

# SOUTHWEST RANCHER

*The Official Newsletter of Southwest Ranches*

## JANUARY 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



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Mayor Steve Breitreuz

Well, 2022 is upon us, and I am looking forward to see what this year holds. I am excited we are continuing to expand the ways that we are protecting the rural nature of our Town. I am excited to work on a Council that sees this as their top priority. And as we focus on this, I am excited that our Town is starting to open up and restart so many of the events that we have missed in prior years.

Under the leadership of this Council and the previous Council and the direction of Andy Berns, our Town Administrator as well as Russell Muniz the Assistant Town Administrator, and all the Town staff, we have continued to provide services to the Town throughout the pandemic. Looking forward, certainly there will be new variants and times when infection rates rise or fall in our local area, and we will adjust when that happens, but overall, it is great to see the trend back to normal times. And by normal times, I mean times when we can have events and we can enjoy being together again as a community.

As always, be cautious and only do those events that you are comfortable participating in, but I encourage you in 2022 to be a part of the events that are now in the planning for 2022. We are

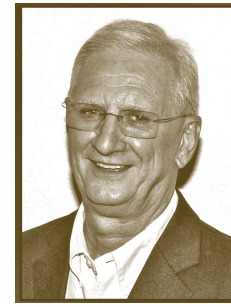
bringing back some events from the past but also have plans for new events as well. Last November, we participated an event that was put on by parents of West Broward High School and what a pleasure it was seeing the community come together once again. So, as you are comfortable, I encourage you to come to these events once again.

One other new item that will be spotlighted in the Rancher on occasion, is to highlight one or two real events from our weekly police report that is supplied to us by Davie PD. We are incredibly fortunate to live in a Town that is as safe as it is. However, there are simple things that we can do to make our Town safer. So, the purpose of communicating these events is to reinforce that it is up to each of us to do the simple things, like locking our house and car doors, to keep our Town safe.

Finally, it is also great to see the idea that Council Member Allbritton had originally proposed now coming into reality. That is to create an ad hoc board to look at traffic and safety in our Town. It is great to see this coming together. I think that this will be a big step in the right direction to continue to make our Town as safe as any place in Broward County. Thank-you Jim!

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

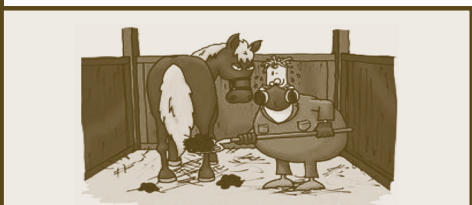
Steve (954) 296-6018



Vice Mayor Gary Jablonski

Happy New Year to everyone! In last month's newsletter, I wrote an article outlining the process for pulling a fill permit. It included details on both the Town's process as well as dealing with Broward County. Since that article was written, we have met with Broward County, and there will be some changes coming that will benefit our residents and simplify the process in many cases. I am currently working on those revisions with the assistance of Assistant Town Administrator Russell Muniz, and we hope to have the process fully updated very soon. It will be available on the Town's webpage, and I will provide more information in the next Rancher.

It's my honor to serve you. Gary



**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**



**Council Member**  
**David S. Kuczenski**

Friends, Neighbors, Ranchers:

I hope everyone has a very safe New Year. Just a few notes on other items going on in our Town. First, the Holiday Light Contest was a complete success. Our winners are listed in elsewhere in this Rancher. Around our Town, Florida Power and Light has been replacing utility poles with stronger poles to withstand higher winds. For the most part, we welcome the replacements as long as they repair the properties where the installation has taken place. One point where a problem arose is at Stirling and Volunteer. At the Northeast corner, we have an opening to allow horses to continue the eastern side of Volunteer Road. Someone from FPL failed to understand this and installed a utility pole right along the opening, complicating the access especially for our horses. On behalf of a fellow equestrian, I reached out to Town Hall. This caused FPL to amend their thought process. In the end FPL re-installed the utility pole further east away from the equestrian entrance. As of this writing, equestrians can easily ride through that opening in the guardrail.

We are keeping an eye on the proposed intersection change at Volunteer and Sheridan. The car dealership wishes to change the intersection to allow a west bound exit from the car lot. An additional change that has been proposed is to create a left turn lane from east bound Sheridan directly on to Volunteer. One of the first acts of this Council was to adopt a resolution taking a position against Pembroke Pines creating the left turn lane on to Volunteer. Sunshine Ranches HOA voted unanimously opposing the change and passed on to the Council that resolution. The Town Council then adopted Resolution 2021-

022 opposing the proposed turn lane. Some residents on the opposite side of Volunteer actually want the left turn lane, not considering the additional traffic this will inevitably create. We will do all that we can to maintain the U-turn just east of Volunteer as the only access from east bound Sheridan on to Volunteer Road.

