

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Town Newsletter

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

ON THIS MEMORIAL DAY

Let's honor our men and women

IN THE ARMED FORCES

who sacrificed their lives

TO PROTECT US AND KEEP US SAFE.

*We Salute you
and
Thank you*

RECYCLE
RIGHT see page 8

MAY 2024

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

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Council Member Bob Hartmann	(954) 343-7447	bhartmann@southwestranches.org
Council Member Gary Jablonski	(954) 343-7456	gjablonski@southwestranches.org

TOWN STAFF

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Melinda Stringer, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 343-7454	mstringer@southwestranches.org

TOWN SERVICES / BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING - (CAP GOVERNMENT)

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

PLANNING

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

Julio Medina, <i>Community Development/Code Enforcement Director</i> CODE	(954) 343-7458	zoninginfo@southwestranches.org
Julio Medina, <i>Community Development/Code Enforcement Director</i>	(954) 343-7458	jmedina@southwestranches.org
Manfred Velette, <i>Assistant Code Enforcement Director</i>	(954) 343-7440	mvelette@southwestranches.org
Code Enforcement Hotline	(954) 343-7449	
Concepcion Campos, <i>Code Enforcement Officer</i>	(954) 343-7457	ccampos@southwestranches.org
Rudy Navas, <i>Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7459	rnavas@southwestranches.org

WASTE/BULK/RECYCLING SERVICES

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY	911	
<i>Non-Emergency</i>	(954) 764-4357 (HELP)	
<i>Davie Police Department</i>	(954) 693-8200	
Eddie Velazquez, <i>Detective</i>	(954) 693-8290	evelazquez@davie-fl.gov
Cheryl Danner, <i>Police Services Coordinator</i>	(954) 693-8352	cdanner@southwestranches.org
<i>Davie Fire Rescue Station 112</i>	(954) 952-4608	
<i>Volunteer Fire Rescue - Chief Bennett</i>	(954) 868-2057	
TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES		
Potholes and Signs Down - Public Works		publicworks@southwestranches.org
Illicit Discharge - Environmental Response Line:	(954) 519-1499	online complaint form at: http://www.broward.org/Environment/Resources/Pages/EnviroComplaint.aspx

OTHER

WATER DISTRICTS - CANALS

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

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz



Incinerator Update

It has been a while since I have provided an update to our progress towards promoting a true Zero Waste solution for our Town and our County. However, a lot of progress has been made and I wanted to be sure to pass that progress along. This has been an awesome team effort with so many people joining together to move the needle in a positive direction.

There are two major areas I would like to focus on.

- First, what is happening at the County level regarding the potential of an Incinerator / Waste to Energy Plant, coming to west Broward.
- Second, I want to touch on the progress that is being made more locally to help our Town focus more on recycling and reducing our overall solid waste.

First on the County level I was appointed to the Solid Waste Executive Committee back in October of 2023. Since that time, with a few exceptions, this group has been meeting every other Friday to develop a plan for handling solid waste (basically our garbage) for the next 30 to 40 years. It is a huge issue across the country. The easy solution that others propose is just to build a large incinerator and burn it all. However, the risk of impact to our air, water, and the overall environment makes this solution unacceptable to me. So, at these meetings I have been promoting cleaner solutions, better recycling, composting, and various new technologies that are more forward thinking than the millennium old solutions of either burying or burning our garbage.

We still have a tremendous amount of work to do before we can declare success. However, we have made a lot of progress. The committee that I serve on now is much more receptive and committed to fully exploring these forward-thinking alternatives. Recently we hired our Executive Director who has a tremendous amount of experience in successfully implementing these Zero Waste technologies. And through a lot education and discussions with the remainder of the committee, his hire was unanimous. This was a huge win!

We are now working on the Master Plan itself. The Executive Director will be key to leading this plan development. This is now the most critical step in ensuring that we arrive at a solution that looks forward, not rely-

ing on old harmful technologies of the past. We owe this to our children and grandchildren to make the positive, forward-thinking decisions now. I am honored to be a strong voice in these meetings, helping to move us in that direction.

