

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Town Newsletter

GET TO KNOW HOW YOUR
TOWN HALL WORKS!
Meet staff and learn what
each department is about!

RANCHER ACADEMY

Oct. 8 and Oct. 15

see page 9

Halloween SPAAK TACULAR

see page 8

Carve out some
fun at the
PUMPKIN PATCH

October 16, 17, 18 and 19
see page 7

Warmest Wishes to you
and your family for a
Happy Rosh Hashanah

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

TOWN STAFF

Russell Muñiz, <i>Town Administrator</i>	(954) 434-0008
Kathryn Sims, <i>Deputy Town Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7454
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
Hector Rodriguez, <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>Deputy Financial Administrator</i>	(954) 343-7442
Arianna Durbeej, <i>Senior 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 Director</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

TOWN SERVICES / BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING – (CAP GOVERNMENT)

Simo Mansor, <i>Building Official</i>	(954) 343-7448
Jeremie Bennett, <i>Assistant 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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ZONING/PERMITTING

Julio Medina, <i>Community Development/Code Compliance Director</i>	(954) 343-7458
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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 Officer</i>	(954) 343-7459
Ismail Rashid, <i>Code Compliance Officer</i>	(954) 358-2540

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY	911
Non-Emergency	(954) 764-4357 (HELP)
Davie Police Department	(954) 693-8200
Eddy Velazquez, <i>Detective</i>	(954) 693-8290
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
Illicit Discharge – Environmental Response Line:	(954) 519-1499

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)	

sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org
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jallbritton@southwestranches.org
gjablonski@southwestranches.org
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hrodriguez@southwestranches.org
elopez@southwestranches.org
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rstrum@southwestranches.org
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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
jbennett@capfla.com
swrinspections@southwestranches.org
swrinspections@southwestranches.org

jeff@completecities.net

zoninginfo@southwestranches.org

jmedina@southwestranches.org
mvelette@southwestranches.org

ccampos@southwestranches.org
yhernandez@southwestranches.org
irashid@southwestranches.org

lbennett@southwestranches.org

[Facebook@SWRLostandFoundAnimals](https://facebook.com/SWRLostandFoundAnimals)

evelazquez@davie-fl.gov

publicworks@southwestranches.org
online complaint form at:
<http://www.broward.org/Environment/Resources/Pages/EnviroComplaint.aspx>

www.centralbrowardwcd.org

www.sbddd.org



A MESSAGE FROM Mayor Steve Breitkreuz

CONSTRUCTION AT DYKES AND GRIFFIN

I have heard from a number of residents with questions related to what is being constructed at the southwest corner of Dykes and Griffin Road. So, I want to answer some of those questions and provide a little background.

That portion of the property was purchased with the assistance of grant money shortly after the Town was incorporated. Basically, this was done to first preserve open space but second to provide places where residents could gather and enjoy that open space. So, to further that objective, plans were drawn up for each of our parks. As time has moved on, and funding has become available, each of our parks has progressed along those plans.

For the “Southwest Meadows Sanctuary”, the park and the Southwest corner of Dykes and Griffin, these plans include facilities that would complement the use of the park. So, just as we have restroom facilities at the Equestrian Park, the Country Estates Fishing Hole Park, and the Rolling Oaks Barn, we are now constructing restroom facilities at this park. Also, there will be a covered area with benches and picnic tables that can be used for events as well.

As part of this work, we are also stabilizing the surrounding areas that can be used for parking. There are some areas that have been designated as wetlands, and we are not touching those areas. However, by stabilizing the rest, this will facilitate using this area for parking even in wet weather, while still allowing the grass to return and keep this area green once the project is completed.

We did recognize that there were significant questions and misinformation regarding this project. So, to help get the word out, we have recently erected two signs on the property that help explain the project. This, along with additional help in communication in the upcoming budget, should help us to communicate better not only on this project but on other projects and events in the future.

We are hoping that this project can be completed by the end of the year. However, some of that depends on weather and the time it takes to get other outside governmental approvals. But I am excited to see this project move forward as we will be able to do many more events on this property once it is in place.

