

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Town Newsletter

HALLOWEEN
SPOOKTACULAR

Entries due
October 18th

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Rosh Hashanah
we wish you peace
and goodness
&
Happy
Yom Kippur

RECYCLE
RIGHT



see page 7

OCTOBER 2024

IN TOUCH

TOWN HALL: 13400 Griffin Road / Southwest Ranches, FL 33330 • **PHONE:** (954) 434-0008 • **FAX:** (954) 434-1490

TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm • **TOWN WEBSITE:** www.southwestranches.org

TOWN HALL TWITTER ACCOUNT: @SWR_Gov • **YOUTUBE:** Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel • **FACEBOOK:** [facebook@SWRGOV](https://facebook.com/SWRGOV)

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	(954) 343-7462
Vice Mayor David S. Kuczenski, Esq.	(954) 343-7472
Council Member Jim Allbritton	(954) 343-7461
Council Member Bob Hartmann	(954) 343-7447
Council Member Gary Jablonski	(954) 343-7456

sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org
dkuczenski@southwestranches.org
jallbritton@southwestranches.org
bhartmann@southwestranches.org
gjablonski@southwestranches.org

TOWN STAFF

Russell Muñiz, <i>Town Administrator</i>	(954) 434-0008
Danielle Caban, <i>Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7474
Debra M. Ruesga, <i>Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7451
Dan Stewart, <i>Deputy Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7443
Jennifer McCarty, <i>Records and Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7469
Tom Holste, <i>General Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7476
Angelica Arosemena, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 434-0008
Emil C. Lopez, <i>Town Financial Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7473
Christina Semeraro, <i>Town Procurement Officer</i>	(954) 343-7467
Rich Strum, <i>Town Controller</i>	(954) 343-7442
Arianna Durbeej, <i>Town Accountant</i>	(954) 343-7477
Keith Poliakoff, <i>Town Attorney</i>	(954) 909-0580
Rod Ley, <i>Public Works Director</i>	(954) 343-7444
Emily McCord Aceti, <i>Community Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7453
Susan Kutz, <i>Administrative Specialist, Newsletter Editor & Graphic Designer</i>	(954) 343-7460
Joyce Marques, <i>Engineering Inspector</i>	(954) 343-7441
December Lauretano-Haines, <i>Parks, Recreation & Open Space Manager</i>	(954) 343-7452
Gilbert Ceballos, <i>Parks and Recreation Program Facilitator</i>	(954) 343-7468
Mayuli Betancourt, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 343-7465

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csemeraro@southwestranches.org
rstrum@southwestranches.org
adurbeej@southwestranches.org
keith@govlawgroup.com
rley@southwestranches.org
eaceti@southwestranches.org
skutz@southwestranches.org
jmarques@southwestranches.org
dlauretano@southwestranches.org
gceballos@southwestranches.org
mbetancourt@southwestranches.org

M-F 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

swrinspections@southwestranches.org
swrinspections@southwestranches.org
swrinspections@southwestranches.org

TOWN SERVICES / BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING - (CAP GOVERNMENT)

Simo Mansor, <i>Building Official</i>	(954) 343-7448
Derlin Guevara, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446
Maria Perez, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7445

PLANNING

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

ZONING/PERMITTING

Julio Medina, <i>Community Development/Code Compliance Director</i>	(954) 343-7458
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zoninginfo@southwestranches.org

CODE COMPLIANCE

Julio Medina, <i>Community Development/Code Compliance Director</i>	(954) 343-7458
Manfred Velette, <i>Assistant Code Compliance Director</i>	(954) 343-7440
Code Compliance Hotline	(954) 343-7449
Concepcion Campos, <i>Code Compliance Officer</i>	(954) 343-7457
Yirglhis Hernandez, <i>Code Compliance Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7459

jmedina@southwestranches.org
mvelette@southwestranches.org

ccampos@southwestranches.org
yhernandez@southwestranches.org

WASTE/BULK/RECYCLING SERVICES

WM (Waste Management)	(954) 974-7500
REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS - Chief Bennett	(954) 868-2057
MOSQUITO CONTROL	(954) 765-4062
LOST AND FOUND ANIMALS	(754) 224-0877

lbennett@southwestranches.org

[Facebook@SWRLostandFoundAnimals](https://facebook.com/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
Cheryl Danner, <i>Police Services Coordinator</i>	(954) 693-8352
Davie Fire Rescue Station 112	(954) 952-4608
Volunteer Fire Rescue - Chief Bennett	(954) 868-2057

evelazquez@davie-fl.gov
cdanner@southwestranches.org

TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES

Potholes and Signs Down - Public Works	
Illicit Discharge - Environmental Response Line:	(954) 519-1499

publicworks@southwestranches.org
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
East of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)	
South Broward Drainage District	(954) 680-3337
West of SW 148 Avenue (Volunteer)	

www.centralbrowardwcd.org

www.sbddd.org

A MESSAGE FROM



**Mayor
Steve
Breitkreuz**

As I write this article, we are just completing the budgeting process for 2025 for our Town. I am excited to share with you some excellent news regarding your assessments and taxes.