The second area that I wanted to touch on was the more local effort that is going on in Southwest Ranches. I believe that with this greater awareness, we have a unique opportunity to walk the walk as well as talk the talk. Towards this goal, the Town is working in partnership with our vendor, WM, to develop a Public Service Announcement (PSA) on how to recycle in the most effective manner. We are also working on distributing a decal, to be placed on your recycling cart, to reinforce the best ways to recycle, along with an educational mailer on the Town's recycling efforts.

“ However, we have made a lot of progress ”

We have some incredible leaders / volunteers in our Town that have done a tremendous amount of work to coordinate this effort. While there are many, I want to particularly call out Debbie Green, Richard Ramcharitar, and Jim Laskey. Debbie has been coordinating countless residents both in our Town and outside the Town to raise awareness. Recently, the Town formed a new volunteer board that meets once a month that is now helping to build a plan for how we can lead the way, doing what we can, immediately, to move toward Zero Waste.

Richard has also been key to this group and he has gone above and beyond, by also starting up a Broward related group and he has been traveling outside the State attending conferences and bringing back a wealth of knowledge and increasing our resource network.

If you have an interest in joining the effort to move our Town toward Zero Waste, I would encourage you to get involved and help us build a better future for our Town and our County. The Town Board meets the First Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at Town Hall, 13400 Griffin Road. We would value your knowledge and energy in this effort.

As always, I am sincerely thankful for the opportunity to serve the residents of this Town as your Mayor. It is truly a blessing and an honor.

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



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Council Member Bob Hartmann



Killer in Our Midst

You will likely be exposed to Glyphosate if you live anywhere in South Florida. This is the active ingredient in Accord®, Rodeo®, Roundup®, Roundup Pro®, and Cornerstone®. This is one of the largest-selling herbicides in history. This product has been identified as a cause of lymphoma in people. Bayer, the manufacturer, has been plagued by more than 125,000 lawsuits from plaintiffs who claim the use of glyphosate-based herbicides contributed to their non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The company resolved about 75% of the cases with a nearly \$10 billion settlement in 2020, but it still faces about 30,000 cases and possibly additional ones. Most claims are associated with residential use of the herbicide on lawns and gardens.

Canada, Mexico, and several other Central American countries have been more aggressive and banned domestic and agricultural use.

The United States has no universal ban on products containing glyphosate. However, certain states and counties have required the discontinuation of usage of these products for safety reasons. While the State of Florida has not banned these products, because of mounting cancer concerns, a growing number of cities and counties are banning or limiting glyphosate, including municipalities in Florida, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Washington, and several other states. Locally, Miami banned Roundup® and products containing glyphosate on city property. Other Florida cities that restrict or ban Roundup® include Fort Myers, Key West, Martin County, Miami Beach, North Miami, Satellite Beach, and Stuart.

As the active ingredient in Glyphosate is increasingly scrutinized for human health impacts, scientists say it also could be altering the wildlife and organisms at the base of the food chain. Long thought to be relatively benign to non-target plants and animals, evidence is growing that glyphosate impacts animal metabolism, growth, and reproduction and could alter the essential gut bacteria of animals such as bees. Such impacts could have severe, unexpected impacts on the tiny critters that form the base of the animal food chain, say environmental researchers, who warn the ecological impacts are likely to grow as glyphosate levels build up in the environment. When it was introduced, glyphosate was considered safer than broad-spectrum herbicides, such as paraquat and dioxin (Agent Orange) —which could cause deadly poisoning if breathed in or swallowed. Conversely, Glyphosate was considered “practically non-toxic” by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Recent studies demonstrate glyphosate toxicity to non-target organisms, including animals, primarily focusing on mortality, carcinogenicity, re-

productive and neurological toxicity, and the biochemical mechanisms underlying these physiological outcomes. Other studies examine the effects of glyphosate-based herbicides on animal behaviors, particularly activity, foraging and feeding, anti-predator behavior, reproductive behaviors, learning and memory, and social behaviors. These studies show that exposure reduces activity, depresses foraging and feeding, increases susceptibility to predation, interferes with courtship, mating, fertility, and maternal behaviors, decreases learning and memory capabilities, and disrupts social behaviors.