I send you best wishes for a 2022 with lots of good luck.

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



**Council Member**  
**Jim Allbritton**

Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

Jim Allbritton, District 3  
Council Member 305-903-7043  
Town Hall 954-434-0008

## *Clerk's Corner* by Russell Muñiz



### Brief legislation from the November 18, 2021 Town Council Regular Meeting:

- **Adopted Ordinance 2022-003** amending the Comprehensive Plan by adding a new property rights element.
- **Adopted Resolution 2022-007** approving an agreement with Craven Thompson and Associates for professional services for the SW 185th way and SW 63rd Street drainage improvements.
- **Adopted Resolution 2022-008** approving a purchase order with Craven Thompson and Associates, Inc. to complete surveying services for the Country Estates Drainage and Water Quality Improvement project.
- **Adopted Resolution 2022-009** approving a purchase order with Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc. to complete the civil engineering services for the Country Estates Drainage and Water Quality Improvement project.
- **Adopted Resolution 2022-010** approving a purchase order with Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc. for professional services for the next phase of the Transportation Surface and Drainage Ongoing Rehabilitation (TSDOR) roadway improvements.
- **Adopted Resolution 2022-011** authorizing to join with the State of Florida and other local governmental units as a participant in the Florida Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the allocation and use of prospective settlement dollars from opioid related litigation.
- **Adopted Resolution 2022-012** approving the Town Council Meeting Schedule for the calendar year 2022.
- **Adopted Resolution 2022-013** approving the Town Holiday Schedule for the calendar year 2022.
- **Adopted Resolution 2022-014** appointing Council Member Gary Jablonski as the new Vice Mayor of the Town of Southwest Ranches.
- **Adopted Resolution 2022-015** approving a year end budget adjustment for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget.
- **Adopted Resolution 2022-016** amending Resolution 2014-054 to establish a revised Comprehensive Fee Schedule for Development and Permit Review fees.

**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.**

**BULK RULES**

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

- **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.



# AROUND THE TOWN

## Leave the Leaves to Benefit Wildlife

BY SCOTT HOFFMAN BLACK on 12 November 2020

It is fall again, and we have harvested all of our garden produce and are making sure our outside faucets are protected against winter's freeze. The leaves are changing color and tumbling from the trees—and that means fall cleanup in the yard and garden.

For many people fall cleanup means cutting all the seed heads and stems off the flowers and raking up all of the leaves. A tidy garden and yard are what many people strive to achieve. Everything clipped back, leaves raked and removed, messy piles of branches put in the green bin for pick up. This tidiness may look nice to us, but it is not good for all of the small creatures that live in and around your property.

Out of sight often means out of mind for people and fall is a time when you do not see the bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects that were flitting around your flowers all summer.



Where do these insects go when they are not visiting your garden? Some do migrate—like the monarch butterfly, flying south to overwinter in trees in Mexico or along the California coast—but the vast majority spend their entire life in and around your property. Many of our native solitary bees have laid eggs and provisioned nests in soil or in standing dead trees or hollowed out branches where the young are pupating. Bumble bee queens have found areas to overwinter under branches, in rock walls and in other relatively dry, snug places.

Many species rely on fallen leaves for cover and to insulate them from the elements. Depending on the species, butterflies and moths spend the winter as eggs, caterpillars, pupae, or adults. As Justin Wheeler described in our first leave the leaves blog:

*Great spangled fritillary and wooly bear caterpillars tuck themselves into a pile of leaves for protection from cold weather and predators. Red-banded hairstreaks lay their eggs on fallen oak leaves, which become the first food of the caterpillars when they emerge. Luna moths and swallowtail butterflies disguise their cocoons and chrysalises as dried leaves, blending in with the "real" leaves. There are many such examples.*

*Beyond butterflies, bumble bees also rely on leaf litter for protection. At the end of summer, mated queen bumble bees burrow only an inch or two into the earth to hibernate for winter. An extra thick layer of leaves is welcome protection from the elements. There are so many animals that live in leaves: spiders, snails, worms, beetles, millipedes, mites, and more—that support the chipmunks, turtles, birds, and amphibians that rely on these insects for food.*

continued in next issue

## PROTOTYPE BARN

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

A Town resident looking to build a barn can simply purchase a pre-drafted architectural plan from the Town, which they then can submit, at a reduced cost, and on an expedited basis, to get a permitted barn that will be in compliance with both state and local regulations. **Please call or email Emily Aceti for more information: eaceti@swranches.org.**



BROWARD.org

ALERT!BROWARD SIGN UP

### EMERGENCY ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

AlertBroward notifications will provide subscribers with important information in critical countywide situations such as hurricanes, evacuations, curfews, and open shelters. By signing up you'll receive time-sensitive calls to your home, business or mobile phones or emails.

