

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

Preserving Our Rural Lifestyle



Happy Halloween

OCTOBER 2023

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 Breitkreuz	(954) 343-7462	sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org
Vice Mayor Jim Allbritton	(954) 343-7461	jallbritton@southwestranches.org
Council Member Bob Hartmann	(954) 801-1758	bhartmann@southwestranches.org
Council Member Gary Jablonski	(954) 343-7456	gjablonski@southwestranches.org
Council Member David S. Kuczenski	(954) 343-7472	dkuczenski@southwestranches.org

TOWN STAFF

Andy Berns, <i>Town Administrator</i>	(954) 434-0008	aberns@southwestranches.org
Danielle Caban, <i>Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7474	dcaban@southwestranches.org
Russell Muñiz, <i>Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7450	rmuniz@southwestranches.org
Debra M. Ruesga, <i>Deputy Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7451	druesga@southwestranches.org
Dan Stewart, <i>Records and Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7443	dstewart@southwestranches.org
Tom Holste, <i>General Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7476	tholste@southwestranches.org
Angelica Arosemena, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 434-0008	aarosemena@southwestranches.org
Emil C. Lopez, <i>Town Financial Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7473	elopez@southwestranches.org
Rich Strum, <i>Town Controller</i>	(954) 343-7442	rstrum@southwestranches.org
Venessa Redman, <i>Senior Procurement & Budget Officer</i>	(954) 343-7467	vrredman@southwestranches.org
Arianna Durbreej, <i>Town Accountant</i>	(954) 343-7477	adurbreej@southwestranches.org
Keith Poliakoff, <i>Town Attorney</i>	(954) 909-0580	kpoliakoff@southwestranches.org
Rod Ley, <i>Public Works Director</i>	(954) 343-7444	rley@southwestranches.org
Emily McCord Aceti, <i>Community Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7453	eaceti@southwestranches.org
Susan Kutz, <i>Administrative Specialist, Newsletter Editor & Graphic Designer</i>	(954) 343-7460	skutz@southwestranches.org
Joyce Marques, <i>Engineer Inspector</i>	(954) 343 7441	jmarques@southwestranches.org
December Lauretano-Haines, <i>Parks, Recreation & 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)

Brian Dillon, <i>Building Official</i>	(954) 665-4392	M-F 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Jennifer McCarty, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7445	swrinspections@southwestranches.org
Derlin Guevara, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446	swrinspections@southwestranches.org

PLANNING

Jeff Katims	(954) 475-3070	jkatims@transystems.com
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ZONING/PERMITTING

Julio Medina	(954) 343-7458	zoninginfo@southwestranches.org
CODE		
Julio Medina, <i>Code Enforcement Director</i>	(954) 343-7458	jmedina@southwestranches.org
Code Enforcement Hotline	(954) 343-7449	
Concepcion Campos, <i>Code Enforcement Officer</i>	(954) 343-7457	ccampos@southwestranches.org
Jenna Anderson, <i>Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7459	janderson@southwestranches.org
Manfred Velette, <i>Assistant Code Enforcement Director</i>	(954) 343-7440	mvelette@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	
Non-Emergency	(954) 764-4357 (HELP)	
Davie Police Department	(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
Davie Fire Rescue Station 112	(954) 952-4608	
Volunteer Fire Rescue – Chief Bennett	(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
East of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)		
South Broward Drainage District	(954) 680-3337	www.sbddd.org
West of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)		

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz



Waste to Energy and Sound Ordinance

It may not feel like it yet, but Fall is officially underway! As we head into the fall, there are a couple of topics I want to provide updates on. First is the issue of the waste to energy plant (or incinerator) that could potentially be proposed for the unincorporated Broward County location near US 27 between Southwest Ranches and Pembroke Pines. The second topic is an update on the proposed sound ordinance.

First of all, regarding the potential incinerator, I want you to know that your Town officials, administration, and many of your fellow residents have been very active in the effort get the word out that (1) we believe that there is a much better solution than an incinerator in our area and that solution is "Zero Waste." Our goal is to implement a solution as close to zero waste as possible, thus negating the need for an incinerator. Second, that under no circumstances do we see an incinerator, near our schools, sitting above our water supply, and located near the Everglades and our animals, as acceptable. It simply is NOT acceptable. So, we are working to get that message across. I personally have met with a number of other Mayors, a number of County officials and plan on serving on the Executive Committee for the Solid Waste Authority to drive home the point that there is a better way than incinerators.