The Budget / Tax Millage season is always a challenge. However, in today's recent economic environment with higher inflation, it is even more of a challenge. I will get right to the bottom line. Through the diligent efforts of your Council and the exceptional work by our Town Administration, I am expecting no increases in millage this year. No increases in the Solid Waste (Trash removal) assessment and no increase in your Fire assessment. This has not been an easy lift, but we have a great staff that

partners with the vision of the Council and listens to the residents and it has all come together to deliver these great results for our Town and its residents. Remarkably, we are doing this while also increasing service levels in several areas including parks maintenance and building maintenance.

So that is great news. However, it actually gets better than that. We are finalizing a deal that probably will not be completed until late 2024 or early 2025 where we will sell the old CCA property which will provide the funding to completely pay off our Town debt. No other municipality in Broward County can say that! What an amazing team, Council, Legal, and Administration alike, that we have in place to accomplish this. This is truly exceptional! All this while we are increasing services such as the Farmers' Market, the youth sports programs as well as ramping up our townwide road resurfacing program, TSDOR.

I joined the Council 18 years ago and have worked hard to apply my financial knowledge and education (MBA in Finance) to ensure that we were al-

ways on a strong footing. In the beginning, there were thoughts that we would not be able to survive as a mostly residential municipality. However, here we sit 24 years later, with the third lowest millage in all of Broward County. We have lowered the tax millage rate compared to what was in place 4 years ago when you first trusted me as your Mayor. In fact, you have to go all the way back to 2009 to see a millage rate lower than it is today for our Town. In today's economic environment, that is an incredible fiscal statement.

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”

So please join me in thanking the full Council and our Administration on being able to deliver such great fiscal news. It is a great team effort!

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

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz

954-296-6018;

sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org



A MESSAGE FROM



**Vice Mayor
David S.
Kuczenski, Esq.**

Howdy Ranchers,

I hope everyone is doing well. As we come close to the end of the year, here are a few issues that we will be working on in the upcoming years.

- First, not only the Town Council, but many honorable and dedicated volunteers in our Town are mobilizing efforts to fight the proposed incinerator. At a recent meeting, a member of the public spoke of being invited to the existing incinerator in Palm Beach County. Proponents say that this is a prime example of the future of incineration. This member of the public said she declined to attend the official visit. Instead, she said she took a drive up there on a day other than one of an official visit. When she came close to the facility, she said the stench was obvious that she was getting close. This is the type of investigation that produces the truth – that incinerators are not clean. With the costs of construction ranging around one billion dollars, you can bet your bottom dollar that the folks with a financial interest with the construction, will do anything to subvert our efforts to fight this polluting industry. I think we are lucky to have our Mayor on the Solid Waste Authority, who with his efforts has generally opposed the incinerator. If the Solid Waste Authority fails to arrive at a solution, the Broward County Commission becomes the final governing body to make the decision, and for what it is worth, our County Commissioner is only one of nine votes. I do not have much faith in one vote (assuming it is against, which cannot be assured) when other County Commissioners have supported building the incinerator.

- Second, my most frequent complaint is speeding. I took up this cause back when I witnessed a small

Chihuahua run over by a speeding vehicle on Luray Road. We have taken efforts to increase law enforcement presence, purchased speed activated signs that record data as you drive past. I am working on more active efforts to reduce speeding.

- Third, the homes that are rented out for parties are a continuing problem. I have requested that we move forward with some kind of regulatory efforts that place the owner with full responsibility for violation of our Town's lighting and noise laws.

- Fourth, we had a relatively calm Fourth of July regarding fireworks. We have a Town ordinance prohibiting fireworks on the days other than December 31, January 1, and July 4. Launching fireworks on any other day is a violation of our Town code, as are the use of commercial grade fireworks. The rationale for this regulation is we are primarily an agricultural community, with many animals that fear fireworks to the extent that animals injure themselves caused from being afraid. Additionally, we have residents who have post traumatic stress disorder who also suffer from the sound of fireworks.

As your Vice Mayor, I aim to preserve Southwest Ranches' unique rural lifestyle and minimize any changes to it. Together, let's protect and maintain what makes our community special. I also strive to return all phone calls within 24 to 48 hours. My cell phone is 305-815-0990. If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me. As always, it has been an honor to serve as your voice on the Council.

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



A MESSAGE FROM



**Council
Member
Jim Allbritton**

GOOD DAY SOUTHWEST RANCHES.