Glyphosate's impact on livestock is important in our area; however, the impact on our yards, streets, and parks is more significant. I used Roundup® for years and have learned its impact on our family the hard way. While I have not heard of any human deaths in our community from Glyphosate, there is a lot of evidence that it is killing our pets, mostly from cancers and organ failure. Glyphosate remains unchanged in the soil for varying lengths of time, depending on soil texture and organic matter content. The time required for Glyphosate to decrease by half in soil can range from 3 to 249 days. It may take years to break down completely if sprayed on your weeds, fence lines, and around your gardens and walkways. Glyphosate can be carried by the runoff from any user's land after a rainstorm onto neighboring properties.

Recently, some heartbroken neighbors in County Estates, SWR, brought to my attention that over two dozen local dogs died from a range of cancers like lymphoma, tumors, pancreatic, mouth, squamous cell carcinoma, and fibrosarcoma. My family lost two dogs, one that was ten years old to kidney failure (kidneys remove wastes and toxins from the body), and last year, we lost our 8-year-old dog to lymphoma. When speaking to the veterinarians we've used to care for our dogs, a veterinary oncologist we used to treat our last dog, and a vet I use to care for my chicken flock who lives in town, all confirmed that they treat a vast number of pet cancer patients. They all attribute the surge in cases to the chemicals applied to our properties.

As pet owners know, dogs and cats lick their entire bodies, particularly their feet, wherever something smells unusual. If they have Glyphosate on their feet from a romp in the yard, a trip to the park, or a walk along the road, they will get a regular toxic dose when they clean up later. This, over time, starts the cancers and other problems, and then it is a matter of time before the tears that come with the loss of the pet. While our dogs lived eight and ten years, one of the neighborhood's dogs, a Shepard, only lived 2 ½ years. As that dog's owner said, “All of our dogs nibble on the grass in our yards and lap up the water after the rains. We have yards so our dogs can run outside and frolic. Not one of us ever suspected our dogs would die by simply living a normal dog's life. But in Southwest Ranches and the surrounding areas, our dogs, and likely our children, face horrendous consequences by playing outside.”

We have stopped using glyphosate products on our property. My wife did some research and found a non-toxic herbicide we make at home by combining table salt and 45% industrial-strength vinegar (5% acetic acid in most household vinegar is too dilute, available at Home Depot and Lowes in the cleaning products section), and dish

detergent. The salt and high-strength vinegar are toxic to the plant, and the soap helps the solution stick to the leaves and stems. Google “Make Your Own Natural Weed Killer” for the recipe of ingredients to mix up.

I plan to discuss this topic at the SWR Town Council meeting on May 23, 7 PM, at 13400 Griffin Road. If you have ideas, regardless of where you live, on how we can stop this killer in our midst, please come to the meeting to contribute or call me at 954-801-1758.

BHartmann@SouthwestRanches.org

Regards

Bob

Council Member Jim Allbritton



Our new Solid Waste Advisory Board has hit the ground running. This Board is looking at ways the Town can Recycle, Refurbish, Reuse and cut down on the amount of waste going into our landfills. They

are also working with Waste Management, our current trash company, and will have a decal going out soon that is placed on top of your recycling bin to help remind you what should be and what should NOT be placed in the bin. We have three residents that are currently taking an advanced, four-hour-a-week, zoom class dealing with the Three R's and how they have been implemented worldwide. Thank you, Debbie, Rose and Richard for your time.

The Safety and Traffic Board has been reconvened and they have had three very productive meetings. The Davie Police Department's participation has been exceptional.