There have been some persistent rumors that I want to address. First is that an incinerator is definitely coming. This is not true. No decision has been made and no decision will be made for probably another 18 to 24 months. The other rumor is that all options are open. This is technically true. However, it is important to understand, (1) the State of Florida has passed legislation that would provide seed money to promote the incinerator solution; (2) there are some very large companies spending a lot of money lobbying for the incinerator solution; (3) the deck is stacked against us. If

we are not successful in our efforts, an incinerator is almost certainly going to be built at the location I described above.

So, we must act now to change the tide of the conversation, before any final decisions are made. I could not be prouder of our Council and our residents in this effort. The Council is united in its backing of a zero waste solution. Residents have been active in working to get the facts out and growing our base of individuals involved. If we are going to be successful, we need everyone's help. If you would like to know how you can join and help, please either contact me or contact Town Hall. Or you can contact the Task Force directly at ZeroWasteBrowardTF@gmail.com. We need everyone's involvement. Be on the lookout for more information regarding recycling and education on zero waste.

“Residents have been active in working to get the facts out and growing our base of individuals involved.”

Second, I wanted to share with you a quick update on the sound ordinance. First of all, I want to thank everyone who sent me notes or called me on this issue. You made some great points and so I have adjusted the proposed ordinance. Many elements stay the same, however, the key element that changed is that rather than Davie PD checking the sound inside the home, we will instead be using sound meters to judge the level of the noise. Whereas today, any amplified noise crossing your property line is technically illegal, we will now set up sound levels based on established guidelines. I do recognize that meters may not pick up all sounds, especially very low sounds, but I think that this will be a good start.

As always, I want to express that it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Mayor. I thank you for the trust and support. I want you to know that you are keeping me very busy! But that is the way it should be if we want to maintain our beautiful community and preserve our rural lifestyle.



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Council Member David S. Kuczenski



Howdy Ranchers,
Most of the talk
around town concerns
Broward County's pro-

posed incinerator. I began writing about this back in June, and since then the Council has taken a unified position opposing any incinerator whether it is called "waste to energy" or any other name. Our solid waste disposal options are dwindling. Recently, contamination rates for recyclables have gone through the roof, causing thousands of tons of recyclables to go to landfills every day. Monarch Hill Landfill in Pompano, the County's only landfill and one of the largest in the country, is near capacity at 20 stories high and is running out of room to expand horizontally. Also, all of Broward is under a Legislative mandate to recycle at least 75% of our solid waste. Unfortunately, we are not there. If the mandate is not met, the development of an incinerator becomes more likely. This is because leadership in Tallahassee has established that if solid waste is processed in an incinerator, that processing will constitute 50% of the required 75% recycling mandate.

The alternative to an incinerator is called Zero Waste, and many municipalities in Florida are successfully utilizing Zero Waste technology to drastically reduce solid waste going into landfills. The Broward Commission created a Solid Waste Working Group that contrived the Solid Waste Authority of which every signatory municipality has one representative. The Solid Waste Authority is tasked with establishing a solid waste master plan. This is where the one option floated by a couple of Broward Commissioners is the notorious incinerator. To challenge the incinerator option, every Broward resident must begin recycling. This does not mean that we should just throw everything into recycling because doing that could contaminate it. Contamination is what is causing complications with recycling because it can ruin other recyclables or cause expensive shutdowns of the facility to clean the contamination.

Our recycling is transferred to the recycling center on the western limits of Pembroke Pines, owned by Waste Management. The center takes in discarded cardboard, glass, aluminum, plastic, and other recyclables from the area. The facility is the largest recycling center in the southeastern United States and can process up to 50 tons of recyclables an hour. The problem, according to a recent report, is that contamination — trash thrown into recycling bins that isn't supposed to be there — slows and sometimes negates the work being done to recycle the trash. Here are a few thoughts on how to recycle more efficiently. If we can elevate the quality of our recycling, we can fight the proposed incinerator. First, our recycling, and only our recycling, belongs in the blue bins. Recycling is limited to (1) plastic bottles and containers, (2) paper, (3) glass bottles and containers, (4) flattened cardboard and paperboard, and (4) food and beverage cans.

Next, the recycling must be clean and dry. Anything that is dirty or wet does not belong in the recycling bins.

On the contrary, examples of items that do not belong in the recycling include greasy pizza boxes, food, liquids, foam ups and foam food containers (these can be recycled only at Publix), green yard waste, batteries, paint, antifreeze, fluids, oil, aerosol cans, garden and pool chemicals, ammonia, computers, printers, any plastic shopping bags (these actually clog the processing machines at the recycling center), clothing, furniture, metal pipes, florescent light tubes or bulbs. If you are not sure if

the item is recyclable, it is recommended to put the item in regular garbage to avoid expensive contamination.

Zero waste is a reasonable alternative and if successfully implemented, we can fight off the proposed incinerator. This cannot be accomplished by only a few residences. This will require all of us because the incinerator alternative is unacceptable.

