

# SOUTHWEST RANCHER

*The Official Newsletter of Southwest Ranches*

## MARCH 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Front Cover	Happy St. Patrick's Day
Page 2	Mayor's Message Mayor's Monarch Pledge
Page 2 - 4	Council Member News
Page 4	Clerk's Corner Public Works Photo Contest Calendars Stay In Touch With Engineering
Page 5	Fire Rescue Bulk Rules DMV Flow Mobile Your Sales Tax Dollars at Work! Meet You at the Park
Page 6	SOFLO Chili Fest Covid Testing Advisory Board Updates BCPA Marty Kiar - Property Tax MAP Broward
Page 7 - 8	Show Your Town Spirit Flood Safety
Page 8	Davie Police Report Flamingo Migration
Page 9	March School Calender Barn Dance Waste Collection Household Hazardous Waste
Page 10	March Calendar Kids Under 13 Best Shot Contest Happy Birthday Sikh Youth 5K Run/Walk
Page 11	In-Touch Town Contact Info
Back Cover	Fruit Word Search Carnival Thank You





Mayor  
Steve Breitreuz

TSDOR Project Update

We are continuing the implementation of the Transportation Surface Drainage and Ongoing Rehabilitation (TSDOR) program. This is a multi-decade effort to repave our roads. I wish to commend our Public Works Director and team that coordinate this significant effort as well as the Grant and Finance teams that obtain the funding and ensure that the procurement and disbursement is properly handled. It a huge effort by a great team.

This project was originally funded through Ad Valorem Tax dollars. However, through the penny sales tax to fund transportation projects, we have been able to obtain funding as well as speed up the overall project. This is all good news. But not all has been positive. As this project has progressed, I have heard from residents regarding the impact of this project on their properties in the swale areas, and I want to take a couple minutes to address some of those concerns as best I can.

While this is primarily a road restoration and resurfacing project, a portion of the project is to ensure that when a rain event occurs, the roadway will drain as quickly as possible. This is critical because driving on a road that is underwater can quickly deteriorate the foundation of the road and drastically reduce the life of the road. To ensure that the road drains as quickly as possible, the swales on the roadway are renewed as part of the project.

This can create temporary hazards at the edge of the road while the project is in progress, and I encourage all residents to please use caution. Once the swales are dug out, then some fill and Bahia grass is planted and the swale is not as deep as it once appeared during construction, but probably deeper than be-

fore the project began. This allows for the needed drainage.

Another issue that is brought to my attention is that residents may have St. Augustine grass rather than Bahia grass. To many residents, Bahia does not look as nice as St. Augustine. However, it was chosen for several reasons. First, it takes much less water to survive and since we target these road projects during the dry season, that is important. Second, it is less expensive, saving tax dollars. And third, generally over time, if a yard has both Bahia and St. Augustine, the St. Augustine will take over and crowd out the Bahia over several years.

With that said, I understand that many times it just does not look right to have them both and a resident may not want to wait a several years for this to resolve itself. Therefore, residents can request that no Bahia grass is put down. The resident could then purchase and install their preferred grass on their own. I am working to see if there are any additional options that we can work out that will be fair to current, past, and future projects and I hope to communicate that to you in the not-too-distant future. However, for now, those are our options.

While the current process can have issues for some properties, the most important thing is that at the end of this project, you will have a new road in front of your property that will last for many years to come and will increase the value of your property. Like any construction project, while it is in process, it can be disruptive. However, when we look at those areas where the project has already been completed, and there are many, the final product is a huge improvement.

Thank-you for your understanding. We are blessed to live in this community, and I am thankful for this Town and the honored to serve and represent you.

Steve (954) 296-6018



Vice Mayor  
Bob Hartmann

January and February have been a very busy time around Town.