***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](https://www.facebook.com/X@SteveBreitkreuz)





A MESSAGE FROM Vice Mayor Bob Hartmann

WINGS OVER THE RANCHES: BIRDING TOURS TAKE FLIGHT IN SOUTHWEST RANCHES

"Where Nature Takes Flight — Right in Your Backyard"



**WINGS OVER
RANCHES**

WHERE THE EVERGLADES MEET THE SKY

Southwest Ranches is known for its open spaces, equestrian trails, and commitment to preserving a rural lifestyle—but it's also a hidden gem for birding enthusiasts. This season, the Town is proud to launch Wings Over the Ranches, a new guided birding tour series that invites residents to explore the skies and sawgrass alongside professional Audubon birding guide Bob Hartmann.

With the theme "Where Nature Takes Flight—Right in Your Backyard," this initiative warmly celebrates the incredible wildlife that is beautifully woven into the everyday landscape around our community. Whether you're a seasoned birder or simply curious about the feathered neighbors in your own backyard, these tours are designed to inspire, educate, and connect.

Why Birding in Southwest Ranches?

Our parks sit on the edge of the Florida Everglades, one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in North America. This unique location makes Southwest Ranches a seasonal corridor for migratory birds and a

year-round home for native species. Participants will have the chance to spot:

- Swallow-tailed kites gliding effortlessly with their forked tails
- Great egrets and blue herons wading gracefully through sawgrass
- Eagles, warblers, hawks, and other migratory visitors, depending on the season

Each tour is designed to highlight the ecological richness of our parks while fostering a deeper appreciation for conservation and habitat stewardship.

Meet Your Guide: Bob Hartmann

Vice Mayor Bob Hartmann is a seasoned Audubon birding expert with decades of experience leading tours across Florida's wetlands. Known for his engaging style and encyclopedic knowledge of bird behavior and our wild habitat, Bob blends storytelling, science, and humor to make every walk memorable.

"Birding isn't just looking—it's listening, learning, and loving the land," says Hartmann. "Every bird has a story. I just help you hear it."

Bob's nature tours welcome enthusiasts of all skill levels, offering expert guidance on bird identification, vocalizations, and wildlife photography. Along the way, he'll share fascinating insights into the Everglades ecosystem and highlight practical ways residents can contribute to local conservation efforts. Each tour spans a variety of park terrains—from walkways to marsh trails—so be sure to wear sturdy footwear and don't forget the bug spray!

Tour Details:

When: Saturdays, 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Nov 22, 2025 **Sunshine Ranches Equestrian Park**

Jan 10, 2026 **Rolling Oaks Park**

Mar 14, 2026 **Country Estates Park**

Aug 15, 2026 **Southwest Meadows Sanctuary & Calusa Corners (Park here)**

Cost: Free with registration. Use this link to sign up:

www.southwestranches.org/wings-over-the-ranches-application

- Group Size: Limited to 15 participants, 18 years and up, per tour
- What to Bring: Binoculars, water, sun protection, and curiosity!

Tours begin with a brief orientation and safety overview, followed by a guided walk-through birding hotspots. Participants will receive a printed birding checklist and have the option to access digital tools, such as Merlin or eBird, for logging sightings. *(continued on page 11)*



A MESSAGE FROM Council Member David S. Kuczenski, ESQ

HOWDY SOUTHWEST
RANCHERS,

HAPPY OCTOBER. October symbolizes autumn's transformative beauty in the Northern Hemisphere, spiritual reflection, and a time for endings and beginnings, while also being a month for specific cultural celebrations like Halloween, Hindu festivals, and Catholic events. Its name, derived from the Latin for "eight" (octo), reflects its original position as the eighth month in the Roman calendar before the addition of January and February.

Final reminder, the Rural Public Arts and Design Advisory Board will be accepting entries to the Annual Halloween Spooooooooktacular Yard Decorating Contest. 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@Southwesteranches.Org / (954) 343-7460) for more information.

Additionally, coming up in December, the Rural Public Arts and Design Advisory Board is also planning the Holiday lights contest. We expect another year of competition to claim the best decorated home in our Town.

"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."