Lastly, I would remind every resident to take advantage of the Broward County Property Appraiser's (OWNER ALERT) program. I feel this is a good program that might need to be tweaked a little. Currently a property owner is notified after a Closing and the Deed has been transferred. I feel this needs to be changed so the rightful property owner is notified before any Closing. Maybe a twenty-four hour hold on a closing, to give time to notify the person who Last Paid the Taxes on the property. This change could help prevent the rightful property from having to go through an unpleasant and costly expense getting their Deed back.

**I Am Wishing All Moms
a VERY HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY.**

If you have any questions or concerns or would just like to say Hi, please feel free to contact me at jallbritton@southwestranches.org AND Ph# 954-343-7461 or Ph# 305-903-7043

GOOD DAY!!

Jim Allbritton

Vice Mayor David S. Kuczenski, Esq.



Howdy Ranchers,

Recently, the Town implemented a Unified Mass Notification System. This software provides emergency information to those who sign up, such as evacuation orders, weather

warnings, hazardous road conditions, and other notifications that require your immediate attention. By signing up, you can direct the notifications to be sent to your email, home phone or mobile phone. It's easy to sign up from the Town's Website: WWW.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG, on the far right click on "TOWN RESOURCES" tab, at the drop down click on EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SIGNUP.

This software is a cutting-edge command and control software tailored for comprehensive mass notification requirements to be used in emergency situations such as hurricanes, and other weather related emergencies as well as non-emergency situations such as road closures. This Electronic Mass Notification System (EMNS) software is at the forefront of innovation, utilizing advanced Machine Learning procedures and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Key features of the mass notification software include:

EMNS Software Alert Notification Capabilities:

The software features FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

Alerts: This Ensures broad reach compliance with national alert standards.

SMS Text: The software delivers instant text notifications to keep residents informed on the go.

Voice Calls / VoIP Phone Calls: Also, the software utilizes traditional and internet-based calls for widespread message distribution.

Emails: The software sends detailed alert information directly to residents' inbox.

Mobile App Push Notifications: Residents are informed directly through smartphone applications for immediate alerts.

Social Media Page Updates: The software will use social platforms to extend alert reach and engagement. This Software is a comprehensive, multi-channel alert system that integrates seamlessly with your existing safety and security infrastructure, enhancing your organization's preparedness and response capabilities.

In order to be made aware of critical information sent by the Town I urge you to register your contact information by clicking the aforementioned link.

As your Vice Mayor, I aim to preserve Southwest Ranches' unique rural lifestyle and minimize any changes to it. Together, let's protect and maintain what makes our community special. I also strive to return all phone calls within 24 to 48 hours. If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me. As always, it has been an honor to serve as your voice on the Council.

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



LAWS IMPACTING MINORS

As a parent of two daughters, I recognize the difficulty of parenting in today's society. The following 2 bills were passed aiming to keep our children and teenagers safe.

ing 2 bills were passed aiming to keep our children and teenagers safe.


CS/CS/HB 3 - Online Protections For Minors (signed into law). This new law bans children under the age of 14 from being social media account holders. Fourteen and fifteen-year-olds can only access these accounts with parental consent. Children who are 16 years or older are not impacted.

This law aims to protect children from the dangers of social media and protecting them from being targeted by sexual predators. An estimated 89 % of sexual advances directed at children occur online. These predators target a child in a public chat or on a social media platform and gain trust by lying about their age and identity. 46% of children give personal information about themselves online. Many apps even allow users to share their location in real time, so be sure to check your settings to turn this feature off! Studies also show that dangerous social media leads to higher rates of depression, self-harm, and even suicide.

The law targets social media platforms with certain addictive features and algorithms; platforms cited during questioning on the Floor were Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. Social media platforms must terminate the accounts of those under 14 and create an age verification system.