First, we should congratulate the Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation for a very successful fundraiser and thank George Morris for a thorough briefing concerning the Country Carnival at a recent Council Meeting. This was the first carnival, that I am aware of, held in our Town and based on the extent of attendance and from a financial standpoint it was a huge success. I went a few times, and each experience was quite different. I went on opening day, Thursday at 5 PM. As the crowd grew, I noticed that it was mostly young families. I went back on Saturday at 7 PM and noticed again the crowd was mostly families with elementary and middle school kids, and by 9 PM most of them had left and were being steadily replaced by groups of middle and high school kids. All evening the carnival was quite busy.

While there were a few bumps in the road that were addressed as they occurred, the event was safe, family-friendly and operated very smoothly. The Country Carnival was a team effort so I would like to congratulate and thank the Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation Team for a job well done. The Parks Foundation raises funds through the annual car show, the chili cookoff and now the carnival. The proceeds from the Foundation's fundraising activities benefit the Town's parks thru improvements and new equipment.

In February, the Town's resident Charter Review Committee wrapped up its work studying the Town's Charter and making recommendations to strengthen any language that will further protect our rural lifestyle, open spaces, and make important tweaks to how the Council and Ad-



THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S

**MAYORS  
MONARCH  
PLEDGE**

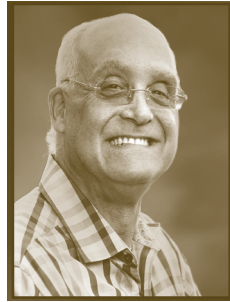
ministration conduct their business. The Town seats this committee about every 10 years. The next step in the charter review process is for the Council to consider the recommendations provided, select which recommendations they will support, and put on the 2022 ballot for the voters in Southwest Ranches to decide by referendum. If you are interested in providing feedback on the recommendations, please check the Council agendas on the Town website, under the Clerk's Department, for charter review activities at the upcoming Council meetings.

A new temporary public safety board began meeting in February. It will meet the first Tuesday, monthly until August. This board was Council Member Jim Allbritton's idea. While the board has purview to make recommendation on any public safety concerns affecting our community, most of the discussion at the first meeting centered on traffic and speeding. If public safety concerns you and you would like to participate, please be encouraged to attend the meetings. You can make a difference.

Finally, a bit of good news from a public safety perspective. Davie Police Chief Steve Kinsey recently informed the Town that reported serious crimes, including Murder, Forcible Sex Offenses, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny, and Motor Vehicle Theft in Southwest Ranches decreased 25% when comparing 2020 to 2021. Additionally, calls for police service increased by 11.5%. And finally, traffic accidents decreased by 40%. It is a credit to the Southwest Ranches Police Department team and our partnership between our two towns that we can achieve this type of success.

If I can assist with any questions or any Town issue, or you would just like to have a chat, please call me.

Bob (954) 801-1758



## Council Member David S. Kuczenski

Howdy Folks,

I want to welcome

everyone to March. I want to update you on an issue that has burdened our equestrian community for many years. Our equestrian folks have faced dangerous encounters with motor vehicles while crossing the SW 184th Avenue / Bonaventure Bridge over the C-11 canal. I am working to make a safer passage for our equestrians. As you drive by, you will see the fence line along the high school. That fence line is approximately 6 inches inside the boundary of Weston. The remainder to the south is Southwest Ranches. The bridge belongs to Broward County, who in the past has indicated that they had no dispute with designating a passage for horses to ride along the northern side of the C-11 canal and Weston. After I met with a few city officials including Weston Mayor Peggy Brown, it appears that our long sought after designation will come to fruition. With the help of City Manager Don Decker, Mayor Peggy Brown, and Town Administrator Andy Berns, I expect a safer passage for our equestrians to cross the Bonaventure bridge.

Finally, everyone is keenly aware of the continuing complications with disposing solid waste. We are meeting with representatives from Newgen Strategies and Solutions to discuss future solid waste disposal alternatives on Saturday, February 26th. Watch the Town website [www.SouthwestRanches.org](http://www.SouthwestRanches.org) for notices. I know this is an important issue for us.

