

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Town Newsletter

REMEMBERING
SEPT. 11, 2001

We Will
NEVER FORGET

**BUDGET
WORKSHOPS &
BUDGET
HEARINGS**

See page 9

SEPTEMBER, 2025

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	(954) 343-7462	sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org
Vice Mayor Bob Hartmann	(954) 343-7447	bhartmann@southwestranches.org
Council Member Jim Allbritton	(954) 343-7461	jallbritton@southwestranches.org
Council Member Gary Jablonski	(954) 343-7456	gjablonski@southwestranches.org
Council Member David S. Kuczenski, Esq.	(954) 343-7472	dkuczenski@southwestranches.org

TOWN STAFF

Russell Muñiz, <i>Town Administrator</i>	(954) 434-0008	rmuniz@southwestranches.org
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Debra M. Ruesga, <i>Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7451	druesga@southwestranches.org
Dan Stewart, <i>Deputy Town Clerk</i>	(954) 343-7443	dstewart@southwestranches.org
Jennifer McCarty, <i>Records and Administrative Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7469	jmccarty@southwestranches.org
Tom Holste, <i>General Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7476	tholste@southwestranches.org
Hector Rodriguez, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 434-0008	hrodriguez@southwestranches.org
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Arianna Durbeej, <i>Senior Accountant</i>	(954) 343-7477	adurbiej@southwestranches.org
Keith Poliakoff, <i>Town Attorney</i>	(954) 909-0580	keith@govlawgroup.com
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>Engineering Inspector</i>	(954) 343-7441	jmarques@southwestranches.org
December Lauretano-Haines, <i>Parks, Recreation & Open Space Director</i>	(954) 343-7452	dlauretano@southwestranches.org
Gilbert Ceballos, <i>Parks and Recreation Program Facilitator</i>	(954) 343-7468	gceballos@southwestranches.org
Mayuli Betancourt, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 343-7465	mbetancourt@southwestranches.org

TOWN SERVICES / BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING – (CAP GOVERNMENT)

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

PLANNING

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

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

Julio Medina, <i>Community Development/Code Compliance Director</i>	(954) 343-7458	jmedina@southwestranches.org
Manfred Velette, <i>Assistant Code Compliance Director</i>	(954) 343-7440	mvelette@southwestranches.org
Code Compliance Hotline	(954) 343-7449	
Concepcion Campos, <i>Code Compliance Officer</i>	(954) 343-7457	ccampos@southwestranches.org
Yirglhis Hernandez, <i>Code Compliance Officer</i>	(954) 343-7459	yhernandez@southwestranches.org
Ismail Rashid, <i>Code Compliance Officer</i>	(954) 358-2540	irashid@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	
Eddy Velazquez, <i>Detective</i>	(954) 693-8290	evelazquez@davie-fl.gov
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	(954) 343-7441	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)		

A MESSAGE FROM



Mayor
Steve Breitkreuz

RECYCLING EFFORTS

I hope that you and your family are enjoying the summer. It's hot as always but still a nice time to slow down a bit and hopefully take some time away to get recharged for the upcoming fall activities.

We are continuing our efforts to be a good steward of this beautiful Town that we have been blessed to enjoy. I am continuing the work on the Solid Waste Authority, working toward a clean "Zero Waste" centered solution not only for the Ranches but all of Broward County. The draft of the initial plan for the next 40 years has been released, and I am pleased to relay that no new incineration is part of this draft plan. Our goal now is not only to continue with no new incineration as the plan is finalized, but also to focus as a town on those things that we can do to lead and be an example for our neighboring municipalities.

Along those lines, please make good use of our hazardous waste drop off times. These drop offs are held 4 times a year at Rolling Oaks Barn. The next drop off will be October 11th. It is really important that we dispose of these materials properly to keep them out of our ground water.

Also, please recycle whenever possible. Some of our neighboring communities don't recycle, but I am so proud of our Town in that we are committed to doing the right thing and recycling those items that can be repurposed. The Town has stickers that can go on your recycling container and is a great reminder of what can and cannot be recycled. So, please refer to these and recycle whenever possible. If you did not get a sticker, we have more at Town Hall, and we will be happy to provide one if you stop by.

Finally, this summer, we have kicked off a new service here in Town where we have partnered with a composting company, Filthy Organics. At no cost to you, you can be a part of this pilot program and have your food waste composted with little effort or smell! If you would like more details and potentially join us in this effort, you can sign up online by going to www.southwestranches.org, scroll down our main page to "Quick Links", select "Hot Topics", and then select "Interested in a Residential Compost Pilot Program?" to be a part.

As always, thank-you for your trust and support in allowing me to serve as your Mayor. It is truly an honor that I never take for granted.

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz
954-296-6018;

sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org

X@SteveBreitkreuz



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



ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

*see how we are helping the
environment by shredding based on service
and volume averages as compiled by the
Environmental Protection Agency*

Recycling one ton of office paper saves 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 463 gallons of oil, and 3 cubic yards of landfill space.