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

ALERT!BROWARD SIGN UP  
EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

BROWARD COUNTY  
FLORIDA

## LIVESTOCK AREA

With the upcoming New Year's holiday, please be mindful of our neighbors with livestock. The stress caused by fireworks is harmful to our community. Please do not off shoot off fireworks that would cause undue harm or stress to our friends with animals.

Be a good neighbor!

### 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 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



# 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

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# AROUND THE TOWN

Continued from page 5

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

## MEET YOU at 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 [dlauretano@southwestranches.org](mailto:dlauretano@southwestranches.org)

MARTY KIAR  
BROWARD 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**

January 20th, 2022	March 17th, 2022	May 19th, 2022
February 17th, 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).



# AROUND THE TOWN

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.

## 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 February 26th, 2022 at Sunshine Ranches Equestrian Park!



Website: [www.thesikhyouthassociation.org](http://www.thesikhyouthassociation.org)

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

## ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES

RURAL PUBLIC ARTS & DESIGN ADVISORY BOARD – Meets the 3rd Monday of the month at Town Hall – 7 PM. This year we had 10 gorgeous homes that entered the December Holiday Lights Contest. It was difficult to choose but the Board narrowed it down to:

- 1ST PLACE - THE CAMPION FAMILY
- 2ND PLACE - THE PALMA FAMILY
- 3RD PLACE - THE GARCIA FAMILY

(winning photos will be in the February newsletter)

Each home that entered this contest was decorated with a magical touch and simply beautiful.

On Friday, December 10th, Santa, Mayor Breikreuz, Vice Mayor Jablonski, Council Member Allbritton, Council Member Hartmann who took all the photos, and Representative Bartleman all enjoyed this spectacular seasonal event that brings us all together.

For you to enjoy, we have listed the streets of the beautifully decorated homes: **SW 196 Lane, SW 190th Avenue, SW 188th Avenue, SW 52nd Place, SW 164th Terrace, Lake Lane and SW 136th Avenue.**

ENJOY viewing these homes!

A reminder...the Rural Public Arts and Design Board 2022 Photo Contest calendars are on sale for \$5.00 at Town Hall.



MAP Broward  
Mobility Advancement Program  
Brought to you by the  
Penny for Transportation

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 196th Lane, SW 199th Avenue, SW 201st Terrace, SW 202nd Avenue, SW 48th Street, SW 48th Place, SW 49th Court, SW 50th Place, and SW 50th Manor.

Estimated Timeline: - November 2021 to June 2022

**Broward County Surtax Funding: \$737,005**

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

Happy New

2022

Year Wishes



# AROUND THE TOWN

**HOLIDAY FOOD & TOY DRIVE  
FOR OUR  
MILITARY HEROES AND  
THEIR FAMILIES....**

*Please drop off your caring donations to  
Town Hall Monday - Friday  
8:30 - 5:00 pm*

**Help us help our Heroes!**

- Toys
- Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, pepperoni or similar dried meats
- Boxes of Granola Bars or similar
- Individual bags of nuts, dried fruit, trail mix or sun-flower seeds
- Boxed and /or individual drink packets (Crystal Light, Walmart or Target brand, Kool-Aid, hot chocolate, etc.)
- Non-perishable food items
- Foil packed tuna and chicken
- Crackers
- Baby wipes (no bigger than 2 1/2" wide packages)

**COVID-19 IMPORTANT RESOURCES AND CONTACTS**

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

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

**STATE OF FLORIDA**

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

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

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

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

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



**Southwest Ranches  
FIRE RESCUE**

*Thank you*

I want to thank all the residents that gave their generous donations to the Fire Department Santa Runs. It is a pleasure serving our residents as we have throughout the years.

May you have a Happy New Year and celebrate endings for they precede new beginnings.