Finally, speeding continues to be the number one complaint I receive. I have previously mentioned that the Sunshine Ranches HOA voted unanimously to have speed tables placed on one of the busiest internal roads, Luray. IF you live in Luray and have misgivings of this passive traffic restriction device, please call me to discuss. I strive to return all phone calls within 24 to 48 hours. 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



FLORIDA PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2025



LOW COST, NO COST DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



Know if your home is in an evacuation zone & develop an informed evacuation plan



Keep vehicles at least halfway full or halfway charged to evacuate if necessary



If you can pick it up, put it up, to keep the area around your home free of harmful debris in a storm

FloridaDisaster.org/PlanPrepare





A MESSAGE FROM
Council Member Jim Allbritton

THANK YOU VETERANS



Harold, WWII served
in the Air Force
102 years young



Harold, WWII served
in the Army
102 years young

GOOD DAY SOUTHWEST RANCHES

Town of Southwest Ranches is proud to support the creation of a Veterans Group as a way to honor and recognize the men and women in our community who have served our nation. According to the 2020 Census, our Town is home to approximately 240 Veterans, and we would love to connect with as many of you as possible. If you are a Veteran—or if you know a Veteran who would like to be part of this new group—please send the following information so we can add you to our growing list (currently 15 and counting!):

- Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Email

This Initiative has the full support of the Town, and it will provide Veterans with an opportunity to connect, share experiences, and be recognized for their service.

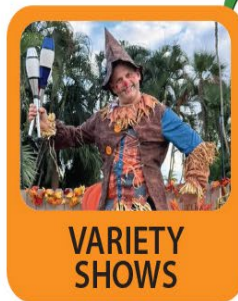
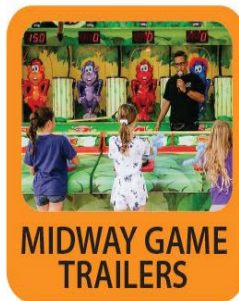
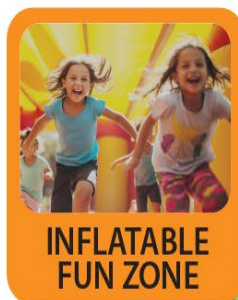
So come on, Vets—reach out, get involved, and be part of Southwest Ranches' new Veterans Group!

Please contact me at: (954) 343 -7461 or (305) 903-7043 or email me: JAllbritton@southwestranches.org

WE TRULY VALUE YOU



CARVE OUT SOME FUN AT THE PATCH!



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



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



answers from page 12

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

SPOOOOOOOOCTACULAR

BOO!

"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

THE RURAL PUBLIC ARTS AND DESIGN BOARD
PRESENTS...

8th Annual December Holiday Lights Contest*

ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON A LITTLE
MORE BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS FUN-FILLED
HOLIDAY CONTEST. SEND YOUR ENTRY
FORM IN NO LATER THAN
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 2025
AND BE ONE OF THE 3 MOST FESTIVE
HOLIDAY DECORATED HOMES IN
SOUTHWEST RANCHES.
(YOUR HOUSE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE
DECORATED TO SEND YOUR ENTRY FORM IN.)

**JUDGING WILL START
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH**

**AWARDS WILL BE
PRESENTED
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH**

Email Susan:
Skutz@southwestranches.org

DECEMBER HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST ENTRY FORM



Town of Southwest Ranches

Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board

13400 Griffin Road

Southwest Ranches, Florida 33330

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

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

SIGNATURE: _____ (Date) _____

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Town of Southwest Ranches Rancher Academy is back!

Join us for a two-night series to learn about the inner workings of the Town of Southwest Ranches. Complete the application by using the below QR code or clicking [here](#)!

Please make sure to see below updated dates

Part 1 - October 8th*

6:00PM - 9:00PM

Part 2 - October 15th*

6:00PM - 9:00PM

Town Hall

**13400 Griffin Road
Southwest Ranches,
FL 33330**



SOUTHWEST RANCHES Food Festival



EVERY FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
4pm - 9pm

- September 2, 2025
- October 7, 2025
- November 4, 2025
- December 2, 2025

THE BEST GOURMET FOOD TRUCKS

16290 Griffin Road
Southwest Ranches FL 33331

Proceeds benefit the Aster Knight Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation

SOUTHWEST RANCHES PRESENTS

LOVE MY PONY FUN HORSE SHOW

SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 14,
2026**



MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

COMING SOON



SAVE THE DATE

COMING SOON



STEM MENTORS @ the Town Hall

Free Math Tutoring

by talented Archbishop McCarthy High School students

For grades 6-9 / 10AM-1230PM

**Southwest Ranches residents
Saturday, November 15**

RSVP sign up required- One day only- Bring your work!