Yearly Volume	Pounds	Tons	Year	Attendees
	8,000	4	7/12/25	78
Business Name:	Town Of Southwest Ranches			
Trees Saved:	68			
Water Saved:	2800			
Oil Saved:	1852			
Landfill Space:	12			



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



A MESSAGE FROM



Council Member
David S.
Kuczenski, ESQ.

HOWDY SOUTHWEST RANCHERS,
Happy September. Did you know that the word September came from the Latin word, septem, meaning “seven” and was originally the seventh month in the oldest known Roman calendar, the calendar of Romulus c.750 BC, with March being (Latin Martius) the first month of the year until perhaps as late as 451 BC. After the calendar reform that added January and February to the beginning of the year, September became the ninth month but retained its name. It had 29 days until the Julian reform, which added a day.

A few activities are coming up as we transition towards the final quarters of the year. The Rural Arts and Design Advisory Board will be accepting entries to the



Annual Halloween Spoooooktacular Yard Decorating Contest. Last year, we had some amazing entries, and I expect the completion will be just as tough. The deadline to register is Friday, October 17, 2025, judging will be Monday, October 20, 2025, and awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Winners will be handed out on Friday, October 24, 2025. Contact

Susan Kutz (Skutz@southwestranches.org/(954) 343-7460) for more information.

Also, the Zero Waste Advisory Board (created to reduce solid waste and promote recycling initiatives) has been discussing the hiring of a zero-waste consultant and possibly a town-wide district vs district recycling competition. Stay tuned for more information. As Council Member for District 4, I aim to preserve Southwest Ranches' unique rural lifestyle and minimize changes to it. Together, let's protect and support what makes our community special. I strive to return all phone calls within 24 to 48 hours. If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me. As always, it has been an honor to serve as your voice on the Council.

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

SHOW YOUR TOWN SPIRIT



**Stickers are \$1 each
and are available
at Town Hall,
13400 Griffin Rd.**

TOWN TALK

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

Send your email address to:
druesga@southwestranches.org



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Back Cover: Council and Districts, Follow us on Social Media



FLOW DMV EVENT BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

The Florida Licensing on Wheels (FLOW) mobile office will be at Town Hall Thursday, September 25, 2025 from 10a.m. – 2p.m.

To schedule an appointment, please call Town Hall at 954-434-0008. Walk-ins are not accepted.



MOSQUITOES DRIVING YOU INDOORS?

ATTRACT DRAGONFLIES TO YOUR YARD!

Nothing can ruin time spent outside on a beautiful summer day quite like having to swat away mosquitoes. You can improve your odds of enjoying your timespent in your yard by planting plants that repel mosquitoes, but another strategy would be to attract insects that will eat the mosquitoes.

Among the best contenders for insects that will patrol your yard and eat mosquitoes are dragonflies and damselflies, which can eat upwards of 100 mosquitoes a day, according to **Treehugger**. So how can you attract these bugs to your yard in an attempt to control the mosquitoes? The best thing you can do to encourage dragonflies and damselflies to visit your yard is to provide a water source. Dragonflies start their lives as nymphs, and the nymphs live in the water. They remain in the nymph stage for as long as three years, molting between six and 15 times as they grow to their full size, according to **National Geographic**. With their final molt, they emerge as adults with wings. The adults live only about a month. They can fly away from their watery homes, but we still often see adult dragonflies near aquatic habitats. Because water is essential for their life cycle, having a small pond will certainly help attract dragonflies and damselflies to your yard. Bird baths and other shallow water sources aren't deep enough for dragonflies, which is why a small pond is best.

But mosquitoes, of course, also require water for breeding. However, mosquitoes most often lay their eggs in stagnant standing water, such as in gutters or children's toys. You can prevent mosquitoes from breeding in your yard by making sure you don't have any areas of standing, still water. If you have a pond or another permanent water source, you can also add tablets containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*, or Bti, to any water features in your yard, **Treehugger** advises. Bt israelensis is a larvicide that can help control the larval populations of mosquitoes, according to the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**.

Of course, not everyone can add a pond to their yard, so another way to attract dragonflies to your property is to plant plants that mimic a natural habitat and provide places for the insects to perch, according to **Treehugger**. Native plants are best, and diversity is key, because both those factors help mimic the natural habitats dragonflies and damselflies inhabit.

Good choices for planting including black-eyed Susan, Joe-Pye weed and swamp milkweed, according to **SCARCE**, an environmental awareness group.