As your Town Council Member, 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
Council Member District 4



- Adopted Resolution 2023-068 authorizing the submission of a FRDAP grant in the amount of \$200,000 for park development at Southwest Meadows Sanctuary Park.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-069 approving a site plan modification for Archbishop McCarthy High School for new portable classrooms, an indoor athletic training facility, and adding an outdoor pool.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-070 approving a plat note amendment for Archbishop McCarthy High School to reflect the changes authorized in the site plan modification above.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-071 approving the second amendment to the Regional Interlocal Agreement with Broward County for Emergency 911 Communication System.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-072 approving the second amendment to the purchase and sale agreement and profit participation agreement with BBX Logistics Properties, LLC for the property formerly known as the CCA site.
- Adopted Resolution 2023-073 approving a water service agreement with the City of Sunrise for the property located at 5353 Hancock Road.

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.



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: publicworks@southwestranches.org

Council Member Bob Hartmann



Hi Neighbors,

Over the past few months, residents of our community and surrounding municipalities have galvanized in opposition to any waste solutions that include incinerators, waste-to-energy plants, burners, boilers, and “chemical recycling” especially efforts to build support for a dirty and unsafe technology: incineration. Over the past two months, many municipal meetings in southwest Broward County have been swelling with concerned residents. Richard Ramcharitar and Marianne Allen of Southwest Ranches, the organizers of Broward Clean Air (formed in June for fear of an incinerator being built), have successfully solicited support from national environmental protection groups, groups interested in protecting Everglades, and the Miccosukee tribe. The Native American group sued the federal government in 1997 to force action that became the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project, created to improve water quality and return the Everglades to a healthy ecosystem. Broward Clean Air has attended most of the recent public meetings. They are working with others and are gaining support by educating the public about why waste incineration is harmful and an unsuitable solution to dispose of our garbage. There has been considerable negative press about incineration in the United States. Through Broward Clean Air, our local civic associations, and vocal local leaders, public support in Broward, Miami-Dade, and across the Everglades is turning against the new construction of these antiquated solutions. Our area residents appear to hold their elected officials accountable at these public meetings.

In March, the Sun Sentinel published an article stating, “Ultimately, a recycling, composting, and **waste-to-energy [incinerator] plant** will be built [in Broward] for a price tag that could hover around \$1 billion, officials said. Although the exact cost hasn’t been calculated, that figure is ‘what will be expected,’ said County Commissioner Beam

Furr.” The article later states, “Furr briefed his fellow commissioners on the plans. He told the South Florida Sun Sentinel [after that] the requests for proposals to find the contractor or developer are expected to go out within months.” These comments were published in the Sun Sentinel in March, six months ago, not years ago.

When representatives of the Solid Waste and Recycle Working Group (SWWG) appeared at SWR council meetings, town halls, and workshops in Pembroke Pines in August, mistruths in their statements explaining their plans were called out by the residents in attendance who highlighted the difference between the comments made at these local public meetings and those previously made to the Sun Sentinel. At a Pembroke Pines workshop meeting hosted by Vice Mayor Iris Siple, our community was told by a deputy county administrator that no incinerator procurements were planned. Members of the

SWWG repeatedly said nothing has been decided. Recurring conflicting statements made to the Sun Sentinel earlier this year, brought up by the public at this workshop, about building up to four additional incinerators and the future activities of the new waste authority demolished trust in the public officials speaking on behalf of Broward County and SWWG.

Further degrading public trust, at a Miami-Dade Commission meeting in early September, we learned that Broward County was collaborating with Miami-Dade on a regional solid-waste solution. Due to public pressure from Miami-Dade residents and some of our neighbors at that meeting, their County Commission decided to table the item to a later meeting before deciding to build incinerators to replace the Doral incinerator recently destroyed by a persistent, toxic, and difficult-to-extinguish fire. It was also discussed that to meet the demands of its residents and avoid developing incinerators, the County Commission may decide to increase its landfill capacity; however, they have not voted on that change in approach at the time of this writing. By statute, they must meet the statewide recycling 75% standard.

Southwest Ranches has alerted all Broward municipalities and County Commissioners that we do not support an incinerator solution and reiterated that we support investigating zero-waste solutions. Pembroke Pines Commission has committed to its residents not to support incineration. Weston Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie is leading the efforts to gain support from Weston residents and their commission to oppose incineration in our region. Davie, Weston, Pembroke Pines, and Cooper City residents, along with SWR neighbors, have been attending our council meetings and other workshop events to learn about the solid waste issues confronting us, to begin supporting opposition to incineration solutions, and to add their energy and efforts to the cause. Many folks attending our meetings are engaging their city governments in this fight and helping them formulate strategies supporting greater recycling activities and opposing incinerators.