I hope everyone stays safe and the Covid19 virus will continue to subside.

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



## Council Member Jim Allbritton

Good Day Southwest Ranches:

This year has started off in a full gallop!

We had our first Town Carnival in January and from what has been said it was a big success. A special Thank You to the entire Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation for their dedication and hard work in putting this event together. It has been discussed that the property on the corner of Dykes Road and Griffin Road be used for other Town activities on a more regular basis. Some suggestions include a weekly or monthly farmers market.

In January the full Town Council was in attendance for Broward Days in Tallahassee. I believe Southwest Ranches was the only municipality that had all its elected officials there lobbying for the good of our town.

The Charter Review committee finalized their review of the Town Charter and will send their review to the Council. Thank you to the committee for giving all their time.

The Green Meadows drainage project is well underway and I have heard from residents voicing their concerns about the mess in their neighborhood. The installation of pipe is starting to wind down and the clean-up portion has started. It will take awhile for things to get back to normal and our Public Works Department is working hard to ensure things are done right. The Green Meadows area has long been recognized by the county as a flood area. We received \$937,000 in grant monies from the county and state to do these drainage projects in Green Meadows.

The Town of Southwest Ranches is pleased to announce we are the first city to complete construction of a Broward County transportation surtax funded project.

continued on page 4

# AROUND THE TOWN

continued from page 3

The drainage improvements on SW 50th Street in Rolling Oaks were funded by \$124,000 of surtax dollars.

Along with the drainage project, several streets will be some of the first to be repaved with \$1,960,165 in Broward County surtax money, so please be patient.

February 1st was the first meeting of the newly established Public Safety and Traffic Committee. I was very impressed with how the five committee members took to the task of coming up with ideas of how to improve traffic issues and ideas of how to reduce crime. We had concerned residents in attendance that gave input to the discussion. I would like to invite any residents to attend. Safety and traffic are Town issues that affect all of us.

As this year goes forward, I would like to invite ALL residents to get involved with any of the Town boards or committees, attend Town Council meetings, and work together to keep Southwest Ranches the BEST!

And with St. Patrick's Day upon us, "May you have all the happiness and luck that life can hold- and at the end of your rainbows may you find a pot of gold."

Jim Allbritton (305) 903-7043

## Clerk's Corner

by Russell Muñiz



### Brief legislation from the January 27, 2022 Town Council Regular Meeting:

- **Adopted Resolution 2022-028** approving the issuance of a purchase order to Advanced Kiosks for a self-service lobby kiosk.
  - **Adopted Resolution 2022-029** approving the issuance of a purchase order to E-Sciences Inc. for environmental permitting services as part of the Town's annual report for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).
  - **Adopted Resolution 2022-030** supporting the advancement of the Green Meadows Drainage Project for Broward County Transportation Surtax funding.
  - **Adopted Resolution 2022-031** approving an agreement with NewGen Strategies and Solutions LLC for Solid Waste Disposal proposal consultant services.
  - **Adopted Resolution 2022-032** approving an agreement with Bacallao Construction and Engineering Development, LLC to complete the Hancock Road guardrail improvement project.
  - **Adopted Resolution 2022-033** approving the 1st amendment to the Solid Waste Memorandum of Understanding with Broward County for the study of and development of an integrated solid waste and recycling system.
  - **Adopted Resolution 2022-034** approving a change order for Weekly Asphalt for the TSDOR project.
  - **Adopted Resolution 2022-035** approving the 5th Modification to the agreement with Russell Muniz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk.
- Brief legislation from the February 10, 2022 Town Council Regular Meeting:**
- **Adopted Ordinance 2022-005** amending the Town's purchasing manual.
  - **Adopted Ordinance 2022-006** amending the definition of the term "flag plot" in the Unified Land Development Code.
  - **Adopted Ordinance 2022-007** restricting the use of the Waiver of Plat process for subdivisions.

• **Adopted Ordinance 2022-008** expanding the Town Council's authority to grant variances.