REGISTER HERE



SCAN ME

REGISTER HERE



SCAN ME



**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.



Only Rain Water Goes into the Storm Drains

Clean water begins in our own yards where the flow of rainwater begins its journey to the coastal waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Harmful substances (leaking oil from your car or fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides and pesticides that you use on your lawn) enter our ponds, lakes, canals and the ocean every time it rains – which is a lot here in Broward County. So let's all be good stewards of the environment and protect our water.

Your neighborhood drainage system is not a garbage disposal - don't treat it like one. Demonstrate your responsibility and dispose of chemicals, fertilizer, oil, etc. at our household hazardous waste collection . (see the town newsletter for dates or call Town Hall (954) 434-0008.)

Here in South Florida, water is everywhere - the Everglades; miles of beaches; heavy rains in the summer. But have you ever considered what happens to stormwater when it rains? Do you know how the rain that falls on your yard and in your neighborhood is carry away? Where does it go and how does it get there?

Broward County is one of 16 counties within the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD.) More than 2,100 miles of canals and levees, water control structures and pump stations make up this regional water management system – one of the largest in the world. This regional system conveys excess water into storage areas or out to the ocean.

The SFWMD operates the regional flood control system: 2,100 miles of canals, 2,000 m In Florida's natural environment, rain can fall onto vegetated land and slowly filter down into the soil. Eventually, this water reaches the water table and can make its way into our groundwater supplies. This is how rain is treated by the natural process and eventually recharges our drinking water supplies.

Rain that falls on hard and impervious surfaces can't seep into the ground and, instead, runs off into surface waters or onto nearby lands. This rainfall, or stormwater, runoff carries pollutants and contaminants, such as oil, heavy metals, pesticides and fertilizers into our waterways. Additionally, stormwater runoff that can't percolate down into the ground increases the likelihood of flooding, redirects potential drinking water into local waterways, and can cause loss of habitat due to erosion.

Homeowners can take simple measures to reduce the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff from their properties. Swale areas separating sidewalks from roads should be maintained with a soft contour, allowing the collection of runoff from the property. Water collected in the swale is then provided water quality treatment as it slowly percolates through the soil and recharges the aquifer. Walkways created with mulch and pavers, in lieu of pavement,

will also reduce runoff and promote aquifer recharge.

Stormwater

Stormwater management is an integral part of everyday life in Broward County ... even when it's not raining. With abundant rainfall and a relatively flat landscape, the infrastructure required for the treatment, storage and management of stormwater runoff is all around us — from neighborhood swales and ponds to lakes and canals. This infrastructure is a necessary facet of the landscape, which has traditionally been designed for the sole purpose of moving and treating stormwater.

As Broward has become built-out, urban densification and redevelopment activities have made innovative strategies to providing stormwater management increasingly necessary. These new approaches, often referred to as green techniques, help mimic natural processes and integrate stormwater management within the landscape to create multi-functional site designs.

These green technologies divert stormwater from traditional storm sewer systems to areas where it can be absorbed and treated by the soil and native vegetation. Designed to retain and treat water on site, these green technologies create water resource benefits that include enhanced aquifer recharge and stormwater recycling.

Rain gardens help capture and store rainwater. These planted depressions absorb rainwater from impervious surfaces, such as roofs, driveways, walkways and turf areas. Once captured, the stormwater slowly seeps into the ground, instead of flowing into storm drains and surface waters. Some rain gardens reduce pollution flow into waterways by as much as 30 percent.

Rain barrels can also be used to capture and store rainwater. These barrels are positioned at the bottom of rain gutter downspouts to capture rainwater from a home's roof. The water is then stored for later outdoor use, such as irrigation, car washing or hand watering of plants.