As the Dog Days of Summer comes to an end and the Autumn Fall begins, I'm sure most of us welcome the cooler temperatures. Remember to stay hydrated especially when working outdoors.

The official Hurricane season ends November 30th, so don't let your guard down yet. As we all know a storm can come out of nowhere.

The Broward League of Cities had its first Board of Directors meeting after the summer siesta and one of the main topics we talked about was the incinerator. Our small Town of Southwest Ranches is being noticed for our efforts from the residents, the new Zero Waste Advisory Board, and our Town Council, in stopping an incinerator from being built in Broward County or anywhere else in Florida or the USA. Educating our residents about Recycling, Refurbishing and Reusing is what our new advisory board is tasked with.

I am very pleased to hear the Broward County Property Appraiser's office, and the Town are working together to support our agricultural community. This should help preserve that unique lifestyle we all enjoy in the Ranches.

I attended a very informative Town Drainage and Infrastructure Advisory Board meeting and our Town Engineer, Rod Ley, gave a very informative presentation about the condition of our roads. We all know our roads need HELP. The Town currently allocates an amount each year that goes to repairing our roads. The typical life expectancy of a road is twenty to thirty years and with the money the Town is currently allocating it would take an estimated Seventy Years to repave all

our roads. The Town is looking for funding from any and all government agencies to help cover the cost and to keep from having to raise taxes.

There are several drainage projects ready to start and when finished our neighborhoods should see less standing water after a heavy rain. I know it's a mess during the construction phase, so please be patient as the work is being done.

“
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”

General Elections are right around the corner. Now is the time to check and make sure that you are still properly registered to vote. There have been some changes, both by the County and State, regarding voter registration. Be an Informed Voter, before you cast your vote, look to see who the candidates are that you want to govern your nation, your state, your county and your local government. As my granddaughter said, “A simple search on the computer can provide some very interesting information.”

I am honored to serve as your Council Member, and I will continue to work with integrity and dedication to ensure Southwest Ranches remains a place we are all Proud to Call Home.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (954-343-7461) or (305-903-7043) or jallbritton@southwestranches.org.

JIM ALLBRITTON

A MESSAGE FROM



**Council
Member
Gary Jablonski**

Hello everyone,

I usually give public works updates to the various civic groups at their monthly meetings. However, I feel compelled to share our various projects and past projects that we are reaping the benefits today. First and foremost, a few facts;

1. We live in an area that was part of the Everglades (one of the wettest places in the country).
2. We are a small Town with limited resources.
3. We would have to raise taxes to pay for a lot of our infrastructure.
4. We have an outstanding team of employees and administration who search out every available grant and opportunity to fund our infrastructure projects.

So, I want to pass along some of the exceptional progress that we have made on improving drainage and infrastructure in our Town. First roads, we have four shovel ready road/drainage projects spread out across Town waiting for Broward County to release funding through the one percent sales tax fund. By utilizing this funding opportunity, we would not have to raise taxes to pay for them.

Second point I want to make is drainage. While drainage is always a concern and we have accomplished a lot there is still more to do. We have made tremendous progress from what we have seen even just a few years ago. This includes projects that have improved drainage across the Town including Sunshine Ranches, Green Meadows, Rolling Oaks, and Country Estates. The new water impoundment area out west (north of the C-11) with its new pumps when it

is built will greatly benefit our Town in the future. The other really great news is that most of these improvements have been accomplished by leveraging County, State, or Federal funding, which has allowed us to accomplish these improvements while maintaining our low millage rate that is the 4th lowest in the county.

“

Due to the success of this pilot program, a few years later it was made a permanent year-round program that is still in place today.

”

Our efforts to reduce flooding dates back about 15 years ago when our current Mayor arranged to have the South Florida Water Management District Chairperson meet with the Town. A tour was provided of some of the worst flooded areas. This led to a pilot program to lower the water table in much of the Ranches during the rainy season. Due to the success of this pilot program, a few years later it was made a permanent year-round program that is still in place today. While lowering the water table even further could help with the current flooding problems, it would also greatly increase salt water intrusion which would risk all of our water wells. I believe that we are at the proper balance of these two factors. The good news is that we still have a number of projects ready to get started to reduce potential flooding in the future. These projects are getting ready to start this fall. Specifically look for a very large drainage project starting near Griffin and Dykes Road. There are also numerous other projects in the works as well, spread throughout the Town.

We have accomplished a lot in reducing flooding in our Town, but we are not flood free yet, however it is more under control now than ever before. In fact, much more than even

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just a few years ago. Obviously, there is more to do. We live in an area where it is not uncommon to get over a foot of rain in one day, and working with our partners in drainage (South & Central Broward Drainage and South Florida Water Management) we can continue this important work and build on the successes of the past years. Residents need to remember that in addition to living in what used to be swampland we have to rely on our partners since our tertiary drainage has no efficient means to draw down storm stages. As a result, proper conveyance to the secondary canal system is necessary to effectively remove the excess runoff.