Including a variety of native plants that attract pollinating insects is also key because it will help ensure a steady supply of insects for the dragonflies to eat, according to **Better Homes and Gardens**. If you have a pond or another water source in your yard, make sure to plant vegetation near the water as well. You can also try to do double duty by both planting plants that will attract dragonflies and also adding plants to your yard that will repel mosquitoes. Many strong-smelling plants will help keep mosquitoes at bay, both because the bugs don't like the smell and because they mask the smell of humans, which can attract mosquitoes, **Good Housekeeping** reports. If you want to try to keep your patio or outdoor space a mosquito-free zone, try adding a few planters or pots containing plants such as catnip, basil, lavender, lemon balm, sage, rosemary, peppermint and citrosum, also called citronella or mosquito plant, Good Housekeeping suggests. *(continued on page 12)*



A MESSAGE FROM



Council Member
Jim Allbritton

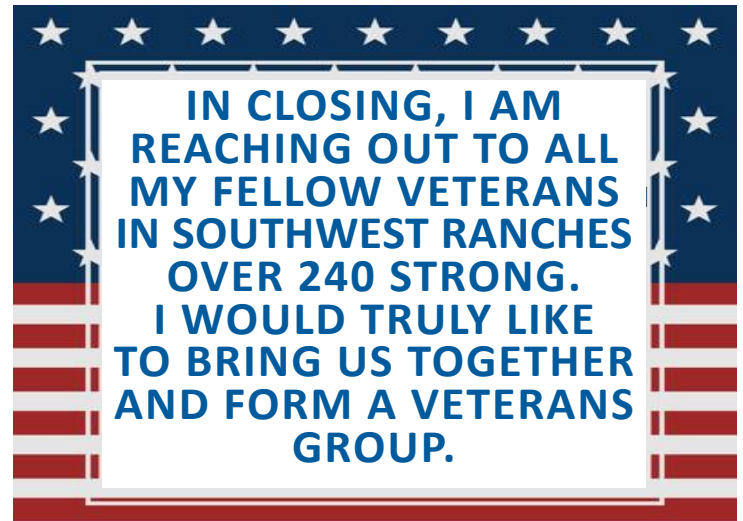
GOOD DAY SOUTHWEST RANCHES

With the Dog Days of Summer behind us we can only hope for a little cooler weather. July and August were record breaking months. As September arrives let's remember students are back in school so let's be a little more cautious as we drive through the school zones. There is a new speed sign that has been erected on the corner of 53rd and Dykes, this is a school bus stop, along with a guard rail for the students to stand behind while waiting on the bus. These improvements will make it safer for the students.

There have been 12 new solar speed signs installed, in 3 different districts, to go along with those that are currently there. Remember, these signs Do Not record tag numbers. The signs do record speed, the number of vehicles, and the time of day. This information is very helpful where the Town is sending the extra traffic enforcement patrols out.

I would like to take a moment and say a few things

about how our Potholes are addressed. When a report goes in, and I do that about every 3 to 4 weeks, it usually takes 7 to 10 business days for the contractor to respond. The weather (RAIN) has a lot to do as to when the repairs can take place. The Town has increased their budget, along with money from the County, to address the road repairs and repaving of all the roads. The repaving will take time so please be patient.



If you have any questions or concerns,
please contact me at;
954-343-7461 or 305-903-7043,
jallbritton@southwestranches.org

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

13th Annual Photo Contest



The theme this year is...

"ENJOYING OUR TOWN"

GET YOUR CAMERAS READY!

Residents,
please submit your photos
no later than
September 9th with entry form and caption.

- Photos must be at least 300 DPI - resolution.
- One photo per person in household.
- Provide a caption for your photo (limit 74 characters).
- Photos must be at least 8 x 10 (landscape).
- To be considered, all entries must be submitted with Town Entry Form.
- No previous photos will be accepted.

Email your favorite photo to:
Skutz@southwestranches.org



WELL CHECK

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 one's 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.



THANK YOU MAYOR BREITKREUZ FOR DOING YOUR PART!



National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary with 353 Mayors Committing to Create Butterfly Habitat

*Since 2015, Participating Mayors Created 11,500 Acres of Habitat,
Engaging 13.6 Million People*



RESTON, Va. — The National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge has seen 15 percent more mayors and local heads of government committing to the creation or restoration of monarch habitat this year, totaling 353 pledges. This increase commemorates the 10-year anniversary of the program partnering with communities to support monarch butterflies across the country.



"What started as a one-time initiative has now turned into a nationwide, annual movement engaging millions of people and creating thousands of acres of habitat," said Patrick Fitzgerald, senior director of community habitat. "We know that when our local leaders speak up, communities listen. For 10 years these leaders have been speaking up to create positive change for monarch butterflies and we are proud of all we've achieved together."