Incorporating native plants into your landscape is an important strategy for improving stormwater management, as well. Native plant beds create a natural environment in which rainwater can percolate down into the ground or slowly move into a water harvesting area, such as a rain garden or pond. Native plants are also specially adapted to Florida's wet and dry seasons so they use less water, require less fertilizer, and provide habitat for native wildlife.

Water Conservation Know The Flow



WINGS OVER THE RANCHES:

Continued from page 4

Community Engagement

Residents are encouraged to share their birding photos using the hashtag **#WingsOverTheRanches**. Selected images may be featured on the Town website and in future newsletters. A digital gallery is available at:

www.southwestranches.org/departments/parks-recreation-and-open-space/birding, where you can view recent sightings and submit your own.

Let's enjoy the sky's beauty right here in our own backyard! Wings Over the Ranches isn't just a tour—it's a heartfelt tribute to the wild, natural beauty of Southwest Ranches. Where Nature Takes Flight—Right in Your Backyard.

I'm here for you! Feel free to call me anytime if you have questions, need help with town issues, or just want to chat. Let's work together to keep our community strong and welcoming.

Bob – 954-801-1758



Florida Strengthens Protections Against Digital Abuse

This year, Florida passed several important new laws to strengthen protections for victims of online harassment.

HB 1451 – Sexual Cyberharassment – makes it easier to prosecute people who share private, sexually explicit photos or videos without consent.

Before, prosecutors had to prove that the person who shared the images meant to cause emotional distress. Now, simply sharing this type of content without permission is enough to face serious charges. The law also covers situations where someone posts personal details, like a name or address, alongside the explicit content. It introduces harsher penalties when someone profits from this crime, making it a felony, and creates stronger consequences for repeat offenders. In addition, it extends the amount of time victims have to report violations of sexual cyberharassment, and gives them the right to sue offenders for damages in civil court.

HB 757 – Sexual Images – makes it a felony to create, request, or share fake sexual images, often known as deepfakes, without the person's consent. The law also expands protections for minors by increasing penalties for anyone who possesses, views, or distributes sexual images of children, and makes it a crime to solicit or request these images. Each image counts as a separate offense, allowing prosecutors to pursue stronger charges in serious cases. In addition to criminal penalties, victims whose likenesses are used in fake sexual images can now file a civil lawsuit against

offenders to seek financial damages plus legal fees.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

As a reminder, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Hope Card Program, which was launched at the end of 2024, allows survivors with active protective orders to request a wallet-sized card to carry with them. To find out more and request a Hope Card, visit browardclerk.org/Divisions/DomesticViolence or call 954-831-5570.

Resources for Help

If you or someone you know is in need of help, please contact the resources listed here:

- Emergency: Call 911
- Florida Domestic Violence Hotline (24/7): 1-800-500-1119
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or text START to 88788
- Broward County – Women in Distress: (954) 761-1133 or womenindistress.org

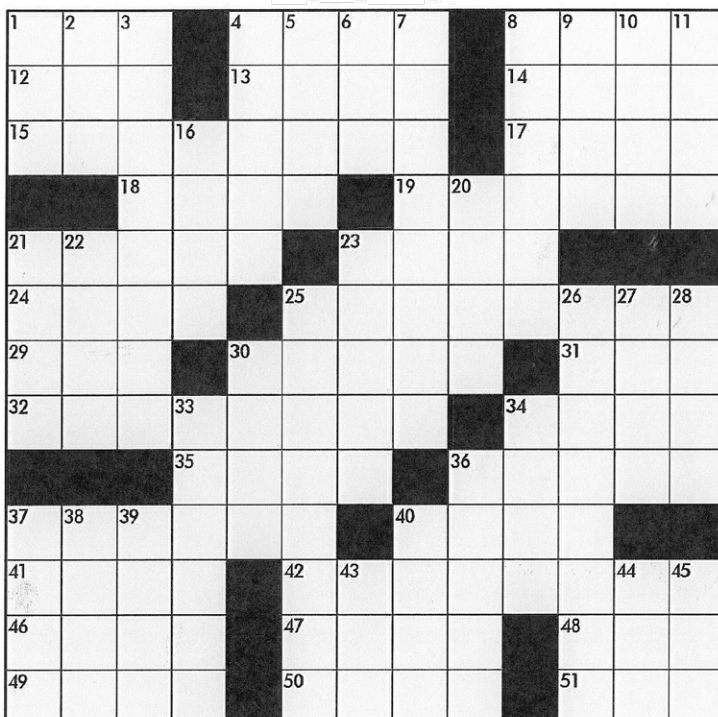
It is an honor to serve you, and we are here to assist with any issues or concerns. Feel free to contact me anytime at Robin.Bartleman@myfloridahouse.gov or our office at (954) 872-1770. You can also reach me on my personal cell at (954) 668-3662.