One of the items mentioned by the officials answering resident questions at the above meetings was that the State recycling requirement is 75% of municipal

...continued on page 6

waste. We also learned that several Broward municipalities currently don't recycle. Given the citizen feedback provided at the Pembroke Pines and Miami-Dade commission meetings, it is very likely that cities presently not recycling will change their waste hauling contracts to include recycling when their current agreements expire or, if possible, sooner.

Last year, we held a public meeting to solicit resident input on trash, bulk, and recycling; when our new solid-waste contract requests for proposals were being designed, our neighbors abundantly clarified that recycling must be part of the equation. We have many families here in Town that are diligent recyclers. As the Town posts more and more recycling information on social media, more families are becoming active recyclers, too. I recently met with WM (formerly Waste Management Inc.) and our Town Administration to investigate

methods to increase the recycling ratio of our solid waste. WM is North America's leading provider of comprehensive waste management environmental services. They partner with their customers and the communities they serve to manage and reduce waste at each stage, from collection to disposal, while recovering valuable resources. WM serves more than 20 million residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers through waste collection, landfill, transfer, recycling, and other lines of business. They manage recycling programs all over the U.S. We have asked them to assist in improving our recycling rate using best practices they have successfully developed and launched with other municipalities. We will keep you informed as the program advances.

If you have any questions or want more info, please call me at 954-801-1758 or send a note to BHartmann@SouthwestRanches.org.



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

- Facebook page: @SWRG0V
- Twitter account: @SWR_gov
- YouTube: Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel





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



Down Syndrome Awareness Month

In October, we celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month; a time to

recognize the unique abilities and contributions of individuals with Down syndrome while challenging stereotypes and misconceptions. Having served as Chair of the Broward County Children's Services Council Special Needs Advisory Coalition, I understand the importance of bringing awareness this month, but most importantly, educating ourselves and creating a culture of acceptance. By promoting understanding, inclusivity, and recognition, we can create a world where individuals with Down syndrome and other special needs are empowered to thrive at any age.

As we commemorate Down Syndrome Awareness Month, it is important to highlight ongoing efforts to support individu-

als with Down syndrome through meaningful legislation. I am proud to report that my bill, Public-School Student Progression for Students with Disabilities passed unanimously on the House and Senate floors and was signed into law by the Governor. This legislation, which came from a discussion in a living room in Southwest Ranches, was inspired by Ana, an amazing young lady with Down syndrome. Thanks to Ana's mom, Erica Shapiro, and her fierce advocacy, I was able to craft legislation to change the State Pupil Progression Plan to give parents of students with disabilities more options to make the best educational decisions for their children. This bill now allows the parent of a student with disabilities who is enrolled in pre-kindergarten at the age of 4 and is fully funded through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to retain their child in consultation with the individual education plan team. This retention will count towards good cause promotion in the pupil progression plan, the same as if a student is retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3. Ultimately, this bill gives parents of students with disabilities an expanded choice and the ability to retain their child in Pre-K to ensure that their child has a strong foundation before en-

tering kindergarten. Erica's dedication and courage to not accept the status quo has now made a positive difference for countless parents state-wide.

This month and every day we should recognize the unique talents and strengths of individuals with Down syndrome. It is imperative that we recognize individual's unique abilities and ensure that they are provided with resources to reach their full potential.

Lastly, and most importantly, we must all speak up against discrimination and stereotypes. We must be an ally and inspire others to do the same. Although Down Syndrome Awareness Month is only celebrated one month out of the year, we must remember that inclusivity is a year-round commitment. By embracing diversity, educating ourselves, and advocating for equal opportunities, we can create a world where every individual.

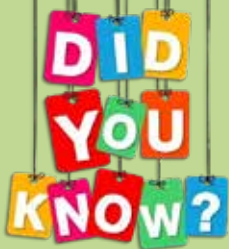
It is an honor to serve you and we are here to assist with any issues or concerns you may have. I welcome ideas and suggestions.

Feel free to contact me anytime at robin.bartleman@myfloridahouse.gov or our office at (954) 424-6828. You can also reach me on my personal cell at (954) 668-3662



SHOW YOUR TOWN SPIRIT

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



DO YOU KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF HIRING A LICENSED CONTRACTOR

Licensed contractors are regulated by laws designed to protect the public. If you contract with a person who does not have a license, the Construction Industry Licensing Board, the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and the building department may be unable to assist you with any financial loss that you sustain as a result of a complaint. Your only remedy against an unlicensed contractor may be in civil court. It is also important for you to understand that, if an unlicensed contractor or employee of an individual or firm is injured while working on your property, you may be held liable for damages. If you obtain an owner-builder permit and wish to hire a licensed contractor, you will be responsible for verifying whether the contractor is properly licensed and the status of the contractor's workers' compensation coverage.