MONARCH LIFE CYCLE: Monarch conservation provides a myriad of benefits to wildlife in general. Since the City of San Marcos is along a major migratory path for monarchs and other wildlife species, we can have a direct impact on their populations. It is important for everyone to do what they can and encourage others to make a difference," said Mayor Jane Hughson of San Marcos, Texas. Since 2015, signatories have created or restored more than 11,500 acres of habitat for monarchs and pollinators, engaging more than 13.6 million people, including 1.3 million youth. Mayors and heads of local or Tribal government who have taken the Mayors' Monarch Pledge must commit to implement at least three of the **30 possible action items** within a year of taking the pledge. Mayors that complete eight or more actions receive special recognition as part of the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge Leadership Circle, and those that complete 24 or more actions are recognized as a Monarch Champion.



(<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Latest-News/Press-Releases/2025/6-3-25-Mayors-Monarch-Pledge-10-Anniversary>)



**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP**

Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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) _____

HALLOWEEN SPOOOOOOOKTACULAR

SPOOKY

"DOUBLE, DOUBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE;
FIRE BURN AND COLDIRON BUBBLE" - WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

SOUTHWEST RANCHES RESIDENTS...
**YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOWN'S
HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR YARD DECORATING CONTEST.**
DEADLINE TO REGISTER YOUR HOME:
~ OCTOBER 17TH. ~
JUDGING:
~ OCTOBER 20TH. ~
AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN TO 1ST, 2ND & 3RD PLACE WINNERS:
~ OCTOBER 24TH. ~
EMAIL YOUR ENTRY FORM TO: SKUTZ@SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG

FREE PARKING

BUY TICKETS

PUMPKIN PATCH Festival

CARVE OUT SOME FUN AT THE PATCH!

PUMPKIN PATCH

CARNIVAL RIDES

INFLATABLE ZONE

FALL FOOD COURT

MIDWAY TRAILERS

VARIETY SHOWS

OCTOBER 16, 17, 18, 19

OCT 16-17 THURS & FRI 5-9PM • OCT 18 SAT 10AM-9PM • OCT 19 SUN 10AM-5PM

SOUTHWEST RANCHES SANCTUARY PARK

SWRanchesPumpkinPatch

TICKETS: SWRANCHESPUMPKINPATCH.COM

Sponsored by Aster Knight Foundation

The Southwest Ranches Pumpkin Patch Festival will take place over four exciting days, providing a fun family experience for all ages.

Grab your family and bring your camera! Capture precious moments with your kids in the big, beautiful pumpkin patch, where you can find the perfect pumpkin and create lasting memories. You'll find plenty of pumpkins in all shapes and sizes, plus a fun pumpkin crafts area and a variety of pumpkin-themed activities to enjoy. And don't miss meeting our mascot, **Pumpkin Pete!**

For those seeking a little adventure, we've got thrilling:

- Carnival rides for adults and older kids, while younger ones can have a blast on the intermediate and kiddie rides.
- Don't miss the Pumpkinville inflatable fun zone—for a bouncing good time!
- We've got midway game trailers,
- A bubble mania bubble station,
- Variety shows, and more to keep everyone smiling and entertained.
- Make sure to stop by our food court to indulge in delectable pumpkin eats and sweets, plus other delicious festival-favorites to satisfy your fall food cravings.
- Enjoy lively DJ music,
- Exciting games
- Line dances, and an all-around fantastically fun atmosphere!

There is something for everyone at the SW Ranches Pumpkin Patch Festival, celebrating fall and, of course, all things pumpkin! You're invited to join us to carve out some great family fun this October! We can't wait to see you there.

FLOOD SAFETY:

Know your Risk

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

To sign up to be notified via voice message, text and email for important public safety information during a storm visit <https://swranches.sircom.org/public>.

Financial Assistance Advice

If your home or business is damaged by a flood, you may be required to meet certain building requirements to reduce further flood damage by coming into compliance with local, state, and federal criteria. To help with these costs, financial assistance such as grants, loans, rebates and the NFIP's Increased Cost of Compliance Coverage may be available.

For assistance regarding financial assistance options, please contact the Town's Engineering Department at (954) 434-0008, Broward County's Mitigation Coordinator at (954) 831-3900 or visit Disaster-assistance.gov.

National Flood Insurance Program Changes

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

Get a Flood Insurance Policy

Replacing household contents damaged by floods could place a significant financial burden on a homeowner or renter without flood insurance. Just a few inches of water from a flood can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Homeowner's insurance policies do not generally cover damage from floods. However, because the

Town of Southwest Ranches participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy from an insurance agent and benefit from the premium discount available to all Southwest Ranches residents. Flood insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded previously. Please note that unless there is a special condition of the mortgage, there normally is a 30-day waiting period between the time flood insurance is purchased and the time coverage is in force. Though all home and business owners in these areas with mortgages from federally regulated or insured lenders are required to buy flood insurance, all residents should consider flood insurance to protect against significant financial losses.

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

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

Elevation Certificate Information

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

Water Quality and Flood Control Effects of Drainage Systems

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

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

Protect Property from Flooding

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

inventory of your belongings including costs, dates of purchase and serial numbers.