• **Adopted Resolution 2022-036** approving a Waiver of Plat to subdivide 4.39 gross acres into two lots.

• **Adopted Resolution 2022-037** approving the Riley's Estates Plat consisting of two lots.

• **Adopted Resolution 2022-038** enacting a Zoning In Progress to prepare and enact a new rural residential zoning category.

• **Adopted Resolution 2022-039** supporting a recommendation from the Town of Davie to prohibit a left turn on Eastbound Sheridan Street and no direct access on to SW 148th Avenue from the Holman Automotive Group property.

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.

lights camera... action!  
**2022**  
Photo Contest Calendars are here! Don't miss out we have a limited amount.  
**\$5.00**  
Call Town Hall (954) 434-0008

**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

TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES  
**PUBLIC WORKS AND WASTE PRO**  
(954) 967-4200

**BLACK PLASTIC GARBAGE BAGS**

Please place your black plastic bags inside or next to your solid waste container. Not on your bulk pile.

YES NO

# AROUND THE TOWN



## Southwest Ranches FIRE RESCUE

Training is always a priority for the Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue Department. It is our mission to be the best we can be so we can provide our residents with the best service.

We conducted joint training exercises at the Broward Fire Academy with Davie Fire. The training consisted of fire attacks on first and second floor levels. The building was smoked prior to firefighter entry to simulate a real fire. Forcible entry props were used and had to be manually forced open. Search and Rescue were trained finding a manikin of a human size and weight then removed to a safe area.

We also performed drafting operations from a lake and hydrant operations because drafting operations from wells or static sources is prevalent in the Ranches.

Fire well testing has commenced and will be completed in March.

Fire Chief Lee Bennett



## YOUR SALES TAX DOLLARS AT WORK!

The Town of Southwest Ranches is pleased to announce we are the first city to complete construction of a Broward County transportation surtax funded project. The drainage improvements on SW 50th Street in Rolling Oaks were funded with \$124,000 of surtax dollars. We look forward to announcing the completion of two other Broward County funded transportation surtax projects that are currently under construction: The resurfacing and swale work along SW 196th Avenue, SW 199th Avenue, SW 201st Terrace, SW 202nd Avenue and the side streets that was funded with \$737,005 of surtax dollars. The resurfacing and swale work along SW 128th Avenue, SW 130th Avenue (Melaleuca Road), SW 133rd Avenue, SW 135th Avenue (Lupo Lane), and SW 136th Avenue (Holatee Trail) from Stirling Road and Old Sheridan Street that was funded with \$1,223,165.00 of surtax dollars.

## MEET YOU <sup>at</sup> the PARK...



~ CALL FOR ENTRIES ~

**COUNTRY ESTATES PARK ENTRANCE DESIGN CONTEST**  
Do you have what it takes to design and create a large scale, functional artwork?

The Town of Southwest Ranches is seeking designs for an artistic entrance feature for Country Estates Fishing Hole Park. Our current chain link fence and gates are not beautiful! So, put on your thinking cap and get inventive!

The entrance feature should reflect the Town's rural lifestyle, recreational fishing and/or equestrian activities, wildlife, or natural beauty of Southwest Ranches. The entrance feature should include gates spanning the park's vehicular entrance and exit lanes as well as equestrian and pedestrian access. The feature should contain elements of the Town's Rural Identification Program standards for any signage to be included.

Country Estates Park Fishing Hole Park is located 18900 Griffin Road. The entrance is on the West side of the property, accessed via SW 190th Ave.

Everyone is encouraged to get creative. For further information and to submit entries: email [dlaretano@southwestranches.org](mailto:dlaretano@southwestranches.org) or call 954-343-7452.

## 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 EQUIVALENT 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.