FLOW DMV EVENT BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

The Florida Licensing on Wheels (FLOW) mobile office will be at Town Hall
Thursday, October 22, 2025
from 10a.m. – 2p.m.

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



OCTOBER CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Golf peg
- Upswept hairdo
- Skagen
- Vase
- Connery
- Unwrap
- Yellow, crystalline fungicide
- Bill
- Spoken
- Light beams
- Progressive emaciation
- African river
- Unattractive
- Sirenians
- Hive insect
- Cavalry sword
- Chart
- Any muscle that adducts
- Bindi-eye
- prickle
- Point of hook
- Paralyze
- The sexual instinct
- Woe is me
- Ireland
- Pronounce as a nasal sound
- Monetary unit of Angola
- Marsh
- Wee
- Lamb
- Affirmative response

DOWN

- Tuxedo wings
- An age
- Made noble
- Vedic deity
- Skin
- Level of karate proficiency
- Brief joke
- Set that is a part of larger set
- Leg joint
- 6th month of the Jewish calendar
- Chinese cooking implements
- Three (cards)
- Having wings
- Wind instrument
- Old
- Wealthy person
- Characteristic of a matron
- Make into an emulsion
- Hearing organs
- Agile
- Great quantity
- State of existing
- False God
- Unadorned
- For fear that
- Hawaiian creeper
- Grain husk
- At sea
- Reverential fear
- Letter Z
- Abstract being

*answers on page 7



SOUTH FLORIDA WILDLIFE CENTER SECURES NEW LONG-TERM HOME IN SOUTHWEST RANCHES

(<https://www.southfloridawildlifecenter.org>)



Exciting news here at SFWC! We have secured 8-acres of property in Southwest Ranches, which is extremely exciting because it gives us the opportunity to build a new hospital and wildlife care center. Check out the press release below for more details. This is going to be an amazing journey and we're so glad we are making it with you! We need your ongoing support to do this. If you'd like to donate to help us build the future of wildlife in South Florida while continuing the help the nearly 8,000 animals that come through our doors every year, you can.

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. – August 27, 2025 – The South Florida Wildlife Center (SFWC), Florida's largest wildlife rehabilitation facility, announced today it has reached an agreement to secure an 8-acre property in Southwest Ranches as the site for its future hospital and wildlife care campus. For 56 years, SFWC's current

4.5-acre site has served as a vital resource for South Florida's wildlife and community, caring for nearly 8,000 animals yearly.

The new property, procured in partnership with the town of Southwest Ranches and the Broward County School Board, will allow the organization to move forward with plans to build a new state-of-the-art hospital and expand its programs. Construction for the new facility is expected to begin in 2026. The new campus will enable the organization to start reimagining the future of wildlife care and rehabilitation in the area. Some of the desired elements of the future facility include:

- A wildlife hospital with triage, surgery, labs, and specialized care units.
- Education spaces, including an auditorium and wildlife observation areas.
- Enhanced professional training capabilities for veterinary students, plus online programs for global rehabilitation centers.
- Infrastructure upgrades to parking, administrative facilities, and community engagement spaces.

"We have exciting goals for the new center," explained Jeffrey Arciniaco, president and chairman of the SFWC Board. "But we can't do it without the public's support and donations. We've done so much with our existing facility and are looking forward to expanding and doing even more for the community. With human-wildlife interactions continuing to increase, our work is more critical than ever." SFWC is launching a capital campaign to fund construction and program expansion. Because the organization is a 501(c)(3) and relies on donations, SFWC is asking the public to consider supporting the

campaign to develop the new facility that will continue to serve all of Broward County, while supporting Miami Dade and Palm Beach counties when needed. "We are truly grateful to the town of Southwest Ranches, the school board, and our donors for their vision and partnership," Arciniaco continued. "Together, we are creating a future where South Florida's wildlife will continue to have a place to heal and thrive."