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

Build Responsibly

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

Please be advised that any new development or improvement on a property will be subject to current Town regulations and may also be subject to state and federal regulations. Please contact the Southwest Ranches Building Code Services Division at (954) 434-0008 for specific information and to report unpermitted construction activities.

Flood Risk Specialist Available to Assist Residents

The Town of Southwest Ranches wants to ensure that residents who have questions about flood risks, flood insurance, and retrofitting techniques, get answers in a timely manner. The Town Engineer is available to assist in the following areas: 1) Flood Insurance; 2) Flood Zone interpretation including base flood elevation and/or flood depth; 3) Additional FIRM information; 4) Problems not shown on FIRM; 5) Special flood related hazards; 6) Historical flood-related data; 7) Natural floodplain functions; and 8) Property protection measures. Please call the Engineering Department at (954) 434-0008 and ask to speak to the Town Engineer. You may also schedule a site visit to review flooding, drainage, and storm sewer problems, and to obtain advice on retrofitting techniques to provide additional protection. Go to <http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/flood-insurance-information/> for additional information.

Local Flood Hazards

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

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

Since portions of Southwest Ranches have been designated as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), it is advisable to check the interactive map viewer to see the location of your property with respect to the SFHA. Visit <http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/floodinsurance-information/> and select Flood Maps. You can also call (954) 434-0008, provide your address and zip code, and Town staff will assist you in determining SFHA information specific to your property.

Protect Natural Floodplain Functions

Although much of the natural flood plain system in South Florida has been altered and is frequently over-drained, efforts are being made to enhance many historical wetlands and canals to restore them to a more natural state. These flood plain and wetland areas buffer flood flows, remove pollutants from our surface waters, recharge groundwater and create diverse habitat systems for plants and animals. The Southwest Ranches Comprehensive Plan includes policies pertaining to flood plains and wetlands. The plan provides for protection and creation of surface waters, protection and wetlands preservation.

MAP SERVICES

Maps are an effective method of communicating information about flood hazards. Residents and businesses that are aware of potential flood hazards can take steps to avoid problems and reduce exposure to flooding.

Therefore, the Town offers complementary maps to supplement and clarify the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with information on additional hazards, flooding outside mapped areas, development regulations that affect floodplain properties, flood insurance, natural floodplain functions, and property protection measures.

A GIS mapping application for Southwest Ranches that is publicly available includes information you will need for a flood insurance policy including whether your property is in a SFHA, the community number, panel number and suffix, FIRM date, FIRM zone, base flood elevation and the elevation datum used. Additional FIRM information is also available showing areas of concern such as whether your property is located within a floodway.

The Town has mapped local drainage problem areas within the Town. In addition, the Town has a map providing information about past floods that have occurred. If you live in one of these areas, we would like to have a discussion with you regarding potential remedies.

A GIS mapping application for Southwest Ranches that is publicly available includes layers related to natural floodplain functions, specifically wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat. The map includes Broward County's wetland data to provide a comprehensive picture of where wetlands are located within the Town.

The Town provides mapping information about how deep flood waters can be anticipated in given areas of the community. Maps illustrating building and ground elevations are also available. These maps are available on the Town's website.

To view these interactive maps, please visit the Town's website. For more information regarding the flood maps and the Town's floodplain management program or if you would like assistance reading the maps please call Town Hall at (954) 434-0008 or email rlley@swranches.org.

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



September is Baby Safety Month: A Commitment to Protecting Our Youngest Residents

In honor of Baby Safety Month, we are highlighting essential steps every family can take to help ensure a baby's well-being. I was proud to sponsor and have signed into law an expansion of Kidcare to ensure Florida's working families have access to healthcare. This year, I sponsored HB 1349, requiring education on abusive head

trauma. This bill would have mandated education on shaken baby syndrome, safe sleep practices, and caregiver selection. I filed this bill to protect children from the preventable tragedy of shaken baby syndrome.

The Broward Healthy Start Coalition (www.browardhsc.org/) supports infant safety by empowering parents to prevent the most common causes of infant injury and death through education, resources, and community support. Protecting your baby starts with three simple but vital focus areas:

1. Safe Sleep Practices

The leading way to reduce the risk of sleep-related infant deaths is by following the ABCs of Safe Sleep:

- A- Alone: Always place your baby to sleep alone, without pillows, blankets, toys, or bumper pads.
- B- Back: Always place your baby on their back to sleep—even during naps.
- C- Crib: Always place your baby in a safety-approved crib, bassinet, or pack-and-play.

If your family does not have access to a safe sleep space for your baby, the Safe Sleep Program, funded by the Children's Services Council of Broward County, may be able to help. Call Connect at 954-567-7174 to learn more.

