

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Town Newsletter

Happy Holidays

SWR Country Fair
January 15th - 19th
see page 9

December Holiday
Lights Contest
see page 8

DECEMBER 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>Public Works Project Coordinator, Newsletter Editor</i>	(954) 343-7460
Joyce Marques, <i>Engineering Inspector</i>	(954) 343-7441
December Lauretano-Haines, <i>Parks, Recreation & Forestry 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 Vellete, <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
Yirgihis 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
Carlos Grave de Peralta, <i>Police Civilian Coordinator</i>	(954) 693-8352
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)	

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tholste@southwestranches.org
hrodriguez@southwestranches.org
elopez@southwestranches.org
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rstrum@southwestranches.org
adurbeej@southwestranches.org
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rley@southwestranches.org
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skutz@southwestranches.org
jmarques@southwestranches.org
dliauretano@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

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mvelette@southwestranches.org
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Facebook@SWRLostandFoundAnimals

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

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

www.centralbrowardwcd.org

www.sbdd.org

A MESSAGE FROM



Mayor
Steve Breitkreuz

THIS HAS BEEN A GOOD YEAR IN SOUTHWEST RANCHES.

- o We closed out a number of drainage and roadway projects.
- o The Aster Knight Parks Foundation had their first Pumpkin Patch Event, which was wonderful for our families.
- o Once again, we did not raise our tax milage rate.
- o We eliminated an incinerator being placed near our Town and with some additional work, will hopefully eliminate any new incineration from all of Broward County.
- o We had our first and second presentations of the Rancher's Academy.
- o We repaved more roads.
- o And overall, we worked as a Council to do everything we could do to continue to preserve our rural lifestyle.

So, as this year sunsets and a new year begins, it is a good reminder that we live in a very special place. Together we will work together to pass along this beautiful Town to the next generation of Ranchers. I pledge to continue that effort for as long as I am Mayor, and we are fortunate to have a full Council committed to that effort as well. So, enjoy your time with your friends and family over the holidays. Remember the blessings that we all share in to live in such a special town, beautiful state, and blessed country.

As always, thank-you for your trust and support as I have the honor of serving as your Mayor.

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz 954-296-6018: sbreitkreuz@southwestranches.org X@SteveBreitkreuz



SHOW YOUR TOWN SPIRIT



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

**THE TOWN OF
SOUTHWEST RANCHES**



i9 SPORTS
i9sports.com

REGISTER NOW

SOCER & FLAG FOOTBALL
SATURDAY/SUNDAY LEAGUES
COUNTRY ESTATES FISHING HOLE PARK

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

Register Online:
i9sports.com
954-437-0089

• Organized programs for boys and girls ages 3-12.
• Age appropriate instruction for each division.
• Coaches background checked and certified.
• All skill levels welcome, no tryouts!
• On and off season clinics held before games.
• Sibling discounts available.
• The earlier you register, the more you save!

The Way Youth Sports Should Be®

FOLLOW US  **i9sportsS143** **@i9sports143**

SEE WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING SEASON DETAILS

Helping Kids Succeed in Life Through Sports™

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.



SOUTHWEST RANCHES
COMPOST

FOUNDED JUNE 2004
Powering Our Rural Lifestyle

A MESSAGE FROM



Vice Mayor
Bob Hartmann

LET'S KEEP SOUTHWEST RANCHES STRONG: *Why Property Taxes Matter to Us.*

There's a proposal circulating in Tallahassee that sounds appealing on the surface: eliminate property taxes for homeowners across Florida. But for communities like ours in Southwest Ranches, this idea could do more harm than good – and it's time we talked about it.

Property taxes aren't just numbers on a bill. They're how we fund the services that make our Town work: fire protection, police, sanitation, stormwater management, road maintenance, parks, and emergency response. These aren't extras—they're essentials. Without property tax revenue, our local government would be forced to cut back or find other ways to pay for these services.

Some suggest raising sales taxes instead. But here's the problem: **Southwest Ranches doesn't have much retail.** We're a quiet, residential, and agricultural community. We don't have shopping centers or big box stores to generate sales tax revenue. That means we'd be left with fewer services and no real way to replace the funding we lose.

Another idea being floated is replacing property taxes with municipal fees. But here's something many folks don't realize: **ad valorem property taxes are tax-deductible on your federal income taxes. Municipal fees are not.** That means if property taxes are eliminated and replaced with fees, homeowners could lose a valuable deduction—effectively paying more out of pocket.