As always it is my Honor and privilege to serve you.

Gary

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Back Cover: Council and Districts, Address Markers, Emergency Alert Notification System, Household Hazardous Dates



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) 467-4920.



RECYCLE RIGHT

HOW TO IMPROVE & INCREASE YOUR RECYCLING



NEVER PLASTIC BAGS

- DO NOT PUT YOUR RECYCLABLES IN PLASTIC BAGS OR PUT ANY LOOSE PLASTIC BAGS IN THE RECYCLING
- NO PLASTIC FILM OR WRAPPINGS OR DRY CLEANING BAGS
- NO PLASTIC CUPS, UTENSILS AND PLATES
- NO PAPER OR CARDBOARD WITH LIQUID OR FOOD WASTE
- NO BATTERIES
- NO STYROFOAM PRODUCTS, EGG CARTONS AND TRAYS
- NO MARGARINE AND BUTTER TUBS, YOGURT CUPS, PLASTIC HANGERS
- NO GLASS PRODUCTS: LIGHT BULBS, MIRRORS, GLASS COOKWARE OR BAKEWARE, OR CERAMICS
- NO WIRE COAT HANGERS
- NO GARBAGE OR FOOD WASTE
- NO GAS TANKS
- NO ROCKS, DIRT, BUILDING DEBRIS
- NO GARDEN HOSES
- NO HOLIDAY LIGHTS OR DECORATIONS
- NO TEXTILES: CLOTHES, SHOES, BEDDING, PILLOWS, ETC.

<https://www.wm.com/us/en/recycle-right/recycling-101>

DO NOT RECYCLE THESE ITEMS

CITATION REPORTS

FOR THE MONTH OF
AUGUST 2024



District 1: yielded 14 citations and 10 hours and 8 mins of traffic enforcement.

District 2: yielded 11 citations and 14 hours and 22 mins of traffic enforcement.

District 3: yielded 46 citations and 32 hours and 41 mins of traffic enforcement.

District 4: yielded 74 citations and 56 hours and 33 mins of traffic enforcement.

40 warnings given in the Town.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



WHEN:

JAN 16th-20th

WHERE:

Southwest Ranches
Sanctuary Park
16290 Griffin Rd.,
Southwest Ranches

BENEFITING:

Southwest Ranches
Parks Foundation

SOUTHWEST RANCHES COUNTRY FAIR & CARNIVAL

**FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS WANTED
SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**

CONTACT: SWRCOUNTRYFAIR.COM



SAVE THE DATE

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES
25TH ANNIVERSARY - SATURDAY JUNE 7TH, 2025

THE CELEBRATION WILL BEGIN WITH A PARADE
STARTING 10:00 AM SHARP ON
MATHER BOULEVARD
AND SW 63RD MANOR (AVOCADO MANOR)
IN ROLLING OAKS



FESTIVITIES IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW
FROM 11:00 ~ 3:00 PM - AT ROLLING OAKS PARK
17630 SW 56TH STREET - SOUTHWEST RANCHES



SAVE THE DATE!

2024 ELECTION CANDIDATE FORUM

HOSTED BY THE SOUTHWEST RANCHES
PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

MONDAY • SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 • 7:00PM
TOWN HALL, 13400 GRIFFIN ROAD

TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES Halloween Spooktacular Entry Form

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

CELL: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

(Date)

RECYCLING EDUCATION IN SOUTHWEST RANCHES

The Southwest Ranches Student Council recognizes the critical importance of banning incinerators in Broward County to protect our environment and community health. In response, the council has taken proactive steps to raise awareness and foster community engagement. We have launched an Instagram page to share updates, educate the public, and build a following around this vital cause. Additionally, we have leveraged PrimeVolunteers App to streamline volunteer efforts, allowing students and community members to easily find and sign up for impactful activities. The council also hosts monthly presentations to educate peers and residents on the dangers of incinerators and the importance of sustainable waste management practices.

Through the PrimeVolunteers App, students can find exciting opportunities to make a difference. One such opportunity is the "Recycling Education in Southwest Ranches" event series, where volunteers can sign up to help educate the community on proper recycling techniques and the benefits of reducing waste. These events not only provide valuable information to residents but also empower students to take an active role in protecting our environment. By participating, students can earn service hours, gain valuable experience, and contribute to the long-term health and sustainability of our community.