MAYORS
MONARCH
PLEDGE



Plants That Attract Hummingbirds in Florida

**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP**
Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

(adapted from <https://balconygardenweb.com/plants-that-attract-hummingbirds-in-florida/>)

Soon, the hummingbirds will return to South Florida...start to look, or listen, for them come October. If you would like to attract them to your yard, consider planting the following plants. You will not be disappointed.



Coral Honeysuckle

(Botanical Name: *Lonicera sempervirens*)

Also known as trumpet honeysuckle, this native plant produces tubular flowers that are perfect for attracting hummingbirds. The plant thrives in full sun to partial shade. It is one of the best plants which attracts hummingbirds in Florida.



Firebush

(Botanical Name: *Hamelia patens*)

With its vibrant red-orange flowers, the firebush is an irresistible lure for hummingbirds. It prefers full sun to partial shade and is drought-tolerant once established.



Bottlebrush

(Botanical Name: *Callistemon spp.*)

This evergreen shrub is named after its distinctive cylindrical flowers that resemble a bottle brush. The flowers are a rich source of nectar and blooms throughout the year.



Lantana

(Botanical Name: *Shrub verbena*)

The most attractive feature of Lantana is that it comes in a variety of colors, including red, orange, yellow, and pink, all of which are highly attractive to hummingbirds.



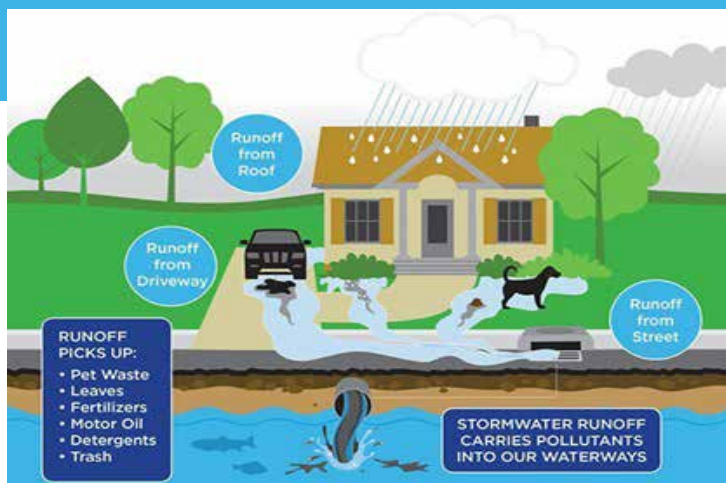
ILLICIT DISCHARGE INTO STORM DRAINS

Storm drains are used to collect storm water runoff from streets, lawns, rooftops, catch basins, and swales. The water collected does not pass into the water treatment plant to be treated. Instead it often flows into the nearby canals and other water bodies. Thus, it is imperative that only rain water is collected as any contaminants will not be treated for.

The pouring or inadvertent flow of chemicals, oils, paints, and any other hazardous materials can result in negative consequences to the surrounding environment as well as poses a health risk. Other hazardous materials include motor oil, anti-freeze, mercury, thermometers, pesticides, and herbicides. Common

sources for illicit discharge include leaking containers, vehicle related accidents, improper fueling, illegal disposal, and improper maintenance.

Construction related activities such as the placement of solid waste in waterways or failure to maintain proper Best Management Practices such as turbidity barriers and silt fences are also considered forms of illicit discharge. Best Management Practices should be maintained throughout the construction process.



In the event you see an illicit discharge please call the Environmental Response Line 954-519-1499 or fill out the online complaint form at <http://www.broward.org/Environment/Resources/Pages/EnviroComplaint.aspx>. This can be reported anonymously as well.



2024 Homestead Exemptions

If you applied and were approved for Homestead Exemption for the 2024 tax year, this exemption will be posted to your property record online in December. Once approved, Homestead Exemption automatically renews each year provided there is no change in the ownership or use of the property. You do not need to reapply for Homestead Exemption annually once you have been approved.

Did You Acquire or Take Ownership of Your Property in 2023?

If you acquired your home in 2023 and there were exemptions showing on your 2023 TRIM (proposed tax) Notice, these exemptions reflect the previous owner's exemption status and will be removed at the end of this year. If you believe you qualify for Homestead Exemption or any other tax-saving exemptions at this property, you must complete an application in your name. Homestead Exemption does not automatically transfer from one property to another. You can easily apply for all exemptions online at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Homestead>. The timely deadline to apply for all 2024 exemptions is March 1, 2024. For additional information on Homestead and other exemption filing, please call 954.357.6830.