About South Florida Wildlife Center

Founded in 1969 in the garage of Mrs. Bea Humphries, and with the help of one of Sunshine Ranches' pioneers, Mrs. Cookie Brownlow, the South Florida Wildlife Center is one of the highest-volume wildlife hospitals in the nation,

caring for nearly 9,000 animals across more than 350 species each year. Serving Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties, the independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit rescues, rehabilitates, and releases injured and orphaned wildlife, while providing education and training to foster peaceful coexistence with native species. The Center's dedicated team of veterinary, animal care, and education professionals works alongside a committed board of animal experts and advocates to protect and preserve South Florida's wildlife. Thank you, Mayor Breitkreuz and fellow council members, for making this relocation a reality...Southwest Ranches is on the map for its commitment to our South Florida wildlife and rural way of life.





by Debra Ruesga

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE AUGUST 14, 2025 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Ordinance 2025-008 Amending Section 070-110 of the Town of Southwest Ranches Unified Land Development Code Pertaining to Noncommercial Signage.
- Adopted Ordinance 2025-009 Amending the Town of Southwest Ranches Unified Land Development Code ("ULDC"), Article 35, "Conditional Uses," Section 035-080, "Indoor and Outdoor Assembly In Rural And Agricultural Districts".
- Adopted Resolution 2025-072 approving Application No. PI-70-25, The MP Holdings Plat.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-073 approving Application No. PI-67-24, Fernandez Villas Plat.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-074 approving an agreement with the City of Sunrise for water services for 13821 Luray Road.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-075 approving an agreement with the City of Sunrise for water services for 13801 Luray Road.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-076 approving a purchase order with EDJ Service, LLC for the removal of invasive exotic species at multiple town locations.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-077 approving a purchase order with EDJ Service, LLC for replenishment of playground surface at multiple Town locations.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-078 approving an Interlocal Agreement with Broward County to utilize its Unsafe Structures Board for adjudication of Town Building Code and related public nuisance matters.

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE AUGUST 28, 2025 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2025-079 approving a cooperative agreement with Insight Public Sector, Inc. for license plate recognition cameras.
- Adopted Resolution 2025-080 approving the first amendment to the agreement with J.A. Medina, LLC to allow for additional services beyond designated working hours.

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

2026 Homestead Exemptions

If you applied and were approved for the Homestead Exemption for tax year 2026, this exemption will show online in December. Once approved, Homestead Exemption automatically renews each year provided there is no change in the ownership or use of the property. You do not need to reapply for this exemption if the property remains your permanent residence.

Did You Acquire or Take Ownership of Your Property in 2025?

If you acquired your home in 2025, the TRIM (proposed tax) Notice you received in August reflected the previous owner's exemption status which will be removed at the end of this year. If this property is your permanent residence and you believe you qualify for a 2026 Homestead Exemption, you must complete an application in your name. To be eligible for 2026 Homestead Exemption, an applicant must both own and make the property their permanent residence as of January 1, 2026.

Please note: "permanent residency" does not require physical occupancy of the property. If you are building or intend to build a home to be used as your permanent residence, please call our Customer Service Department at 954.357.6830 to discuss Homestead Exemption eligibility requirements.

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> under the "Exemptions & Classifications" tab. If you previously owned another Homesteaded property within the past three tax years, you will also be applying for portability. The portability application is part of the online Homestead Exemption application.