Follow us on Instagram
@zerowastetaskforce



PROGRAMS START
OCTOBER 5TH

PARKS & RECREATION

PROGRAMS START
OCTOBER 5TH

ANOTHER GROUP OF SATURDAY EVENTS
BEGIN 10/5 - 11/16

FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE
COUNTRY ESTATE PARK - 8-12
SOCCER LEAGUE PARK
COUNTRY ESTATES PARK - 8-12

The Town of Southwest Ranches and Southeast Florida Skyhawks are proud to present

SuperTots Sports Academy provides sport-based development programs where children discover and develop athletic, motor, and social skills. SuperTots' curriculum is specifically designed to promote development alongside a healthy, active lifestyle.

PROGRAMS AT SOUTHWEST RANCHES

5 WEEK CLASS
\$115 FOR RESIDENT / \$138 NON-RESIDENT
Register at: <http://register.skyhawks.com>
LIMITED SPACE

SoccerTots
Tuesdays 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. 1.5 to 3 years
Tuesdays 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. 4 to 5 years
Starting October 1st, 2024

HoopsterTots
Wednesdays 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. 1.5 to 3 years
Wednesdays 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. 4 to 5 years
Starting October 2nd, 2024

HockeyTots
Thursdays 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. 3 to 4 years
Thursdays 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. 4 to 5 years
Starting October 3rd, 2024

Parental participation between age 1.5 to 3

LOCATION DETAIL:
Rolling Oaks Park Barn (indoor space)
17630 SW 56th Street
Southwest Ranches, FL 33331
Any questions? Email: broward@skyhawks.com

DISTRIBUTION DOES NOT APPLY TO RESIDENTS OF BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

register now
<http://register.skyhawks.com>

The Town of Southwest Ranches and

i9SPORTS
i9sports.com

REGISTER NOW

PROUDLY PRESENT
SPORTS! FUN!

SOCCER & FLAG FOOTBALL
NEW LOCATION-SOUTHWEST RANCHES
COUNTRY ESTATES PARK

\$30 DISCOUNT FOR
SOUTHWEST RANCHES RESIDENTS:
PROMO CODE: SWR

Register Online:
i9sports.com
954-437-0089

- Organized programs for boys and girls ages 3-18
- Age appropriate instruction for each division
- Coaches background checked and certified
- All athletes welcome. No tryouts
- One day per week. Practice and game days
- Spring championships available
- The earlier you register, the more choices!

US **i9sports143**
@i9sports143

The Way Youth Sports Should Be®

SATURDAY PROGRAMS
THE FUN BEGINS OCTOBER 2024!

Helping Kids Succeed in Life Through Sports®

register online: i9sports.com
(954) 437-0089



FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE RECONNECT WITH NATURE

(adapted from: https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/what_happens_when_we_reconnect_with_nature)

How nature helps us feel good and do good

Several studies have looked at how viewing awe-inspiring nature imagery in photos and videos impacts emotions and behavior. For example, in **one study** participants either viewed a few minutes of the inspiring documentary Planet Earth, a neutral video from a news program, or funny footage from Walk on the Wild Side. Watching a few minutes of Planet Earth led people to feel 46 percent more awe and 31 percent more gratitude than those in the other groups. This study and others like it tell us that even brief nature videos are a powerful way to feel **awe**, wonder, **gratitude**, and reverence—all positive emotions known to lead to increased well-being and physical health. **Positive emotions** have beneficial effects upon social processes, too—like increasing trust, cooperation, and closeness with others.



Since viewing nature appears to trigger positive emotions, it follows that nature has favorable effects on our social well-being. This has been robustly confirmed in research on the benefits of living near green spaces. Most notably, **the work of Frances Kuo** and her colleagues finds that in poorer neighborhoods of Chicago people who live near green spaces—lawns, parks, trees—show reductions in ADHD symptoms and greater calm, as well as a stronger sense of connection to neighbors, more civility, and less violence in their neighborhoods. **A later analysis** confirmed that green spaces tend to have less crime. Viewing nature in images and videos seems to shift our sense of self, diminishing the boundaries between self and others, which has implications for social interactions. In **one study**, participants who spent a minute looking up into a beautiful stand of eucalyptus trees reported feeling less entitled and self-important. Even simply viewing Planet Earth for five minutes **led participants to report a greater sense** that their concerns were insignificant and that they themselves were part of something larger compared with groups who had



watched neutral or funny clips. Several studies have also found that viewing nature in images or videos leads to greater “prosocial” tendencies—generosity, cooperation, and kindness. **One illustrative study** found that people who simply viewed 10 slides of beautiful nature (as opposed to less beautiful nature) gave more money to a stranger in an economic game widely used to measure trust. All these findings raise the intriguing possibility that, by increasing positive emotions, experiencing nature even in brief doses leads to more kind and altruistic behavior.