CS/SB 1764 - Car Racing Penalties (awaiting Governor's signature). This bill targets activities such as street takeovers and stunt driving. We have all seen the videos showing teenagers taking over our intersections in the late evening and stunt driving. This bill aims to deter these dangerous behaviors by raising the penalty. Additionally, fines for subsequent violations within a year of a prior conviction will see an increase, with penalties escalating to third-degree felonies. It also authorizes law enforcement to seize vehicles. It is important to have a conversation with your teenager, even if they do not have a car because this law also increases the penalty for spectators at prohibited activities.

As always, I remain committed to advocating for policies that prioritize the safety and well-being of our community. Please feel free to contact me at 954-668-3662.



Clerk's Corner
by Debra Ruesga

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE
MARCH 28, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2024-037 approving the Haydee Grove Plat.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-038 Approving a change order to Absolute Construction Services, Inc. for the SW 54th Place Drainage Project.

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.

**- CURRENT BOARDS AND
WHAT THEY DO -**

- Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board - Provides input to the Town Council concerning the development of policies and procedures concerning filling, excavating, and clearing of lands, reviewing, and prioritizing drainage and infrastructure needs, and developing a comprehensive tertiary drainage plan.



FLOOD SAFETY: KNOW YOUR RISK

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

flames unless you know the gas has not built up. Make arrangements to turn off your electricity and gas.

To sign up to be notified via voice message, text and email for important public safety information during a storm visit <http://southwestbranches.org/rapid-notify/> and 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.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM CHANGES

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

GET A FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY

Replacing household contents damaged by floods could place a significant financial burden on a homeowner or renter without flood insurance. Just a few inches of water from a flood can



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

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

Elevation Certificate Information

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

WATER QUALITY AND FLOOD CONTROL EFFECTS OF DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

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

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

PROTECT PROPERTY FROM FLOODING

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

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

BUILD RESPONSIBLY

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

Please be advised that any new development or improvement on a property will be subject to current Town regulations and may also be subject to state and federal regulations. Please contact the Southwest Ranches Building Code Ser-

VICES 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 flood-plain functions; and 8) Property protection measures. Please call the Engineering Department at (954) 434-0008 and ask to speak to the Town Engineer. You may also schedule a site visit to review flooding, drainage, and storm sewer problems, and to obtain advice on retrofitting techniques to provide additional protection. Go to <http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/flood-insurance-information/> for additional information.

LOCAL FLOOD HAZARDS

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

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

Since portions of Southwest Ranches have been designated as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), it is advisable to check the interactive map viewer to see the location of your property with respect to the SFHA. Visit <http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/flood-insurance-information/> and select Flood Maps. You could also get flood hazard information for your property by calling (954) 434-0008 and providing your address and zip code.

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.

Source: Broward County Flood News, Summer 2018,

Volume 24, Issue 1

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.



MARTY KIAR

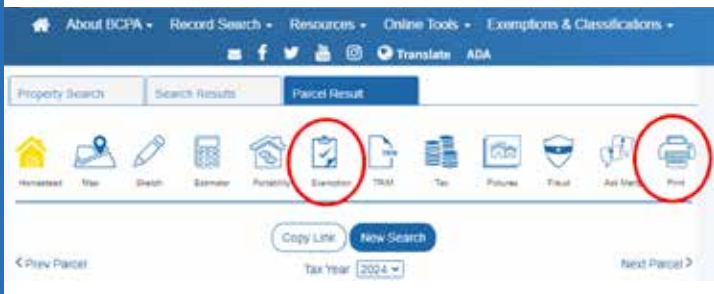
BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

Do You Need Proof of Your Homestead Exemption?

You can easily print proof of your Homestead Exemption status as well as any other exemptions you may be receiving from our web-site. Simply locate your property record by entering your name, address, or Property ID # on our property record search page at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Record-Search>.

Once you locate your property record, click on the "Print" icon – far right side of the property record page – to print your property record. Any exemptions you are currently receiving will show under "EXEMPTIONS AND TAXING AUTHORITY INFORMATION". You can also click the "Exemption" check feature in the middle of the page to print a transcript of your property's current year exemption status.