Owner Alert Text Notifications

Property owners who have registered for Owner Alert can now subscribe for text message notifications. Subscribers will receive a text message if a change of ownership has been processed by our office along with a link to the recorded document changing the ownership. To register for Owner Alert or subscribe for text messaging, please visit <https://web.bcpa.net/owneralert>.

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

Take care,

Marty Kiar

Marty Kiar



All Southwest Ranches Neighborhoods Are Encouraged to Come and Participate

Saturday October 28th ■ 6:00—9:00 PM

At The Rolling Oaks Barn ■ 17630 SW 56th Street Southwest Ranches

Trick-or-Treating around the circle ■ Walk thru The Haunted Barn if you dare

Bring your candy to hand out ■ Bring your folding chairs and table to set up around the circle

Fun For All Ages Enter The Hay Bale Decorating Contest

- Bales should be rectangular
- Participants may submit one entry in either the individual division or the family division
- Limit your decoration to one bale
- Entries will be judged on eye appeal, use of materials, and creativity. Hay bales should be decorated with a good clean wholesome nature. No vulgar or suggestive decorations will be allowed. No commercial or political party signs of any kind are allowed. Bales containing prohibited content will be disqualified and will not be displayed.
- Hay bales must be dropped off at the Rolling Oaks Barn Friday, Oct 27th from 10:00 AM—8:00 PM or Saturday, Oct 28th 10:00 AM—1:00 PM
- A letter size paper listing the artist's name and telephone number must accompany all bales.
- Winners will be announced at the Halloween event October 28th.

Trick-or-Treat around the circle

- Kid's Costume Contest
- Kid's Games
- Kid's Arts and Crafts
- Photo opportunities
- Hay Bale Contest

For questions, more information, or to volunteer please text (954) 394-7776

GOLF TERMS WORD SEARCH

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

TOURNAMENT	HANDICAP	SLICE	HOOK
HONORS	TEE BOX	FAIRWAY	GREEN
DRIVER	PRIZE MONEY	WINNER	RULES
RANGE	TROPHY	PRACTICE	IRON
CHAMPION	SCORE CARD	PLAYER	GRIP
BOCA WEST	FLAG	CADDIE	CLUB
FORE	SCOTLAND	BOGEY	EAGLE
CHIP	BIRDIE	PAR	COURSE
BALL	CART	THE MASTERS	THE OPEN
GOLF	SNAG	LOFT	PROFESSIONAL
HOLE IN ONE	ARNOLD PALMER	TIGER WOODS	TARGET
CUP	PUTTER	BUNKER	TEE

PROPER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A SEPTIC TANK SYSTEM



SOURCE: <https://www.broward.org/EnvironmentAndGrowth/EnvironmentalProgramsResources/Publications/Documents/YouYourSepticTank.pdf>

The proper operation and maintenance of septic tank systems is critical to minimizing the impact on our health and water resources. Our sole source of drinking water, the Biscayne Aquifer, is just a few feet beneath the surface of the land. All that separates us from this underground water supply is a thin layer of sand. Consequently, our water supply is extremely vulnerable to contamination.

A major advantage of the septic tank is that it has no moving parts and needs very little routine maintenance. If properly operated and maintained the system should work for 10 to 20 years. But there are problems that may show up in the house plumbing, the septic tank, distribution pipes, and the soil absorption drainfield over time or if the system is improperly operated or maintained.

SIGNS TO LOOK FOR INCLUDE:

1. Low spots in the area above or near the drainfield.
2. Obnoxious odors ranging from a musty odor to a rotten egg odor to raw sewage odor.
3. The grass is much greener and lush above or near the drainfield.
4. Soggy grass in the area above or near the drainfield during dry periods.
5. Gurgling sounds in the plumbing.
6. Sluggish flow when flushing the toilet.
7. Backup of sewage in house plumbing.

Over time all drainfields will fail because the capacity of the soil to absorb effluent has been exceeded. The soil becomes clogged and the effluent will rise to the surface of the ground. However, premature failure most often results from failure of the homeowner to periodically pump out the sludge from the tank.

If you need an inspection or repairs to an existing septic tank system, a state registered septic tank contractor or a state certified plumber should be called. The Broward County Public Health Unit maintains lists of State registered contractors and requires permits for all repairs and installations.

Septic system owners must ensure that their systems are maintained properly. Even a well-designed and properly operating septic tank system will eventually fail if it is not also maintained. Regular maintenance can prevent failures such as clogging of the soil absorption drainfield and sewage backup into the home.