How nature helps our health

Why is nature so healing? One possibility is that having access to nature—either by living near it or viewing it—reduces stress. In **a study** by Catharine Ward Thompson and her colleagues, the people who lived near larger areas of green space reported less stress and showed greater declines in

cortisol levels over the course of the day. In **another study**, participants who viewed a one-minute video of awesome nature rather than a video that made them feel happy reported feeling as though they had enough time “to get things done” and did not feel that “their lives were slipping away.” And studies have found that people who report feeling a good deal of awe and wonder and an awareness of the natural beauty around them actually **show lower levels of a biomarker** (IL-6) that could lead to a decreased likelihood of cardiovascular disease, depression, and autoimmune disease. Though the research is less well-documented in this area than in some others, the results to date are promising. **One early study** by Roger Ulrich found that patients recovered faster from cardiovascular surgery when they had a view of nature out of a window, for example. **A more recent review** of studies looking at different kinds of nature immersion—natural landscapes during a walk, views from a window, pictures and videos, and flora and fauna around residential or work environments—showed that nature experiences led to reduced stress, easier recovery from illness, better physical well-being in elderly people, and behavioral changes that improve mood and general well-being.



Why we need nature

There is no question that being in nature—or even viewing nature pictures—reduces the physiological symptoms of stress in our bodies. What this means is that we are less likely to be anxious and fearful in nature, and thereby we can be more open to other people and to creative patterns of thought. Also, nature often induces awe, wonder, and reverence, all emotions known to have a variety of benefits, promoting everything from well-being and altruism to humility to health. There is also **some evidence** that exposure to nature impacts the brain. Viewing natural beauty (in the form of landscape paintings and video, at least) activates specific reward circuits in the brain associated with dopamine release that give us a sense of purpose, joy, and energy to pursue our goals. But regrettably, people seem to be spending less time outdoors and less time immersed in nature than before. It is also clear that, in the past 30 years, people's levels of stress and sense of “busyness” have risen dramatically. These converging forces have led environmental writer Richard Louv to coin the term “**nature deficit disorder**”—a form of suffering that comes from a sense of disconnection from nature and its powers. We should take note and try a course corrective. The 19th century philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote about nature, “There I feel that nothing can befall me in life—no disgrace, no calamity (leaving me my eyes), which nature cannot repair.” The science speaks to Emerson's intuition. It's time to realize nature is more than just a material resource. It's also a pathway to human health and happiness.





2025 Homestead Exemptions

If you applied and were approved for Homestead Exemption for tax year 2025, this exemption will post 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. Once approved, you do not need to reapply as long as the property remains your permanent residence.

Did You Acquire or Take Ownership of Your Property in 2024?

If you acquired your home in 2024, the TRIM (proposed tax) Notice you received in August reflected the previous owner's exemption status. These exemptions 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 Homestead Exemption and any other tax-saving exemptions online at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Homestead>. The timely deadline to apply for all 2025 exemptions is March 3, 2025. For additional information on Homestead and other exemption filing, please visit our website at <https://web.bcpa.net/> or call 954.357.6830.

Has Your Mailing Address or Email Address Changed?

To help ensure you receive any correspondence from our office, please let us know if your mailing address or email address has changed. To update your contact information, please email us at address@bcpa.net with your name, property address and new mailing/email address.

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, JD, CFA
Broward County Property Appraiser



FLHSMV

FLORIDA HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Florida Licensing On Wheels mobile offices brings motorist services directly to Southwest Ranches Town Hall for your convenience.

Call (954) 434-0008 for updates on when the mobile unit will be at Town Hall.



BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE AUGUST 8, 2024 LPA TOWN MEETING:

- Adopted LPA Resolution 2024-003 recommending that the Town Council adopt an amendment to the text of the Town's Comprehensive Plan pertaining to water and sewer to US Highway 27 Business.

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE AUGUST 8, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2024-055 approving a water service agreement with the City of Sunrise for 5560 Hancock Road.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-056 approving the NSG in the amount of \$8,655.75 to the Circle S Estates HOA.

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE AUGUST 22, 2024 LPA TOWN MEETING:

- Adopted LPA Resolution 2024-004 recommending that the Town Council adopt an amendment to the text of the Town's ULDC relating to the measurement of wall height.

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE AUGUST 22, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Ordinance 2024-008 amending the Town's ULDC pertaining to the measurement of wall height.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-057 approving application PL-66-23 Fields Ranches Plat.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-058 authorizing the Town Administrator to properly declare and to dispose of surplus inventory.
- Adopted Resolution 2024-059 approving a change order with CPZ Architects Inc., in the amount of \$34,590.43, for the SW Meadows Sanctuary Park Restroom Facilities Project.