## Mini-Flow: Florida Licensing on Wheels



Come to Town Hall if you need to renew or replace your Florida Driver's License, Identification Card or Tag and Registration. The Department of Motorist Services Mini-Flow Florida Licensing on Wheels will be at Town Hall:

**Wednesday, March 23**

**By Appointment Only - No Walk-Ins**  
**Call Town Hall (954) 434-0008**

# AROUND THE TOWN

## SOFLO CHILI FEST

The Aster Knight Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation held its annual SoFlo Chili Fest on Saturday, December 4, 2021. This event was the Foundation's first in over a year and it was the best event ever!



The event featured a car show, food trucks, craft and art vendors and a chili cookoff. The chili contest was judged by attendees of the event and featured 12 participants with very different recipes, including mango chili, a Jamaican jerk recipe, and 5 plant-based chilis.

### WINNERS OF THE SOFLO CHILI COOK-OFF:

Darren Rush – 1st place  
Glennis Simmonds – 2nd place  
Deborah Domenech – 3rd place

The event was a smashing success and garnered over \$30,000 for the Foundation's mission of supporting and enhancing Southwest Ranches' parks.

The Town of Southwest Ranches Grand Opening of...  
**DRIVE UP COVID 19 TESTING SITE AT TOWN HALL**



## COVID TESTING

You may also call 954-22 COVID (954-222-6843) to schedule your appointment

The Town Council and representatives from UrgentMed recently celebrated the grand opening of a drive up COVID 19 testing and vaccination site in the parking lot at Town Hall. Testing with quick results, ideal for travelers, is offered as well as all three approved vaccines. Additionally, all booster shots are available.

Drive up service is available  
Monday through Saturday from 9 am until 5 pm.

## ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES

**SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD - Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at Town Hall – 7 PM.** The Board met Monday, February 7th and discussed the Flamingo Flocking fundraiser which started February 11th. Call Debra (954) 343-7451 for more information. The Barn Dance will be held March 12th at Rolling Oaks Barn. For additional information contact Debra at (954) 343-7451. The 4th Annual "A Race for Unity in Diversity" 5K run/walk is April 9th at Rolling Oaks Barn. For any questions, please contact Manmeet Gulati at (561) 445-7987. The next SEAB meeting will be held March 7th at 6:00 pm at Rolling Oaks Barn.



On November 6, 2018, Broward County voters approved a one cent surtax to fund transportation and infrastructure improvements County-wide. The Town is using these for the Transportation Surface Drainage and Ongoing Rehabilitation of SW 128th Avenue, SW 130th Avenue (Melaleuca Road), SW 133rd Avenue, SW 135th Avenue (Lupo Lane), SW 134th Avenue and SW 136th Avenue (Holatee Trail) from Stirling Road to Old Sheridan Street.

**Estimated Timeline: - December 2021 to June 2022**

**Broward County Surtax Funding: \$1,223,165**

For additional information, call the Southwest Ranches Public Works Department at (954) 434-0008

**MARTY KIAR**  
**BR**  **WARD**  
**COUNTY**  
PROPERTY APPRAISER

## Broward County Property Appraiser's Office

115 S. Andrews Ave, Room III,  
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33301  
(954) 357-6830 • Fax: (954) 357-8474  
[www.bcpa.net](http://www.bcpa.net)

## PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FILING DATES ANNOUNCED FOR TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, SOUTHWEST RANCHES

Broward County Property Appraiser, Marty Kiar has announced special 2022 homeowner sign-up dates for Homestead, Senior and other property tax exemptions at Southwest Ranches Town Hall 13400 Griffin Road, Southwest Ranches, FL 33330.

### 2022 Southwest Ranches Town Hall 3rd Thursday of the month 10:00 am -12:00 pm

March 17th, 2022    May 19th, 2022  
April 21st, 2022    June 16th, 2022

### Documents required to file a Homestead Exemption include:

- A current Florida driver's license or Florida identification card, AND
- A current voter registration card or declaration of domicile
- Non-US citizens must also provide proof of legal residency.
- If you are a new resident to Florida, please provide your Settlement Statement from your prior out of state property.