The Legislature plans to put this proposal on the ballot as a constitutional amendment in the 2026 general election, asking voters to decide whether to eliminate property taxes on homesteaded properties. That gives us time—but not much—to raise awareness and speak out.

The governor has suggested replacing local revenue with state funds, especially in rural counties. But that puts our future in the hands of politicians in Tallahassee, instead of the people who live here. We'd lose local control and become dependent on state decisions year after year.

Even our schools could be affected. While the current plan says school taxes would stay, education experts warn that billions in funding could still be at risk if the state doesn't follow through.

Let's be honest: the real challenges facing Florida families aren't property taxes. It's insurance costs, housing affordability, and healthcare. The average property tax bill is just a small fraction of household income, and laws such as the Save our Homes Amendment and various exemptions already protect homeowners from big increases.

This proposal might sound like a win, but it's a risky bet that could weaken the very foundation of our community. Southwest Ranches is strong because we take care of each other, and we invest in what matters. Let's keep it that way.

Talk to your neighbors. Reach out to your elected officials. Let's make sure our voices are heard—before decisions are made for us, and before this reaches the ballot box in 2026.

WISHING EVERYONE A JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON FILLED WITH PEACE, TOGETHERNESS, AND GRATITUDE. MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING STRENGTH TO OUR COMMUNITY, CLARITY TO OUR SHARED PURPOSE, AND PLENTY OF GOOD MOMENTS WITH NEIGHBORS AND LOVED ONES.

**FROM ALL OF US HERE IN SOUTHWEST RANCHES -
HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THANK YOU FOR BEING
PART OF WHAT MAKES THIS TOWN SO SPECIAL.**



Bob - 954-801-1758

A MESSAGE FROM



Council Member
David S. Kuczenski, ESQ

Howdy Southwest Ranchers,

Happy December. The name December is named after the Latin word for “ten” because it was originally the tenth month in the Roman calendar. Holidays celebrated in December include Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa, and the birthstones associated with it are turquoise, zircon, and tanzanite.

As we close out the calendar year, it is a time to remember some of those we lost in 2025. A few days before I finalized this article, I received a phone call from another of our founders, Bill Greene advising me that his long time wife, Rachel had passed. This is unfortunate for their family and the larger Southwest Ranches family. Keep their family in your thoughts especially during this Holiday season when missing passed-on loved ones feels especially difficult.

Additionally, the Rural Arts and Design Advisory Board will be accepting applications and handing out awards for the best decorated homes in our Town. This is one of the biggest events for the advisory board. While I am at it, the same advisory board completed the popular 2026 Town of Southwest Ranches calendars featuring photos from across our Town. They are available while supplies last at Town Hall for \$5.

Finally, as holiday season approaches, bad guys will be perusing our neighborhood once again to commit mischief. If you do not have a locking mailbox, I strongly urge you to not leave your mail overnight. Additionally, do not leave your key fobs in your car overnight. If a group of bad guys drive by your home and notice that the vehicle's exterior mirrors are extended, all they have to do is jump in the car, push the start button, and drive away. As an insurance attorney, some policies will not cover the theft unless there is obvious forcible entry. It is far better for you to take the extra safety steps to protect your property.

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



Wishing you and your family peace, health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming New Year.
Season's Greetings!

A MESSAGE FROM Council Member Jim Allbritton



GOOD DAY SOUTHWEST RANCHES

*Today I am writing about the Real Estate Tax Proposals
coming out of Tallahassee.*

There is a current push to do away with property taxes. That may sound like a great thing (NO MORE PROPERTY TAXES), but I would urge each one of you to read very carefully; what would be implemented; to replace those taxes. There has been mention of raising the sales tax on All Goods. The current sales tax is six and a half percent to seven percent. The new sales tax being talked about would be sixteen to nineteen percent, again this is on everything you buy. This is just one of many proposals.

I would like to briefly break down the Tax bill you recently received from the county, using a hypothetical home valued with an Assessed Home value of \$370,000.

- The AD VALOREM taxes are approximately \$5,550.
- The Town receives approximately \$1,250 of this amount (3.9000 Millage Rate). This amount equates to approximately twenty-two percent.
- The other seventy-eight percent goes to the COUNTY, for schools, hospitals, water management and their general fund.
- The Town's \$1,250 pays for police and fire EMS, which accounts for over approximately sixty seven percent (67%) of the Town's general fund budget.
- The remaining pays for our parks, all Town employees and all other overall operating expenses. The NON-AD VALOREM taxes are the actual cost to the Town for these services.
- The Town Council approved a \$500,000 Subsidy from the Reserve Fund to be split 50/50 between the Fire Assessment and the Solid Waste Assessment to help keep the residents' NON-AD VALOREM taxes low.