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

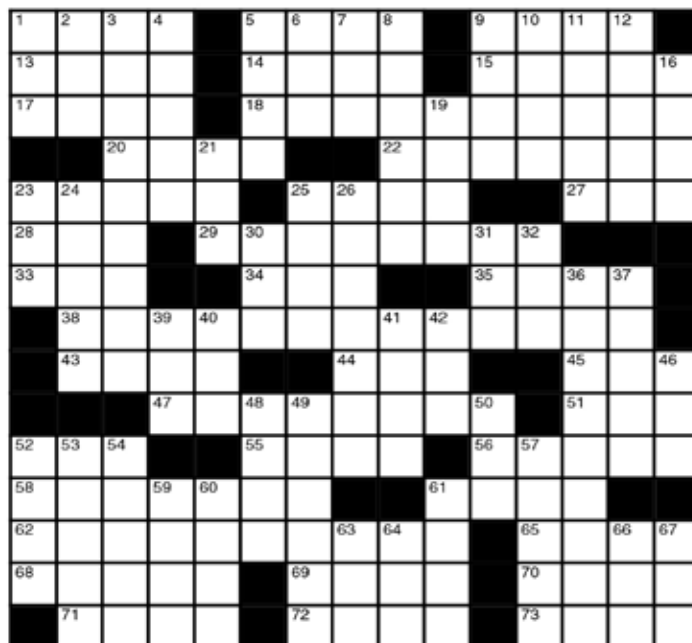
Across

- 1 Desserts
5 Quick
9 Neck ornament
13 Beehive State
14 Wing-shaped
15 Accustom
17 Fictional sleuth Wolfe
18 Downpour
20 Ligneous plant
22 Get together
23 Bloodless
25 Referendum
27 Genetic material
28 Condensation
29 Rancher
33 Mil. mailbox
34 Slump
35 Prejudice
38 Unexpendable
43 Cupid
44 Month (Abbr.)
45 Company inits.
47 Three minute sandglass
51 Fr. summer
52 Saturn's wife
55 Isinglass
56 Landing field
58 Tablet
61 Hitch

- 62 Chef's badge
65 Transgresses
68 Exclude
69 Amador county, Calif. town
70 Secure
71 Tiff
72 Weekday (Abbr.)
73 Spot

Down

- 1 Wordplay
2 Follower (Suffix)
3 Nightcrawler
4 Beach
5 Cliff part
6 Totally
7 Before Paulo or Tome
8 Dependable
9 Napkins
10 Burden
11 Shocking
12 Incendiarism
16 Bunsen burner
19 View as
21 Terminate
23 Ohio city
24 Reddish brown
25 Ampule
26 Grown naturally, as food



- 30 Adder
31 Camel hair fabric
32 Bill
36 Hypersensitivity reactions
37 Fight
39 Caviar
40 Energy unit
41 Unconsciousness
42 Garden resident
46 Family room
48 FBI agent (Comp. wd.)
49 Choice morsel
50 Scurried
52 Formerly
53 Millponds
54 Dismantle
57 Old-hat
59 Poi
60 Burns, for one
61 Litigates
63 Gehrig, for one
64 Compass pt.
66 Snooze
67 Cunning

Solution in page 14



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.



IN HONOR OF POLICE OFFICER CHRISTI LAGUNA UPON HER RETIREMENT Thursday September 12, 2024

Davie Police Officer Christi Laguna's law enforcement career spanned 23 years and she was assigned to the Town of Southwest Ranches on April 16, 2020. During this time, Officer Laguna became a trusted and relied upon member of the Southwest Ranches family and a true friend to both the community and its equestrian lifestyle.

Best Wishes on Your Retirement

FOLLOW US ON THE TOWN'S OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA

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

COMMENT FOLLOW

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

10TH ANNUAL MAYORS' CHESS CHALLENGE

JOIN FAMILIES, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR FREE AND FRIENDLY MEETUPS IN SUPPORT OF SCHOLASTIC CHESS!