For additional information, please contact the Department of Planning and Environmental Protection, at (954) 519-1400 or the Environmental Engineering Division of the Broward County Public Health Unit at (954) 467-492



SUPPORT THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY


found on the Town website
by visiting the Historical Society
page or using this link:

<https://www.southwest ranches.org/southwest-ranches-resident-business-directory/>



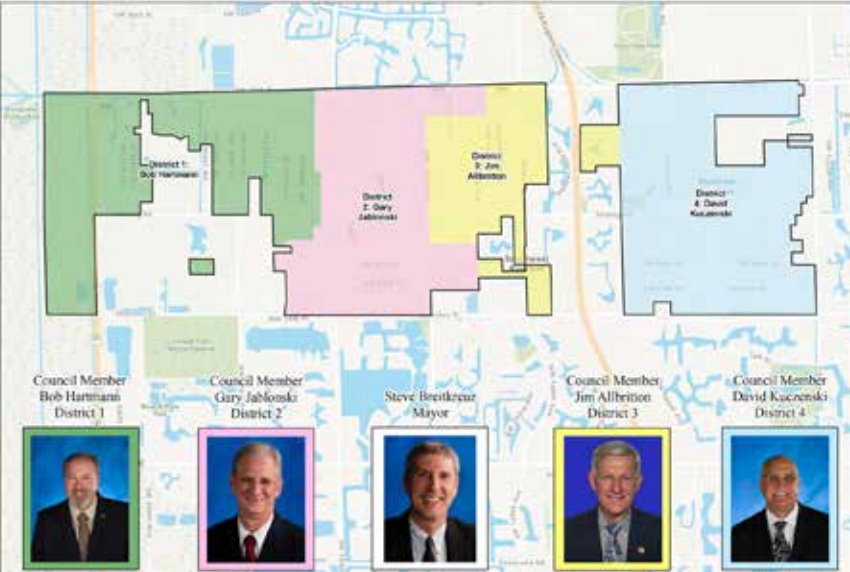
HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Luisito Moraguez - October 7th
Zucy Mansur - October 14th
Jason Coley - October 26
Luis Moraguez - October 28th



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



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 Benikreuz Mayor
Council Member Jim Allbritton District 3
Council Member David Kuczenski District 4

The Town of Southwest Ranches does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, or disability in its policies, programs, or services. The Town of Southwest Ranches also does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, or ethnicity in its policies, programs, or services. If you are a person with a disability and you are unable to access the information on this website, please contact the Town of Southwest Ranches at (954) 434-0008 for assistance. If you are a person with a disability and you are unable to access the information on this website, please contact the Town of Southwest Ranches at (954) 434-0008 for assistance. If you are a person with a disability and you are unable to access the information on this website, please contact the Town of Southwest Ranches at (954) 434-0008 for assistance.

WELL

PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION...

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

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

WM (Waste Management) IS HERE FOR YOU...

CUSTOMER SERVICE

To improve customer service and responsiveness, the residents of Southwest Ranches now have a special email address to reach WM.

Please use this email to ensure your concern will be taken care of promptly.
SOUTHWESTRANCHES@WM.COM

TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES
FY 2023-2024
BUDGET HEARING

finance
by Emil Lopez

The following publicly held Budget meeting will be in Council Chambers
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 AT 6PM


- Second Public Hearing for Final Milage (via resolution) and Budget Adoption for FY 2023-2024 (via ordinance - Second Reading)

"HOW TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE TOWN"

The Town welcomes participation from all vendors qualified to do business with the Town.

Please visit the Procurement page on the Town's website and complete the Vendor Application.

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@southwestranches.org.



PHOTO BY: Patricia Hooton

OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 • Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7 pm • SWR Parks, Foundation Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 1	2 • CODE Hearing - Town Hall 9 am • Broward County Property Appraiser Office - Town Hall 10:30 - 12:30 pm BULK ZONE 2	3 BULK ZONE 2	4 BULK ZONE 3	5 BULK ZONE 4	6 BULK ZONE 5	7 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am-3:00pm BULK ZONE 6
8 *** HAPPY *** COLUMBUS DAY • Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 7	9 • Parks, Recreation, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 8	10 BULK ZONE 8	11 BULK ZONE 9	12 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 10	13 BULK ZONE 11	14 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am-3:00pm BULK ZONE 12
15 BULK ZONE 1	16 • Rural Public Arts & Design Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 1	17 • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 2	18 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 3	19 • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 4	20 BULK ZONE 5	21 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am-3:00pm BULK ZONE 6
22 BULK ZONE 7	23 • Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56th St. - 7 pm BULK ZONE 8	24 • Flow Mobile DMV Services Town Hall 10 - 2:00 pm (by appointment only) • Sunshine Ranches HOA Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 9	25 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Town Hall 7 pm BULK ZONE 10	26 BULK ZONE 10	27 BULK ZONE 11	28 Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am-3:00pm Trick-or-Treat & Hay Bale contest. Rolling Oaks Barn. 17630 SW 56 St. 6-9 pm BULK ZONE 12
29 BULK ZONE 1	30 BULK ZONE 2	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN BULK ZONE 2	1 BULK ZONE 3	2 BULK ZONE 4	3 BULK ZONE 5	4 BULK ZONE 6