This is a summary of where your tax dollars go. I understand how residents feel when they get their tax bill, but looking at all the services, we receive, our taxes, especially those received by the Town, are spent very discreetly. *Please READ CAREFULLY any Bill that may come from Tallahassee that threatens the very bases on which our Town is funded.*

I would like to remind all residents that the Town is working to organize a Veterans Group. If you are a Vet, or know a Vet, PLEASE reach out to me or Ms. December at Town Hall.



I would like to Wish a Very Happy Holiday Season and a Very Prosperous New Year to ALL!

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



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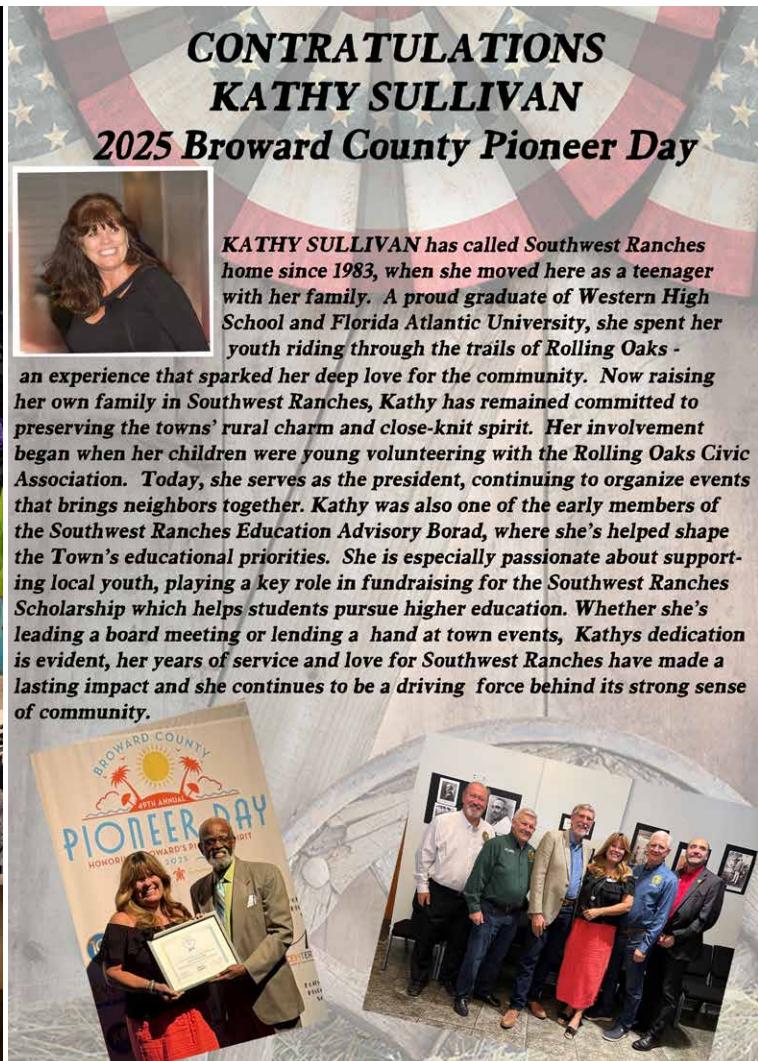
Page 15: December Town Calendar, December School Calendar, Happy Birthday, Stay in Touch with Engineering

Back Cover: Council and Districts, Household Hazardous Waste / January 10, 2026

HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS IN THE RANCHES



HALLOWEEN AT ROLLING OAKS BARN - 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS

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 ENTERING THIS CONTEST WILL ALLOW THE TOWN TO USE ANY PHOTOS TAKEN OF MY DECORATED HOME FOR THIS CONTEST AND WILL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE TOWN AND MAY BE USED, REPRODUCED OR MODIFIED BY THE TOWN IN THE TOWN'S SOLE DISCRETION.

SIGNATURE: _____

(Date)

SIGNATURE OF GUARDIAN FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18: _____

(Date)

WINGS OVER THE RANCHES

Wings Over the Ranches: Birding Tours "Where Nature Takes Flight—Right in Your Backyard"

Southwest Ranches sits on the edge of the Everglades, one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in North America. Our Town is a part of the seasonal corridor used by migratory birds and is a year-round home for native species.