This property record page is your proof of Homestead Exemption should you ever need to provide it to your mortgage or insurance company.



If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 954-357-6830 by email at martykiar@bcpa.net.

Take care,

Marty Kiar
Marty Kiar, JD, CFA

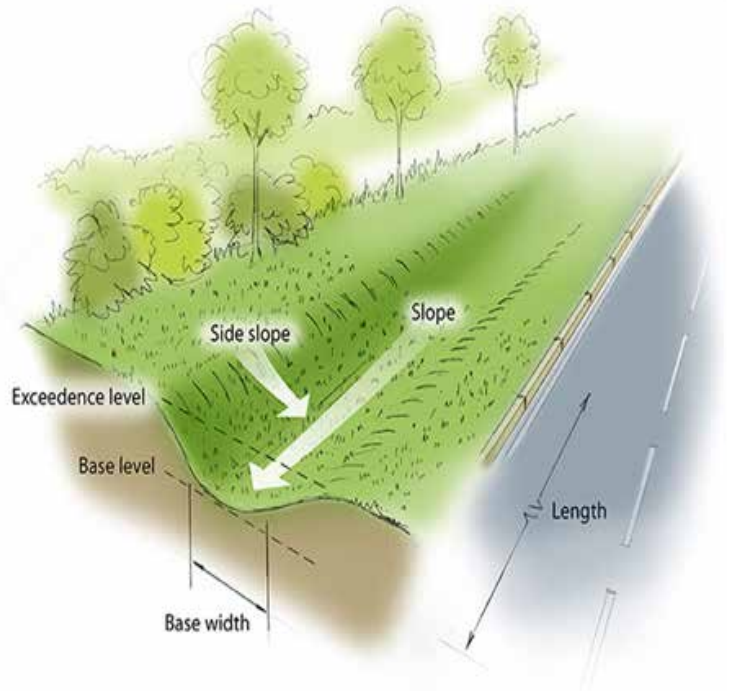


MAINTAIN YOUR SWALE

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

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

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



MAINTAIN YOUR SWALE

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

DO NOT MISUSE YOUR SWALE

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

LET THE WATER POND

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

We love coffee drinkers who place their cups, lids and containers in the trash.

THEY CAN'T GO IN RECYCLING.





POLLINATOR CORNER
FROG FRUIT

(<https://nativebackyards.com/frog-fruit/#What%20Are%20The%20Benefits%20of%20Frog%20Fruit?>)



Frog fruit is loved by pollinators, from bees, to wasps, to butterflies, it is alive with action. It is a fun plant for children and adults to observe alike. It would be a fantastic addition to add to a pollinator garden.

It is a host plant for several butterfly species: those plants that are used by butterflies and moths to lay their eggs and feed their caterpillars. This plant checks the box as a host plant for three different butterfly species: phaon crescent, white peacock, and common buckeye.

THE GREAT BLUE HERON
(https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Blue_Heron/id)



Whether standing by the water's edge or flying with slow, deep wingbeats, the Great Blue Heron is a majestic sight. This stately heron, with its subtle blue-gray plumage, often stands motionless as it scans for prey or wades belly deep with long, deliberate steps. They may move slowly, but Great Blue Herons can strike like lightning to grab a fish or snap up a gopher. In flight, look for this widespread heron's tucked-in neck and long legs trailing out behind.

**FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OUR PLANET
REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
BY COMPOSTING OUR FOOD SCRAPS**

The Zero Waste Student Council, in collaboration with the Zero Waste Broward Task Force, comprises a dedicated cohort of students from the South Florida area committed to advancing sustainable environmental objectives. Among our primary objectives are the prohibition of incinerators and the advocacy for a more environmentally sound system. We perceive this endeavor as integral in combatting climate change and fostering effective, sustainable practices within our community. By championing this cause, we endeavor to cultivate a healthier living environment.