2. Choosing a Safe Caregiver

When you can't be with your baby, choosing a caregiver is one of the most important decisions you'll make. Follow these steps to help ensure your baby is in safe, responsible hands:

- Ask about their experience with infants, knowledge of baby care, and availability.
- Do a background check and speak with references.
- Observe how the caregiver interacts with your baby.
- Communicate expectations clearly, especially regarding safe sleep, non-smoking environments, and emergency preparedness.

Trust your instincts. If something doesn't feel right, explore other options.

3. Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome

Shaken Baby Syndrome is a tragic and preventable form of head trauma caused by forcefully shaking an infant. Crying can be overwhelming, but it's never okay to shake a baby.

Parents and caregivers should learn how to:

- Calm a crying baby
- Swaddle for comfort when awake
- Recognize signs of illness
- Take breaks and ask for help when feeling overwhelmed

Additional Resources for Infant Safety

- Safe Baby Program: www.healthysafebaby.org
- Safe Sleep Info: safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov
- Kids & Car Safety: www.kidsandcars.org
- Water Safety in Broward: www.watersmartbroward.org

This month and every month, let's work together to protect Florida's infants. Following these simple steps and using the resources available, can create a safe, loving environment where babies can thrive.

It is an honor to serve you, and we are here to assist with any issues or concerns. Feel free to contact me anytime at Robin.Bartleman@myfloridahouse.gov or our office at (954) 872-1770. You can also reach me on my personal cell at (954) 668-3662.

MOSQUITOES and DRAGONFLIES ...CONTINUED

(from page 5)

...well-known mosquito-repelling plant, and you can even buy candles and other products with the scent to keep the bugs at bay, but some research shows it may be the least effective of these plants to repel mosquitoes.

Here are a few more tips from **SCARCE** to prevent your yard from becoming a mosquito magnet:

- **Change the water in your bird bath every few days. Spray it down with a hose before adding fresh water to remove any mosquito larvae.**
- **Add a bat house to your yard. Bats are another well-known consumer of mosquitoes.**
- **If you have a pond, add fish to it, because they will eat mosquito larvae. A good species to include would be fathead minnows, which are native and known to eat mosquito larvae.**
- **Clean your gutters so there is nowhere for standing water to accumulate.**
- **If you have a rain barrel, make sure the cover fits properly so mosquitoes can't access it for breeding.**

One thing you shouldn't do is add a bug zapper to your yard, SCARCE advises. These zappers may kill mosquitoes and other pesky insects, but they also kill the beneficial insects as well, including those that feast on mosquitoes.

<https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/news-events/the-buzz/too-many-mosquitoes-in-yard-attract-dr>

Camping

WORD SEARCH FOR KIDS

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

Sleeping Bag
Lantern
Hiking
Family
Cooking
Marshmallow
Camping
Camper
Summer
Stars
Adventure
Outside
Outside
Fire

Friends
Animals
Cooler
Flashlight
Fun

TRASH TALK:

ZERO WASTE ADVISORY BOARD EDITION

- *More WM Recycling Tours to be scheduled for interested residents. We have requested a weekend tour be scheduled. Come see for yourself how our recycled trash is actually sorted and prepared to be sold to be repurposed.*
- *Limited number of spots left to sign up for the pilot Residential Compost Program – please contact Town Hall to add your name to be included in the program. In the first weeks they have picked up 2,000 lbs. of compost!*
- *Some good news to report from the Broward Solid Waste Authority Direction given to consultants to include in the 40 year Solid Waste Master Plan; that if any new Waste-To-Energy (Incineration) is required in the future it can ONLY be at an EXISTING site.*
- *Look out for upcoming Recycling Contest between the Town's districts.*

TURN WASTE INTO Gold

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PART OF OUR RESIDENTIAL COMPOST PILOT PROGRAM?

Sign up on the Town's website at <https://www.southwestranches.org/> under Hot Topics.

START YOUR HOME COMPOSTING JOURNEY WITH SOUTHWEST RANCHES.

82 67 52

31

Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation presents

AT

BINGO THE BARN

Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025
Dinner 6-7
BINGO 7-9

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

Tickets \$30.00 in advance or \$35.00 at the door. Ticket price includes dinner, first 2 BINGO cards and a chance to win door prize.

More BINGO cards available for \$2.00 each.

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

5 3

Application is now available!

The Town of Southwest Ranches RANCHER ACADEMY

Part 1 - October 1st
6:00PM - 9:00PM
Part 2 - October 8th
6:00PM - 9:00PM
Town Hall
13400 Griffin Road
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330



BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE JULY 24, 2025 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2025-065 approving an agreement with FTC Consultants for GIS Consulting Services.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-066 approving the purchase of 13 Units of Bunker Gear for the SWRVFD.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-067 approving an agreement with the City of Sunrise for Water Services for 14501 Luray Road.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-068 approving a Budget Adjustment - FY 2024-2025 for Roadway Repairs.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-069 approving the FY 2025-2026 Proposed Preliminary Millage Rate.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-070 approving the FY 2025-2026 Preliminary Fire Protection Assessment Rate.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-071 approving the FY 2025-2026 Preliminary Solid Waste Assessment Rate.