Join Vice Mayor Bob Hartmann for tours designed to highlight the ecological richness of our parks and provide a first-hand look at the multiple species visiting or calling Southwest Ranches home

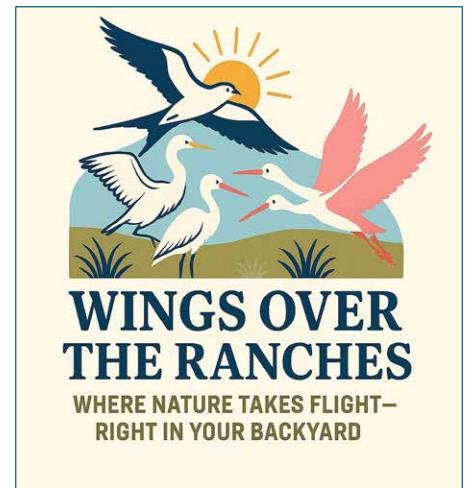
Bob is a seasoned Audubon birding expert with decades of experience leading tours across Florida's wetlands. Bob blends storytelling, science, and humor to make every walk memorable.

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!

For details, please visit <https://www.southwestranches.org/departments/parks-recreation-and-open-space/birding/>

When: Saturdays, 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM

- o Jan 10, 2026 Rolling Oaks Park
- o Mar 14, 2026 Country Estates Park
- o Aug 15, 2026 Southwest Meadows Sanctuary & Calusa Corners (Park here)
- Cost: Free with registration. Use this link to sign up: www.southwestranches.org/wings-overthe-ranches-application
- Group Size: Limited to 15 participants, 18 years and up, per tour
- What to Bring: Binoculars, water, sun protection, and curiosity!



UPCOMING EVENTS

SOUTHWEST RANCHES COUNTRY FAIR AND CARNIVAL



WHEN:

JAN 15th -19th

WHERE:

Southwest Ranches
Sanctuary Park
16290 Griffin Road,
Southwest Ranches

BENEFITING:

Southwest Ranches
Parks Foundation

**FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS WANTED
SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**

CONTACT: SWRCOUNTRYFAIR.COM

SOUTHWEST RANCHES PRESENTS

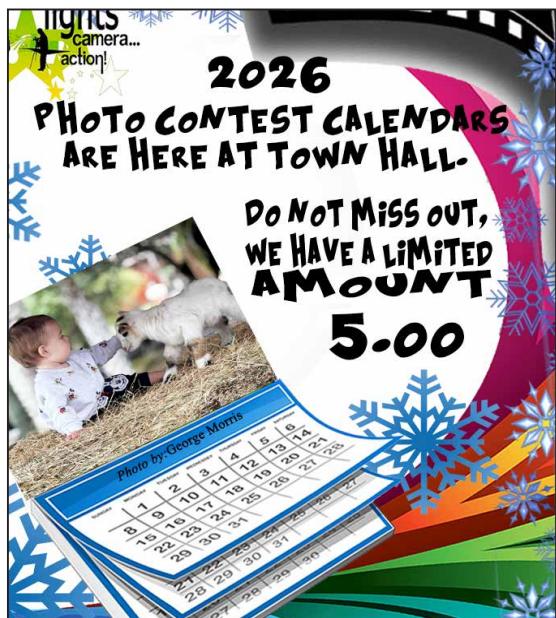
LOVE MY PONY
FUN HORSE SHOW

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 14,
2026



MORE INFORMATION
TO FOLLOW.



A MESSAGE FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT



Community Recycling Update: Paper and Plastic Cups Are Now Welcome!

Good news for your community: WM now accepts paper and plastic cups in your recycling program! This exciting update is part of a national initiative with major brands and sustainability stakeholders to make to-go cups widely recyclable across the country.

Why Does This Announcement Matter to My Community?

Your community plays a vital role in making this initiative successful. That means your community's recycling information on your website directly impacts whether cups can be recycled nationwide.

By updating your community's website to reflect this change your helping:

- Ensure consistent messaging across platforms
- Reduce confusion for residents
- Empower your community to recycle more effectively
- Support a national sustainability effort that can benefit everyone

Why Are Paper and Plastic Cups Accepted Now?