Qualified residents 65 years of age or older as of January 1, 2022 may also apply for the additional Senior Exemption (after January 1, 2022). Seniors must bring a copy of their 2021 Income Tax Return or a copy of their 2021 Social Security 1099 form (if no tax return was filed).



## 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.

# AROUND THE TOWN



- **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

continued on page 8

# AROUND THE TOWN

Continued from page 8

provide additional protection. Go to <http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/flood-insurance-information/> for additional information.

## Local Flood Hazards

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

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

Since portions of Southwest Ranches have been designated as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), it is advisable to check the interactive map viewer to see the location of your property with respect to the SFHA. Visit <http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/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 [rlay@swranches.org](mailto:rlay@swranches.org).

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



The following incidents are from actual police reports involving crime in Southwest Ranches. Please review so you know what's going on. While our Town enjoys a low crime rate, incidents can and do occur. This information is being made available to raise awareness. Don't be a victim. Be aware, if you see something suspicious, call 911 immediately.

### *Sunset Ln. - Case # 22-004403 1930 hours*

#### *- Burglary Vehicle/ Theft*

A resident called to report she came home to find her husband's car running in the driveway, even though he wasn't home to start the car. She stated she noticed a black SUV outside her home that quickly left. She called police. When the officers arrived, she stated she left all the key fobs inside the cars, because she had a carwash service coming to her home. There was some cash missing from one of the vehicles. The caller has cameras, but she was unable to access them at the time. This case will require further investigation.

### *164th Terr. - Case # 22-007034 0728 hours*

#### *- Burglary*

A resident called to report his vehicle was burglarized but nothing was taken. He stated he left his truck unlocked and unknown suspect went through it. There was another vehicle on scene that was locked, and the suspect could not enter that one. The caller had video surveillance that was collected and put into Davie Property as evidence.

### *N. Saxon Cir. - Case # 22-009464 0045 hours*

#### *- Burglary Vehicle*

A resident called to report he saw two subjects jumping his fence on his cameras. He watched the males flee his yard and enter a black Dodge SUV. He jumped in his truck and attempted to follow the suspect vehicle, but he lost sight of it. The caller stated he noticed his wallet and extra key fob had been stolen from his vehicle. He advised he will notify police when he gets the surveillance video. This case will need further investigation.

### *SW 160th Ave. - Case # 22-009676 1543 hours - Theft*

A female called to make a report that her sunglasses were stolen out of a cart at Lowe's. She stated she was in the store getting items for her home and she laid her sunglasses in the child seat. When she finished shopping, they were gone. The caller stated she did not want to press charges but needed an incident report for the insurance she has on the glasses.

**THE FLAMINGOS HAVE MIGRATED TO  
SOUTHWEST RANCHES.**



**For more information  
contact Debra Ruesga  
(954) 434-0008**



# AROUND THE TOWN

## 2022 Broward County School Calendar

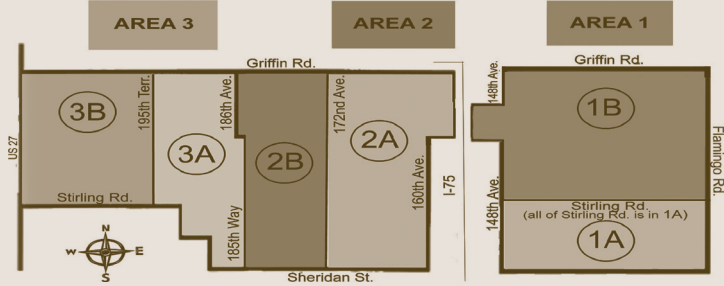
MARCH				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

Thursday, March 17th - Early Release Day  
 Friday, March 18th - Employee Planning (no school for students)  
 Monday, March 21st thru Friday, March 25th - Schools Closed  
 Monday, March 28th - Employee Planning (no school for students)

