engineer I</i>	(954) 343-7441	pchorath@southwestranches.org
Emily McCord Aceti, <i>Community Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7453	eaceti@southwestranches.org
December Lauretano-Haines, <i>Parks, Recreation &amp; Open Space Manager</i>	(954) 343-7452	dlaretano@southwestranches.org
Melinda Stringer, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 343-7454	mstringer@southwestranches.org

## **TOWN SERVICES**

### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING – (CAP GOVERNMENT) M-F 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**

Brian Dillon, <i>Building Official</i>	(954) 343-7446	bdillon@capfla.com
Joyce Marques, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446	jmarques@capfla.com
Derlin Guevara, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7445	dguevara@capfla.com

### **PLANNING – (MELLEGREN PLANNING GROUP)**

Jeff Katims	(954) 475-3070	michele@tmpgplanning.com
	(954) 435-3070	jeff@floridaplanning.net

### **CODE, ZONING, and PERMITTING**

Code Enforcement Hotline	(954) 343-7440	zoninginfo@southwestranches.org
Julio Medina, <i>Code Enforcement Director</i>	(954) 343-7449	jmedina@southwestranches.org
Blair Bublely, <i>Code Enforcement Officer</i>	(954) 343-7458	bbublely@swranches.org
Marlon Gonzalez, <i>Code Enforcement Officer</i>	(954) 343-7457	mgonzalez@swranches.org
Jenna Anderson, <i>Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7440	janderson@southwestranches.org
	(954) 343-7459	

### **WASTE/BULK/RECYCLING SERVICES (Residential & Commercial)**

Waste Pro	(954) 967-4200
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### **REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS – Chief Bennett**

	(954) 868-2057	lbennett@southwestranches.org
<b>MOSQUITO CONTROL</b>	(954) 765-4062	
<b>LOST AND FOUND ANIMALS</b>	(754) 224-0877	Facebook@SWRLostandFoundAnimals

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **EMERGENCY**

<i>Non-Emergency</i>	<b>911</b>	
<i>Davie Police Department</i>	(954) 764-4357 (HELP)	
Jeff Hobales, <i>Detective</i>	(954) 693-8200	
Cheryl Danner, <i>Police Services Coordinator</i>	(954) 693-8293	jeffrey_hobales@davie-fl.gov
<i>Davie Fire Rescue Station 112</i>	(954) 693-8352	cdanner@southwestranches.org
<i>Volunteer Fire Rescue - Chief Bennett</i>	(954) 680-0020	
	(954) 868-2057	

### **TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES**

Potholes and Signs Down - Philip Chorath	(954) 343-7441	pchorath@southwestranches.org
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## **OTHER**

### **WATER DISTRICTS - CANALS**

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



**Town of Southwest Ranches**

13400 Griffin Road  
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

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facebook@SWRGOV

**YouTube**

YOUTUBE:  
Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel



TWITTER:  
@SWR\_Gov

CLICK ON QR CODE TO VISIT US AT  
[WWW.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG](http://WWW.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG)



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

**9th Annual Photo Contest**

*When was the last time you visited one  
of our beautiful Parks?*

The theme for 2022 Photo Contest Calendar is...

**SOUTHWEST RANCHES PARKS**

Pictures must be submitted no later than September 13th, 2021

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

Email your photo to: [Skutz@southwestranches.org](mailto:Skutz@southwestranches.org)

**Town of Southwest Ranches Park Sites**

- Sunshine Ranches Equestrian Park - 5840 SW 148th Avenue
- Southwest Meadows Sanctuary Park - 16290 Griffin Road
- Calusa Corners Park - 4701 Hawke's Bluff Avenue
- Rolling Oaks Park - 17630 SW 56th Street
- Country Estates Fishing Hole Park - 18900 Griffin Road
- Frontier Trails Park - 19300 SW 51st Manor
- Founder's Park - 12498 Griffin Road

**4th of July**   
**WORD SEARCH**

I	A	B	O	M	B	P	O	P	B	E	J	W
D	N	H	O	T	D	O	G	S	P	M	O	H
D	I	D	N	G	F	K	R	S	A	C	Q	I
E	H	F	E	P	I	T	Y	P	T	U	W	T
C	L	B	V	P	R	Z	P	A	R	A	D	E
L	S	B	L	U	E	B	F	R	I	E	R	G
A	X	Q	I	C	W	N	I	K	O	J	D	S
R	M	H	B	E	O	M	D	L	T	D	K	T
A	J	E	E	L	R	O	Q	E	R	V	F	R
T	U	A	R	S	K	X	C	R	N	Y	R	I
I	L	N	T	I	S	P	U	S	A	C	E	P
O	Y	W	Y	B	C	T	E	S	S	A	E	E
N	A	U	Z	F	L	A	G	E	M	M	A	S

- |              |         |             |          |
|--------------|---------|-------------|----------|
| FIREWORKS    | RED     | STARS       | FREE     |
| BBO          | WHITE   | STRIPES     | HOT DOGS |
| SPARKLERS    | BLUE    | BOMB POP    | PATRIOT  |
| INDEPENDENCE | AMERICA | FLAG        | USA      |
| PARADE       | LIBERTY | DECLARATION | JULY     |