WM is expanding what we accept to better serve our communities. Here's why paper and plastic cups are now part of the recycling stream:

- Brands are switching materials: Many companies are moving away from foam and adopting recyclable paper or plastic cups.
- We are executing on plans to invest over \$1.4 billion from 2022-2026 in new and upgraded recycling facilities with advanced sorting technology that is expected to process material, including cups, more effectively and increase the capacity available to serve our customers.
- End markets demand for these materials are growing: U.S. manufacturers want recycled paper and polypropylene (PP) materials to make new products.

What is Accepted in Recycling

WM accepts:

- Hot and cold beverage paper cups (e.g., coffee cups with sleeves and soda cups)
- Plastic cups made from polypropylene (PP) (e.g. cold drink cups for soda and iced coffee)

Not accepted:

- Foam cups (Styrofoam)
- Rigid polystyrene (#6)
- Lids, straws, and stoppers

How to prepare cups for recycling:

- Empty all liquids
- Remove straws, stoppers, and food

How do recycling centers know paper cups belong with paper not bottles and cans? Do machines really sort that out?

Many modern recycling facilities use advanced optical sorting technology to improve how materials are identified and directed. Most WM facilities use a strategically placed optical sorter just before the container line to detect fiber-based items, including paper cups, and redirect them into the paper stream.

While paper cups are technically 3D objects, their behavior during sorting depends on their physical condition:

To comply with Federal Trade Commission (FTC) guidelines and avoid greenwashing, all sustainability claims must be backed by data. For plastic cups to be labeled "widely recyclable," at least 60% of U.S. residents must have access to curbside or drop-off recycling programs. This access is currently verified through local municipal websites.¹

We're also working toward a "check locally" designation for paper cups, which requires that at least 20% of U.S. residents can recycle them.¹

Our goal is to make recycling guidance more transparent, helping customers understand where and how to recycle their cups — and ultimately supporting more sustainable everyday choices.

¹ Recyclability designations and industry best practices are set by GreenBlue to help brands align with FTC guidance and avoid greenwashing.

RECYCLE RIGHT



Always Recycle



Plastic Bottles, Cups & Containers



Paper & Paper Cups



Glass Bottles & Containers



Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard



Food & Beverage Cans

Do Not Include In Your Recycling Container



NO Batteries, Power Tools, Flammables or Hazardous Waste



NO Foam Cups, Containers or Straws



NO Food or Liquids



NO Clothing, Furniture or Carpet



NO Loose Plastic Bags, Bagged Recyclables or Film
Empty recyclables directly into your bin



NO Green Waste

To learn more, visit wm.com/recycleright. © 2025 WM Intellectual Property Holdings, LLC. The Recycle Right® recycling education program was developed based upon national industry practices. Please consult your local municipality for their acceptable materials and additional details of local programs, which may differ slightly.

- Crushed or flattened cups mimic 2D items and are sorted with other fiber materials.
- Uncrushed cups may initially follow the container line path, but optical sorters can still identify and recover them as fiber.

Ultimately, the system is designed to recover paper cups regardless of whether they follow a 2D or 3D sorting path. This ensures that cups are correctly sorted into paper bales and sent to mills for recycling.



Where Do Recycled Cups Go? What are the End Markets?

Paper Cups

Accepted by mills like Pratt, Smurfit WestRock, and Sonoco, recycled paper cups can be turned into:

- Cereal boxes
- Facial tissues
- Corrugated boxes
- New paper cups

Plastic Cups (PP)

Recycled plastic cups can be used to make:

- Paint cans
- Plastic lumber
- Pallets
- Crates
- Garden products

Tools like the Paper Mill Statement, the Recycling End Markets Interactive Map, and others provide transparency and insight into the growing network of recovery options across North America. Visit recyclefsp.org/end-markets to explore the data and see how recycling access continues to expand.

How Can We Work Together to Make Cup Recycling a Success in Your Community?

Great news! WM has already taken big steps to make recycling paper and plastic cups easier for your residents. We've updated Recycle Right website and educational materials to reflect this exciting change, including:

- Easy-to-understand posters and flyers
- Step-by-step guides on how to recycle cups properly
- Updates to local WM.com sites so residents get accurate, localized information

Visit <https://wm.com/recycleright> to explore and download the latest resources.

Here's how your city can help: Your municipal recycling website is one of the most important tools for educating residents. It's also used by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to determine whether items like plastic cups meet the national "widely recyclable" threshold and paper cups meet the "check locally" threshold.

Together, we can make recycling simpler, clearer and more impactful. Let's give paper and plastic cups a second life and give your residents the tools they need to do it right.