## 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
MARCH 2022	3-A	3/09 - 3/23	2-A	3/08 - 3/22	1-A	3/07 - 3/21
	3-B	3/02 - 3/16 - 3/30	2-B	3/01 - 3/15 - 3/29	1-B	3/14 - 3/28
APRIL 2022	3-A	4/06 - 4/20	2-A	4/05 - 4/19	1-A	4/04 - 4/18
	3-B	4/13 - 4/27	2-B	4/12 - 4/26	1-B	4/11 - 4/25

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

**OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE®**

MORE INFORMATION CALL DEBRA (954) 343-7451

# Barn Dance

COME JOIN US AT THE ROLLING OAKS BARN

# MARCH 12

SILENT AUCTION    DINNER AND DANCING    DJ JACK FLASH

## 7:00-11:00 PM

TICKETS \$50 OR \$375 PER TABLE OF 8

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE TOWN'S COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

## Household HAZARDOUS WASTE Disposal Days

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

Saturday, March 12th, 2022 . 8:00am to 2:00pm

Location: Rolling Oaks Barn - 17630 SW 56th St., Southwest Ranches, 33331  
 Document shredding from 10-1pm . 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.


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

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



**PHOTO BY: Mary Coulson**  
**"Founder's Park. A Special Oasis."**  
 (From the 2022 Photo Contest Calendar)

# CALENDAR

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		• Code Hearing Town Hall 9 am <b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>March</b>	• Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm • SWE Parks Foundation Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm • Country Estates HOA - Grace Baptist Church - 19200 Griffin Rd - 7 pm <b>6</b> <b>AREA 1A BULK</b>	• Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board - Town Hall 7 pm <b>8</b> <b>AREA 2A BULK</b>	<b>9</b> • Q&A with the Mayor - 7 pm - 8 pm Virtual <b>AREA 3A BULK</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	• H.H.W. & 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. • Barn Dance - Rolling Oaks Barn 7 pm - 11 pm <b>12</b>
 <b>13</b> <b>AREA 1B BULK</b>	<b>14</b>	• Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall - 7 pm <b>15</b> <b>AREA 2B BULK</b>	• Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm <b>16</b> <b>AREA 3B BULK</b>	<b>17</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> • Broward County Property Appraiser - Town Hall 10 am - 12 pm • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Welcome Spring</b> <b>20</b> <b>AREA 1A BULK</b>	• Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall - 7 pm <b>21</b> <b>AREA 1A BULK</b>	• Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56 St. - 7 pm <b>22</b> <b>AREA 2A BULK</b>	• Flow Mobile DMV Service - By Appointment Only - Town Hall - 10 am - 2 pm <b>23</b> <b>AREA 3A BULK</b>	<b>24</b> <b>TOWN COUNCIL MEETING</b> - Town Hall 7 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	• Sunshine Ranches HOA Meeting Zoom 7:30 pm <b>30</b> <b>AREA 3B BULK</b>	<b>31</b>		

**All Town Council Meetings and Advisory Board meetings will be held in person at Town Hall unless explicitly stated otherwise.**

## 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@southwestranches.org](mailto:Skutz@southwestranches.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

*Have a birthday you would like to share with us in a future Town newsletter?*



**Send your name and birthday to:**  
[Skutz@southwestranches.org](mailto:Skutz@southwestranches.org)

**SIKH YOUTH ASSOCIATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES PRESENTS**




**THE 4TH ANNUAL "A RACE FOR UNITY IN DIVERSITY" 5K RUN/WALK**

**FUNDS TO BENEFIT THE TOWN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*Leap into diversity with us on*  
**April 9th, 2022 at Rolling Oaks Park**  
 17630 SW 56 St, Southwest Ranches, 33331

Website: [www.thesikh-youth-association.org](http://www.thesikh-youth-association.org)

**For any questions, please contact Manmeet Gulati at (561) 445 - 7987**



# 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](http://www.southwestranches.org)  
**TOWN HALL TWITTER ACCOUNT:** @SWR\_Gov • **YOUTUBE:** Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel • **FACEBOOK:** facebook@SWRGOV