We invite individuals who share our passion for sustainability to join the Zero Waste Student Council. For inquiries or to become involved, please reach out to us via email at zerowastestudentcouncil@gmail.com or contact us directly at 954-559-2577.


STOP THE INCINERATOR
ZERO WASTE BROWARD TASK FORCE MEETING



JOIN US
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8TH AT 7:00 PM AT
SOUTHWEST RANCHES TOWN HALL

Many updates to be shared and a special screening of the short film **BURNING INJUSTICE** by **The Story of Stuff**

Refreshments and Movie Snacks!



CITATION REPORTS
FOR THE MONTH OF
MARCH, 2024

District 1: yielded 14 citations and 21 hours and 11 mins of traffic enforcement.

District 2: yielded 8 citations and 29 hours and 13 mins of traffic enforcement.

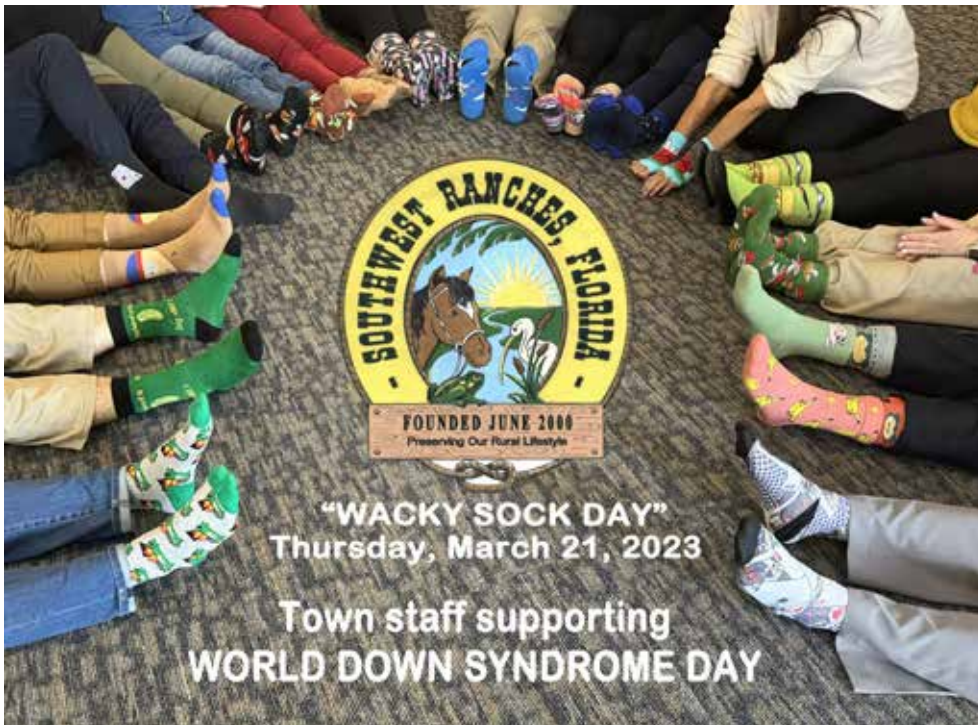
District 3: yielded 29 citations and 25 hours and 11 mins of traffic enforcement.

District 4: yielded 74 citations and 42 hours and 56 mins of traffic enforcement.

Cherly Danner, Police Services Coordinator SWR
cdanner@southwestranches.org

March 9, 2024
 A Race for Unity in Diversity - 5K Run/Walk

Thank you to the Sikhs for helping raise funds that benefit the towns College Scholarship.



"WACKY SOCK DAY"
 Thursday, March 21, 2023

**Town staff supporting
 WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY**



"FINANCE ACADEMY"

by Emil Lopez

Truth in Millage (TRIM) establishes the statutory requirements that all taxing authorities levying millage must follow, including all notices and budget hearing requirements.

The millage rate is one-tenth of a percent, which equates to \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 in home value.