2024-2025 SCHEDULE

City of Deerfield Beach September 7, 2024 - 9 am to noon Hillbore Technology Center 50 Hillbore Technology Drive 954-571-7550 or 954-480-4263	City of Southwest Ranches October 19, 2024 - 10 am to 2 pm Southwest Ranches Town Hall 13400 Griffin Road 954-341-7452	City of Pompano Beach February 15, 2025 - 10 am to 1 pm Samuel McDougald House 150 NE 10th St. 954-786-4148	City of Dania Beach March 22, 2025 - 10 am to noon TBA 954-924-6800 or 3730
City of Davie September 14, 2024 - 10 am to noon Pine Island Multipurpose Center 3801 South Pine Island Drive 954-797-1076	City of Tamarac November 2, 2024 - 10 am to noon Tamarac Community Center 8601 West Commercial Blvd. 954-597-1461	City of Boca Raton February 15, 2025 - 10 am to 1 pm Boca Raton Public Library 1501 NW Spanish River Boulevard 561-395-5903	City of Lauderdale April 12, 2025 - 11 am to 1 pm Vinson Park 7600 NW 50th Street 954-777-2040
City of Sunrise September 28, 2024 - 10 am to noon SAC Multipurpose Center 11501 NW 44th Street 954-747-3250	City of Delray Beach November 9, 2024 - 10 am to noon Delray Beach Community Center 50 NW 1st Ave. 561-241-7250 or 5204	City of Miramar February 22, 2025 - 9 am to 11 am Sunset Lakes 2801 SW 186th Ave. 954-602-1105	City of Coral Springs April 10, 2025 - 10 am to noon Madison Hall 10170 NW 29th Street 954-346-4429
City of Weston October 5, 2024 - 10 am to noon Weston Community Center 20200 Saddle Club Road 954-386-4121	City of Parkland January 25, 2025 - 9 am to 11 am Recreation and Enrichment Center 10559 Trails End 954-757-4107 or 954-757-4121	City of North Lauderdale March 1, 2025 - 10 am to noon North Lauderdale Tots / Recreation Center 701 SW 71st Avenue 954-724-7061	City of Pembroke Pines May 9, 2025 - 9 am to 11 am Club 19 at Pembroke Lakes Golf & Racquet Club 10500 Club Street 954-392-2127
City of Lighthouse Point October 12, 2024 - 9 am to 11 am John Trudel Community Center 4521 NE 22nd Ave. 954-784-1419	City of Plantation February 8, 2025 - 10 am to noon Millenium Park 12050 W Sunrise Boulevard 954-797-2147	City of Coconut Creek March 15, 2025 - 10 am to noon Recreation Complex 4455 SW 15th Blvd. 954-545-4633	

Players of all ages and skill levels are welcome.

FREE INSTRUCTION PROVIDED BY THE SUNRISE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN CHESS

VISIT SUNRISEFL.GOV/CHESS FOR SCHEDULE UPDATES



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: jmarques@southwestranches.org

Solution



PHOTO BY: Barbara Lester -
Grandma Mowing the grass for
Halloween. (From the 2024 Photo
Contest Calendar)



OCTOBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CODE Hearing - Town Hall 9am • Broward County Property Appraiser Office - Town Hall 10:30 - 12:30pm • Zero Waste Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm 	 ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS AT SUNDOWN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AARP Job Workshop Town Hall 11:30am - 1:30pm 	ROSH HASHANAH ENDS AT SUNDOWN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm
	BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7pm • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting Town Hall 7pm 	8 Parks, Recreation, Forestry, & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	9 Zero Waste Task Force Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	10 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7:30pm	 YOM KIPPUR BEGINS AT SUNSET	12 YOM KIPPUR ENDS AT SUNDOWN • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm
	BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
13	 • Schools & Education Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	15 • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	16 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	17 • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	18 Deadline to register for HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR	19 MAYORS' CHESS CHALLENGE 10am-2pm Town Hall • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm
	BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6
20	21	22 • Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56th St. 7pm	23	24	25	26
	BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4		
			• Sunshine Ranches HOA Meeting - ZOOM			

Broward County Public School Calendar

OCTOBER

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3rd.
Schools and Administrative Offices Closed

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14th.
Employee Planning (no school for students)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Ira Birns ~ September 12th
Arlenis Birns ~ September 13th
(these 2 birthdays was missed in the September issue)

Javier Salazar ~ October 27th



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 TALK

Want to stay in touch and receive information on TOWN EVENTS?

Send your email address to:
druesga@southwestranches.org





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



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!

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YouTube

YouTube:
Town of Southwest Ranches
Official Channel



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@SWR_Gov

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WWW.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG



REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS

HIGHLY VISIBLE DAY OR NIGHT
Order today...
this could help save your life or someone you love.

**IF WE CAN'T FIND YOU...
WE CAN'T HELP YOU.**

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Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____

MOUNTING PREFERENCE:
vertical (up/down) _____ horizontal (left/right) _____
COLOR PREFERENCE:
_____ green w/white letters _____ blue w/white letters

Make Checks payable to:
Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue - 17220 Griffin Road - Southwest Ranches, FL 33331
For additional information contact Chief Bennett at 954.868.2057

Make Checks payable to:
Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue
17220 Griffin Rd,
Southwest Ranches, FL 33331

For additional
information contact
Chief Bennett at 954.868.2057

\$20.00

HQE SYSTEMS

REGISTER NOW

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

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

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

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

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



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & BULK DROP OFF EVENT

Saturday, January 11th, 2025 8:00am to 2:00pm
Location: Rolling Oaks Barn - 17630 SW 56th St., Southwest Ranches, 33331
Document shredding from 8-2pm . 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