Fire Chief Lee Bennett




**MARTY KIAR**  
BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

**DOES MY HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AUTOMATICALLY RENEW?**

After your initial application for Homestead Exemption has been approved, it automatically renews each year unless there is a change of ownership or eligible use of your homesteaded property. Each January, our office mails a Homestead Renewal Notice and "Change Card" to all Homesteaded properties. Florida law requires the property owner to notify the Property Appraiser of any change which may affect homestead eligibility. This Change Order Card provides an efficient way to communicate these important changes to our office.

If there are NO changes to the use and/or ownership of your property, simply keep the card as your receipt verifying that your Homestead Exemption has automatically renewed for another year. However, if there are changes, please mark the Change Card accordingly and return it to our office.

If your name is not printed above the mailing address section on this card, it means you are not protected by Homestead Exemption at this property. You may be on title to the property, but you are not receiving Homestead Exemption. If you are eligible for Homestead Exemption on this property, you must complete your own Homestead Exemption application. You can apply

online at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/HomesteadExemption>

If you are a co-owner, surviving spouse, trust beneficiary or otherwise believe you are entitled to this exemption, you must file your own Homestead Exemption application to receive the benefit. If you have any questions relating to the death of the owner, the Change Card or need assistance in filing for Homestead or other tax-saving exemptions, please visit our website at [web.bcpa.net](http://web.bcpa.net) or contact our Customer Service Department at **954-357-6830**.

**WHERE DID MY PORTABILITY SAVINGS GO?**

A portability deduction is only posted to your property record page in the first year you receive your new Homestead Exemption. The portability savings from the first year form the basis of your new Save Our Homes value on a going forward basis and -- in subsequent years -- will rise or fall based upon market just value changes and the 3% cap, as your new Save Our Homes value has incorporated your portability savings. When our website is updated to display subsequent year property values, your portability deduction is no longer shown independently because it is already factored into your new Assessed/Save Our Homes value.

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

Take care,  
*Marty Kiar*  
Marty Kiar, CFA  
Broward County Property Appraiser

 MartyKiarBCPA  
 @MartyKiarBCPA



# AROUND THE TOWN

January 2022 School Calendar  
Broward County Public School  
Happy New Year



JANUARY				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

Monday, January 10th - Early Release Day  
Tuesday, January 11th - Employee Planning  
(no school for students)  
Monday, January 17th - Schools and  
Administrative Offices Closed

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.



**SW 136th Ave**  
Case # 21-103148  
1320 hours  
**Burglary**

An owner of a lawn maintenance company called to report his truck and lawn trailer were burglarized while he was doing lawn service in the area. He did

not have any serial numbers for his equipment at this time but suffered about a \$5000.00 loss.

**SW 173rd Way**  
Case # 21-104469 1055 hours  
**Theft**

A resident called to report a package was stolen from the front of her property. A box of coffee totaling \$58.30 was dropped off and delivered by Walmart. The resident was doing some lawn work saw the package and an hour later the package was gone. There's no video or witnesses of this incident.

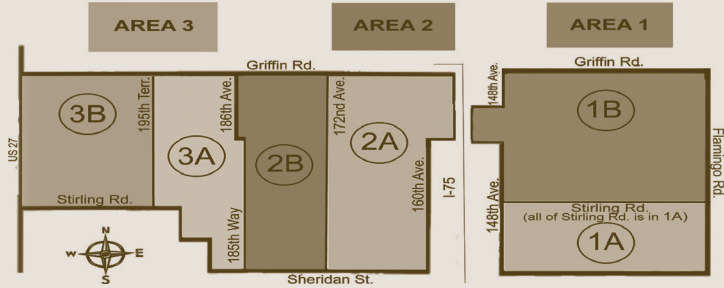
**SW 178th Ave**  
Case # 21-105251 1117 hours  
**Mail Theft/ Fraud**

A resident called to report 2 checks had been stolen from his mailbox in September, and since then \$20,700.00 has been removed from his account. He already reported it to his bank, but they instructed him to make a police report.