Take care,

Marty Kiar, JD, CFA



MartyKiarBCPA

@MartyKiarBCPA



TRASH TALK:

ZERO WASTE ADVISORY BOARD EDITION

- *Partnering with Sneaker Impact to start a reuse and recycle program. Look out for tour info coming.*
- *Look for news about the Zero Waste Advisory Board "Logo Contest"*
- *More recycling and C & D tours to be scheduled in coordination with WM Targeting a weekend tour for interested residents (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 week they picked up 2,000 lbs of compost.*
- *Watch for information about friendly Recycling Contest between districts*
- *Planning to add Re-use Center at quarterly HHW and Shredding Event*



PHOTO BY: George Morris
"Spooky Oak Tree"

OCTOBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			Yom Kippur Begins 1 at Sundown	Yom Kippur Ends 2 at Nightfall	3	4 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
			BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6
5 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 11 - 4pm	6 • Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7pm • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting Town Hall 7pm	7 • CODE Special Magistrate Hearing Town Hall 9am • 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	8 • RANCHER ACADEMY Part 1 - Town Hall 6-9pm • Zero Waste Broward Task Force Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	9 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm	10	11 HHW Event 8 - 2 Shredding 8 - 2 Drug Drop Off 10 - 2 Rolling Oaks Park -17630 SW 56th St. • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
	BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
12 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 11 - 4pm	13  COLUMBUS DAY • Schools & Education Advisory Board - Town Hall 7pm	14 • Parks, Recreation Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	15 • RANCHER ACADEMY Part 2- Town Hall 6-9pm • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	16 Pumpkin Patch Festival 16290 Griffin Rd. 5 - 9pm • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	17 Pumpkin Patch Festival 16290 Griffin Rd. 5 - 9pm	18 • Mayor's Chess Challenge - Town Hall 10-2pm Pumpkin Patch Festival 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 9pm
	BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6
19 Pumpkin Patch Festival 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 5pm	20  Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	21 • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	22	23 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm	24	25 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
	BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
26 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 11 - 4pm	27	28 • Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56th St. 7pm	29 • Sunshine Ranches HOA ZOOM 7 - 9pm	30	31 	
	BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	

Broward County School Calendar

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

- Thursday, October 2nd -
Schools and Administrative Offices Closed


- Friday, October 10th -
Early Release Day

- Monday, October 13th -
Employee Planning
(no school for students)

- Monday, October 20th -
Schools Closed

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Luisito Moraguez - October 7th
Zucy Mansur - October 14th
Luis Moraguez - October 28th



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

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

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





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



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI, FL
PERMIT
#622



facebook
Facebook:
facebook@SWRGV



YouTube:
Town of Southwest Ranches
Official Channel

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



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.



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	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

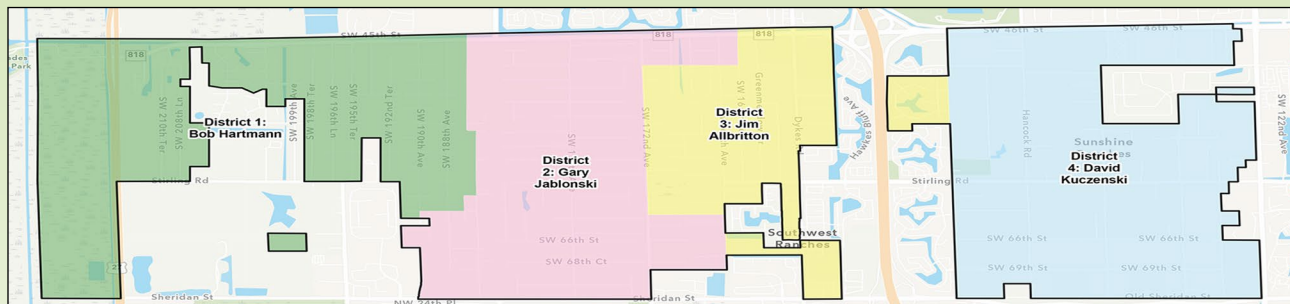
For more information call Town Hall (954) 434-0008

Follow Us On Social Media



Let's Get Connected for Our Latest News & Updates

Instagram @townofswr	
YouTube https://tinyurl.com/SWRYoutube	
Facebook @swrgov	
on our Website https://www.southwestranches.org/	



Town Council

District	Council Member
District 1	VICE MAYOR BOB HARTMANN
District 2	Council Member GARY JABLONSKI
District 3	MAYOR STEVE BREITKREUZ
District 4	Council Member JIM ALLBRITTON
District 4	Council Member DAVID S. KUCZENSKI, Esq.

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

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.