The Town's TRIM notice associated to your property, can be viewed at Broward County Property Appraiser's website (www.bcpa.net). Click "property search" feature and enter your home information (e.g., name, address, etc.).

"HOW TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE TOWN"

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



PHOTO BY: Cathy Simmons - Peacock in Paradise MAY (From the 2024 Photo Contest Calendar)

MAY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	1	2	3
			• Public Safety & Traffic Committee -Town Hall 7pm		• Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm
		BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6
5	6	7	8	9	10
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7pm • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting - Town Hall 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CODE Hearing -Town Hall 9am • BCPA Office -Town Hall 10:30am - 12:30pm • Zero Waste Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero Waste Broward Task Force Meeting - Town Hall 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING -Town Hall 7pm 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm BINGO AT THE BARN 6pm-10pm
BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
12	13	14	15	16	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting -Town Hall 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting -Town Hall 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Advisory Board Meeting -Town Hall 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting -Town Hall 7pm 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm
BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6
19	20	21	22	23	24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Public Arts & Design Board Meeting -Town Hall 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting -Town Hall 7pm 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING -Town Hall 7pm 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm
BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
26	27	28	29	30	31
Town Hall CLOSED	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56th St. 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunshine Ranches HOA Meeting ZOOM - 7pm 			
BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	

Broward County School Calendar

MAY

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

Tuesday, May 7th
Interim Reports Issued

Friday, May 24th -
Early Release Day

Monday, May 27th
School and Administrative
Offices Closed

©Laurie

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Ysabel Arredondo - May 8th

We hope your special day is filled with happiness and that all your wishes come true.

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

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

12th Annual Photo Contest

GET YOUR CAMERA READY...

The theme for the 2025 Photo Contest Calendar is:
"PROUD OF OUR TOWN"

What makes you proud to live in Southwest Ranches.

Some examples: Summer fun, stunning sunsets, impressive sunrises, eye-catching landscape, enjoying time at town events, golf cart fun, fishing, animals we love and enjoy, delightful gardens/flowers.

- No previous photos will be accepted.
- Photos must be at least 8 x 10 (landscape).
- Photos must be in a large format (300 DPI resolution).
- All entries must be submitted with Entry Form and a caption for photo (no more than 74 characters).
- One photo per person in household.
- All photos must be taken in Southwest Ranches.

Email your photo to: Skutz@southwestranches.org



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

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YouTube:
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Official Channel

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@SWR_Gov

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



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & BULK DROP OFF EVENT

Saturday, July 27th, 2024 . 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

HQE SYSTEMS
REGISTER NOW

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

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

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

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

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

Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation presents

AT THE BARN

Saturday, May 11th, 2024
Dinner 6-7
BINGO 7-9

Rolling Oaks Park
17630 SW 56 Street
SW Ranches, FL 33331

Tickets \$25.00 in advance or \$35.00 at the door.
Ticket price includes dinner, first 2 BINGO cards and a chance to win door prize.

More BINGO cards available for \$2.00 each.

Call: 954-343-7452
Email: dlauretano@swranches.org

Town Council

Legend
Council Districts
District 1
District 2
District 3
District 4
Town Boundary

Council Member Bob Hartmann District 1

Council Member Gary Jablonski District 2

Steve Breitkreuz Mayor

Council Member Jim Allbritton District 3

Council Member David Kuczenski District 4

The Town of Southwest Ranches does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this data, and the data are available for limited purposes. The Town of Southwest Ranches neither warrants nor represents that the information, data, or statistics are accurate, complete, or reliable. If you are not able to access any of the content of this website please contact: IT@swranches.org or 954-434-0008 so that we can provide a solution or provide the information in an accessible format. If you are unable to access the information, please identify the specific information or material you seek access to, the website address of the material with which you request access or assistance, the problem you experienced, and your contact information so that the Town may provide you with the necessary assistance. Please contact our office if there is any additional information that you can provide.

Map is Not to Scale
Date: 12/22/2022
RF Florida Technical Consultants