## 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
JANUARY 2022	3-A	1/12 - 1/26	2-A	1/11 - 1/25	1-A	1/10 - 1/24
	3-B	1/05 - 1/19	2-B	1/04 - 1/18	1-B	1/03 - 1/17 - 1/31
FEBRUARY 2022	3-A	2/09 - 2/23	2-A	2/08 - 2/22	1-A	2/07 - 2/21
	3-B	2/02 - 2/16	2-B	2/01 - 2/15	1-B	2/14 - 2/28

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

## Household HAZARDOUS WASTE Disposal Days

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

**Saturday, January 8th, 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

**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

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

#### ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

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

#### UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

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

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

Happy New

2022

Year Wishes





PHOTO BY: **Kathy Sullivan**

*"The heart of our community. This old barn has housed parties, fundraisers, weddings, baby showers and funerals. It all begins and ends with the barn."*

(From the 2022 Photo Contest Calendar)

# CALENDAR

S	M	T	W	T	F	S																							
January						 <b>New Years Day</b>																							
						2 • SWB Parks Foundation Meeting Town Hall - 7 pm • Country Estates Grace Baptist Church - 19200 Griffin Road - 7 pm <b>Town Hall Closed</b> <b>AREA 1B BULK</b>	3 • Code Hearing Town Hall 9 am <b>AREA 2B BULK</b>	4 • Charter Review Committee - Town Hall 7 pm <b>AREA 3B BULK</b>	5 • Household Hazardous Waste Event - Rolling Oaks Barn - 17630 SW 56th St., SW Ranches, 33331 8 am - 2 pm Shred-A-Thon 10 - 1 Drug drop off 10 - 2	6 • Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm <b>AREA 1A BULK</b>	7 • Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board - Town Hall 7 pm <b>AREA 2A BULK</b>	8 • Q&A with the Mayor - 7 pm - Virtual <b>AREA 3A BULK</b>	9 • Broward County Property Appraiser - Town Hall 10 am - 12 pm • Comprehensive Planning Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	10 <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> <b>Town Hall Closed</b> <b>AREA 1B BULK</b>	11 • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall - 7 pm <b>AREA 2B BULK</b>	12 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm <b>AREA 3B BULK</b>	13 • Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56 St. 7 pm <b>AREA 2A BULK</b>	14 • Sunshine Ranches HOA Meeting Zoom - Town Hall - 7:30 pm <b>AREA 3A BULK</b>	15 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7 pm	16 <b>AREA 1A BULK</b>	17 <b>AREA 1B BULK</b>	18 <b>AREA 1B BULK</b>	19 <b>AREA 1B BULK</b>	20 <b>AREA 1B BULK</b>	21 <b>AREA 1B BULK</b>	22 <b>AREA 1B BULK</b>	23 <b>AREA 1A BULK</b>	24 <b>AREA 1A BULK</b>	25 <b>AREA 1A BULK</b>

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

## KIDS UNDER 13 BEST SHOT CONTEST.

PHOTO TAKEN BY:

LARA SCHWARTZMAN - (AGE 13)

MERRYLEGS, ONE OF THE HORSES AT OUR BARN.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Arnulfo Mansure - January 21, 2021



*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](mailto:Skutz@southwestranches.org)

TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES

## PUBLIC WORKS AND



JUST TO CLARIFY THE SIZE OF YOUR BULK PILE...

**1 HOME = 12 CUBIC YARDS**

**12 CUBIC YARDS**  
(equals approximately 324 cubic feet)  
equivalent to the size of a Volkswagen Beetle which is approximately 4 feet tall, 8 feet wide by 10 feet long.

If you need a special pickup, please call Waste Pro (954) 967-4200.



# IN TOUCH

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

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Steve Breitzkreuz	(954) 343-7462	sbreitzkreuz@southwestranches.org
Vice Mayor 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. Kuczynski	(954) 343-7472	dkuczynski@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) 343-7476	dstewart@southwestranches.org
Sandy Luongo, <i>General Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7460	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 Poliakov, <i>Town Attorney</i>	(954) 909-0580	kpoliakov@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

## 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
<b>CODE, ZONING, and PERMITTING</b>	(954) 343-7440	zoninginfo@southwestranches.org

Code Enforcement Hotline	(954) 343-7449	
Julio Medina, <i>Code Enforcement Director</i>	(954) 343-7458	jmedina@southwestranches.org
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 (Residential & Commercial)**

Waste Pro	(954) 967-4200	
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<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) 693-8293	jeffrey_hobales@davie-fl.gov
<i>Davie Fire Rescue Station 112</i>	(954) 693-8352	cdanner@southwestranches.org
<i>Volunteer Fire Rescue - Chief Bennett</i>	(954) 680-0020	

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



*New year's eve*  
**WORD SEARCH**

Balloons December Dancing Happy  
Calendar Eve Gown January  
Cheers Clock Party Memories  
Celebrate Games Holiday Tradition

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

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**

*Photo by: Karen French*