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	(954) 343-7462	sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org
Vice Mayor Gary Jablonski	(954) 343-7456	gjablonski@southwestranches.org
Council Member Bob Hartmann	(954) 343-7447	bhartmann@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
Dan Stewart, <i>Records and Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7443	dstewart@southwestranches.org
Sandy Luongo, <i>General Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7476	sluongo@southwestranches.org
Susan Kutz, <i>Administrative Specialist, Newsletter Editor &amp; Graphic Designer</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	dlauretano@southwestranches.org
Melinda Stringer, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 343-7454	mstringer@southwestranches.org
Vernelle Nelson, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 434-0008	vnelson@southwestranches.org
Angelica Arosemena, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 434-0008	aarosemena@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
<b>PLANNING – (MELGREN PLANNING GROUP)</b>	(954) 475-3070	michele@tmpgplanning.com
Jeff Katims	(954) 475-3070	jkatims@sepiinc.com

### **ZONING/PERMITTING**

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

### **WASTE/BULK/RECYCLING SERVICES**

Waste Pro	(954) 967-4200	
<b>REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS – Chief Bennett</b>	(954) 868-2057	lbennett@southwestranches.org
<b>MOSQUITO CONTROL</b>	(954) 765-4062	
LOST AND FOUND ANIMALS	(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) 693-8326	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) 952-4608	
<b>TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES</b>	(954) 868-2057	

### **TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES**

Potholes and Signs Down - Philip Chorath	(954) 343-7441	pchorath@southwestranches.org
Illicit Discharge - Environmental Response Line:	(954) 519-1499	online complaint form at <a href="http://www.broward.org/Environment/Resources/Pages/EnviroComplaint.aspx">http://www.broward.org/Environment/Resources/Pages/EnviroComplaint.aspx</a>

## OTHER

### **WATER DISTRICTS - CANALS**

Central Broward Water Control District	(954) 432-5110	www.centralbrowardwcd.org
<i>East of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)</i>		
South Broward Drainage District	(954) 680-3337	www.sbdd.org
<i>West of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)</i>		
John De los Santos, <i>Newsletter Layout and Design</i>	(954) 292-8850	johndelossantos@rocketmail.com



**Town of Southwest Ranches**

13400 Griffin Road

Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

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WWW.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG**



# FRUIT wordsearch

Find the names of the fruit.

g	r	a	p	e	s	b	j	y	w	i	p
p	o	m	e	g	r	a	n	a	t	e	e
g	h	b	z	l	b	e	p	b	f	h	a
u	q	c	g	e	l	d	i	f	o	e	r
q	c	l	w	m	a	t	n	p	i	b	h
s	s	w	a	o	c	o	e	e	w	o	c
t	u	z	t	n	k	q	a	a	r	q	
r	p	p	e	f	b	z	p	c	p	a	l
a	g	b	r	g	e	g	p	h	p	n	i
w	b	k	m	u	r	p	l	c	l	g	m
b	a	h	e	x	r	l	e	h	e	e	
e	n	j	l	s	y	u	f	e	b	p	l
r	a	j	o	j	r	m	z	r	f	x	o
r	n	j	n	y	r	f	h	r	j	n	n
y	a	h	f	c	c	s	v	y	r	v	a



**THANK YOU**  
to the following that helped make this Carnival such a great success!

- ~
- Gentle Teeth
- Camp Lingua
- Air Pros
- Wunderbar Sports Bar & Grill
- Moop Pops Gelato
- Sandwicheries
- Rocked and Loaded
- Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation
- ~
- George Morris
- Elizabeth Eskenazi
- Winston Simmonds
- Rick Bell
- Barbara Gonzalez
- Barbara Lester
- Special thanks to:
- Deborah Morris, Matthew Morris, Sage Cimetta,
- Brandon Bell, Lee Bennett, Jeff Hobales and
- Joe Frankowski