DECEMBER HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST ENTRY FORM



Town of Southwest Ranches
Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board
13400 Griffin Road
Southwest Ranches, Florida 33330

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

I UNDERSTAND, ACKNOWLEDGE, AND AGREE THAT THE SUBMISSION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH OF MY HOME, WHICH I HAVE TAKEN, TO THE TOWN CONSTITUTES A "WORK MADE FOR HIRE," AND I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO THE WORK AND THE WORK PRODUCT, INCLUDING MORAL OR OTHERWISE. THIS STATEMENT SHALL CONTROL OVER THE PROVISIONS OF 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106A(2), AND SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER BY ME OF ANY RIGHTS IN THE WORK SET OUT IN OR OTHERWISE GRANTED BY 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106A(2). VISUAL ARTISTS RIGHTS ACT OF 1990. ALL OTHER RIGHTS IN AND TO THE WORK, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ALL RIGHTS IN THE NATURE OF "MORAL RIGHTS" RELATING TO ANY CONTINUING INTEREST I MAY HAVE IN THE MAINTENANCE OR MODIFICATION OF THE WORK, ARE EXPRESSLY WAIVED AND, INsofar AS SUCH RIGHTS ARE TRANSFERABLE, ARE ASSIGNED TO THE TOWN. MY WORK IS ORIGINAL AND IT COMPLIES WITH ALL APPLICABLE PATENT, TRADEMARK, AND COPYRIGHT LAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND CODES. I UNDERSTAND, ACKNOWLEDGE, AND AGREE THAT THROUGH THE CONVEYANCE OF MY SUBMISSION THE WORK WILL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE TOWN AND MAY BE USED, REPRODUCED, SOLD, OR MODIFIED BY THE TOWN IN THE TOWN'S SOLE DISCRETION.

SIGNATURE: _____ (Date)

SIGNATURE OF GUARDIAN FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18: _____ (Date)

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & BULK DROP OFF EVENT

Saturday, September 23rd, 2023 . 8:00am to 2:00pm
Saturday, January 6th, 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

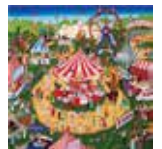
For more information call Town Hall (954) 434-0008

SW RANCHES COUNTRY FAIR & CARNIVAL

FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS WANTED

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

CONTACT:
SWRCOUNTRYFAIR.COM



WHEN
JAN 12th-15th

WHERE
SW Meadows Sanctuary Park

16290 Griffin Road, SW Ranches, FL

BENEFITING SW RANCHES PARKS FOUNDATION



Town of Southwest Ranches

13400 Griffin Road

Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

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WWW.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG



TROPICAL WEATHER TERMS TO KNOW

TROPICAL DISTURBANCE

A non-frontal tropical weather system with thunderstorm activity that maintains its organization for 24 hours or longer

INVEST

A weather system that the NHC is interested in collecting specialized data about; does not correspond to any likelihood of development into a tropical cyclone

POTENTIAL TROPICAL CYCLONE

Describes a disturbance that is not yet a tropical cyclone, but poses the threat of tropical storm or hurricane conditions to land areas within 48 hours

TROPICAL CYCLONE

A non-frontal tropical system with organized deep thunderstorm activity and a well-defined center

TROPICAL DEPRESSION

A tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained surface winds of 38 mph or less

TROPICAL STORM

A tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained surface winds ranging from 39-73 mph

HURRICANE

A tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained surface winds of 74 mph or greater



Monitor weather alerts and follow instructions from local officials.

THE RURAL PUBLIC ARTS AND DESIGN BOARD
PRESENTS...

6th Annual December Holiday Lights Contest™



ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON A LITTLE MORE BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS FUN-FILLED HOLIDAY CONTEST. SEND YOUR ENTRY FORM IN NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 2023 AND BE ONE OF THE 3 MOST FESTIVE HOLIDAY DECORATED HOMES IN SOUTHWEST RANCHES.

(YOUR HOUSE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE DECORATED TO SEND YOUR ENTRY FORM IN.)

JUDGING WILL START
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

AWARDS WILL BE
PRESENTED
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

Call Susan: (954) 434-0008
or email:
skutz@southwestranches.org