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.



MARTY KIAR BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

Questions About Your 2025 Property Assessment or Exemptions?

Our office mailed over 779,000 TRIM (proposed tax) Notices to Broward County property owners last month. The 2025 Just/Market Values are based on the market data from 2024 as Florida Statutes require our office to use January 1 as the date of assessment each year.

Your TRIM Notice shows your property's 2025 Just/Market Value, any tax-saving exemptions you are receiving, and the proposed tax amounts as set by the various taxing authorities listed on the notice.

It is important to remember the Property Appraiser's Office does not set or collect taxes.

If you have questions or concerns about any of the proposed tax rates or non-ad valorem fees, including fire assessments, please contact the taxing authority listed on the TRIM Notice.

If you believe you are entitled to a Homestead Exemption or any other exemption not shown on your TRIM Notice, you may still late file for any 2025 exemption until September 17, 2025. For a list of all the available tax-saving exemptions and to apply for these exemptions online, please visit our web.bcpa.net or call us at 954-357-6830.

If you have questions about your 2025 Just/Market Value or Exemptions, please email or call us prior to September 17, 2025.

Exemptions & General Questions
Residential Property
Condo/Co-op & Timeshares
Commercial Property including Duplexes
Tangible Personal Property
Agricultural Property
Report Homestead Fraud

CSEmgmt@bcpa.net 954-357-6830
ResTRIM@bcpa.net 954-357-6831
CondoTRIM@bcpa.net 954-357-6832
CommercialTRIM@bcpa.net 954-357-6835
tpp-docs@bcpa.net 954-357-6836
pshortsleeve@bcpa.net 954-357-6162
DPSC@bcpa.net 954-357-6900

The ABSOLUTE deadline to file an application for any 2025 Exemption or to appeal your property's 2025 Just/Market Value with the VAB is September 17, 2025.

Value Adjustment Board

The Value Adjustment Board (VAB) is an independent quasi-judicial review board. If you believe your Just/Market Value is not what a buyer would have reasonably paid for your property on January 1, 2025, you should first contact our office. If after speaking with one of our appraisers, you still do not agree, you can file an appeal with the Broward County Value Adjustment Board. If you were denied an exemption, you may also file a petition with the Value Adjustment Board to appeal this denial. The deadline for any VAB petition is September 17, 2025. To file a VAB petition online, please visit their <https://bcvab.broward.org/axiaweb2025>. Should you have any questions for the Value Adjustment Board, they can be reached at vab@broward.org or 954-357-7205.

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, JD, CFA

MartyKiarBCPA
 @MartyKiarBCPA

FLORIDA PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2025



CUSTOMIZE YOUR DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

KIDS

- clothes
- water bottle
- toys
- comfort items
- flashlight
- portable chargers



PETS

- medications
- collars/ID tags
- leashes/carriers
- vet paperwork
- favorite toys
- pet food



SENIORS

- eyeglasses
- medications
- medical ID
- medical equipment
- official medical documents

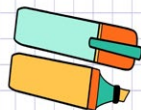


FloridaDisaster.org/PlanPrepare





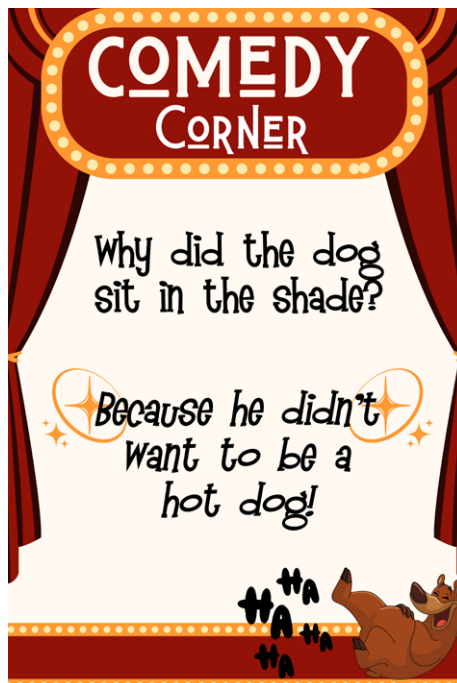
PHOTO BY: Cathy Simmons
"Mural Magic"



SEPTEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 LABOR DAY TOWN HALL CLOSED • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting-Town Hall 7pm	2 • BCPA Office Town Hall 10:30 - 12:30pm NEW Monthly Food Truck Festival Southwest Meadows Sanctuary Park - 16020 Griffin Road 4-9 PM • Zero Waste Advisory Board - Town Hall 7pm	3 • CODE Special Magistrate Hearing Town Hall 9am	4	5	6 • 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
7	8	9 Submittals due for Photo Contest/Town Calendar • Parks, Recreation Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7 pm	10 • Zero Waste Broward Task Force Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	11 PATRIOT'S DAY TOWN HALL CLOSED	12	13 • 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
14	15 First Budget Public Hearing FY2025-FY2026 Proposed Budget - Town Hall 6-7:30pm Regular Council Meeting Town Hall 7:30pm • Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	16 • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	17 AARP Fraud Workshop - Town Hall 9-1pm • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	18 • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	19	20 • 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
21 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 11am - 4:00pm	22	23 • Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56th St. 7pm	24 • Sunshine Ranches HOA ZOOM 7 - 9pm	25 • FLOW MOBILE DMV EVENT - Town Hall 10 - 2:00pm Second Budget Public Hearing FY2025-FY2026 Proposed Budget - Town Hall 6-7pm Regular Council Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	26	27 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10am - 3:00pm BINGO AT THE BARN - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56th St. Dinner 6-7 Bingo 7-9
	BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
28 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 11am - 4:00pm	29	30				
BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2					

Broward County School Calendar					
SEPTEMBER					
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30				
monday, september 1st. schools and administrative offices closed					
tuesday, september 23rd. schools and administrative offices closed					
friday, september 26th. interim reports issued					



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.**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____

MOUNTING PREFERENCE:
Vertical (up/down) _____
Horizontal (left/right) _____

COLOR PREFERENCE:
_____ green w/white letters
_____ blue w/white letters

\$20.00

Make check payable to:
Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue
17220 Griffin Rd., Southwest Ranches 33331
Information call: Chief Bennett: 954-868-2057



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



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI, FL
PERMIT
#622



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facebook@SWRGOV



YouTube:
Town of Southwest Ranches
Official Channel

CLICK ON QR CODE
TO VISIT US AT

WWW.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & BULK DROP OFF EVENT

Saturday, October 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

Aerosol Cans Antifreeze/Coolant/Paint
Batteries & Auto Batteries
BBQ & Camp Size Propane
Cleaners
Fluorescent Tubes/Bulbs
Garden Chemicals
Latex/Oil-Based Paint
Pesticides
Pool Chlorine
Tires (Up to 4 tires per household no rims)
Used Oil & Filters

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

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

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

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

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

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@townofswr



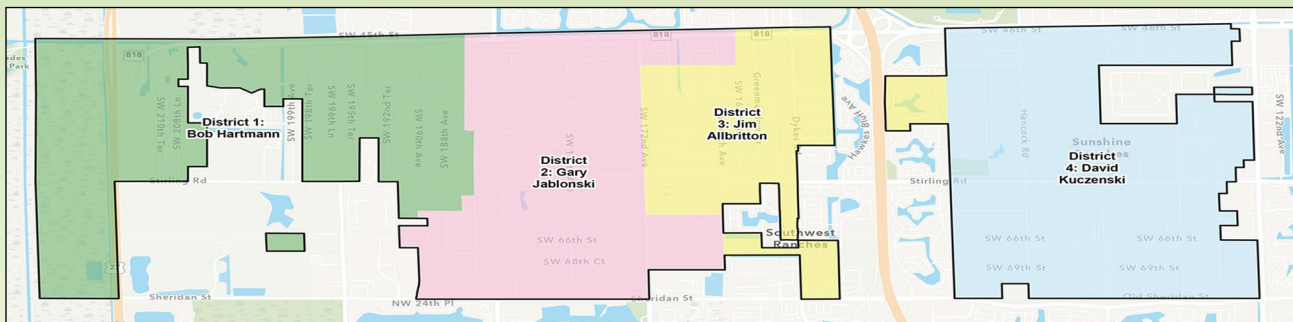
YouTube
<https://tinyurl.com/SWRYoutube>



Facebook
@swrgov



on our Website
<https://www.southwestranches.org/>



Town
Council

Legend

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



VICE MAYOR
BOB HARTMANN
District 1



Council Member
GARY JABLONSKI
District 2



MAYOR
STEVE BREITKREUZ



Council Member
JIM ALLBRITTON
District 3



Council Member
DAVID S. KUCZENSKI, Esq.
District 4



Map is Not to Scale
Date: 12/22/2022

Florida Technical Consultants

The Town of Southwest Ranches does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the data, and the data are available for limited purposes. The Town of Southwest Ranches provides to provide full accessibility to our services, records, and activities. If you are not able to access any of the content of this website please contact Russell Munitz at rmunitz@southwestranches.org or call 954-434-0008 so that we can provide a solution or provide the information in an accessible format. If you use assistive technology (such as a screen reader, etc.) and have difficulty accessing any information, please identify the specific information or material you seek access to, the website address of the material with which you request access or assistance, the problem you experienced, and your contact information so that the Town may provide you with the necessary assistance. Please contact our office if there is any additional information that we can provide.