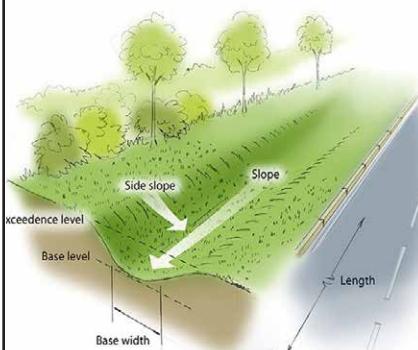
PRESERVING OUR TOWN

Why Swales Matter in Southwest Ranches

Dear Southwest Ranches Residents,

As part of our ongoing efforts to preserve the integrity of our community and ensure the efficiency of our public services, we'd like to remind all residents of the importance of maintaining your swale areas, especially when placing bulk trash out for collection.

- Swales play a critical role in managing stormwater runoff, preventing flooding, and protecting our environment. A well-maintained swale ensures proper drainage and helps keep our streets and properties safe during heavy rain.



- When placing bulk trash out for pickup, please place bulk items on the edge of your property, away from any drainage structures. If the area you typically use to place your bulk pile has been damaged either by the weight of the pile or the pick-up claw, please give the area a rest and move your pile to another location.
- Proper swale maintenance and responsible bulk trash placement help our crews work more efficiently and protect the natural beauty of Southwest Ranches. Your cooperation ensures that our drainage systems function properly and that our swales remain safe for equestrians and walkers.

If you have any questions or need further guidance, please contact the Public Works Department at (954) 343-7460 or email skutz@southwestranches.org.

Thank you for your continued commitment to keeping Southwest Ranches a wonderful place to live.



HB 279 - The Fostering with Dignity Act

Entering foster care is often one of the most traumatic experiences a child can endure. Leaving behind familiar surroundings, family members, and possessions can cause lasting emotional distress. For many, that pain is compounded when they are forced to pack their few belongings into trash bags, an act that can make a child feel disposable and stripped of dignity at a moment when they most need reassurance and care.

As former foster care youth and current Peer Advocate at the FLITE Center, Shanika Ramos explained, "To have to put my belongings, that I did everything I could to keep with me, in a trash bag made me feel like I was worth nothing but trash. I wasn't worth enough to be able to have suitcases and proper luggage for my belongings." Currently, many children

entering foster care face this same trauma and are forced to pack their belongings into trash bags, which can add to the emotional distress of leaving their home and reinforce feelings of worthlessness during an already traumatic time. This is why Senate Minority Leader Lori Berman and I have filed **SB 306/HB 279**, known as the **Fostering with Dignity Act**, to ensure that every child entering Florida's foster care system is provided with appropriate luggage for their belongings. By mandating the use of proper luggage, HB 279 seeks to provide children with a small but meaningful gesture of dignity, stability, and respect.

As 2025 comes to a close, I want to wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year. May the season bring warmth, kindness, and hope to all. 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@flhouse.gov or our office at (954) 872-1770. You can also reach me on my personal cell at (954) 668-3662.



MARTY KIAR
BROWARD
COUNTY
PROPERTY APPRAISER

MOBILE EXEMPTION EDUCATION TEAM
SOUTHWEST RANCHES TOWN HALL
13400 GRIFFIN ROAD, SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FL 33330

TO APPLY FOR A HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION, YOU MUST HAVE COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

For All Applicants:
 A valid Florida Drivers License OR Florida I.D. Card; AND
 Broward Voter Registration OR a Declaration of Domicile; Utility Bill AND
 Social Security Numbers of ALL owners.

For Resident Aliens:
 Permanent Resident "Green Card," OR proof of asylum, OR your INS I-485 letter showing that application to convert to permanent resident status is complete.

ADDITIONAL TAX EXEMPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE
Widow/Widower Exemption: Bring a copy of your spouse's death certificate, newspaper obituary, or memorial card.
Disability/Veteran's Disability Exemption: Ask us about the filing requirements for these exemptions.
Senior/Low-Income Exemption: Requires at least one owner be 65 as of January 1, 2026. Note: Husband or wife may file on behalf of both. (call for info on required documents)
See more exemptions listed at web.bcpa.net.

January 6, 2026
February 3, 2026
March 3, 2026
April 7, 2026
May 5, 2026
June 2, 2026 **10:30 AM - 12:00PM**
July 7, 2026
August 4, 2026
September 1, 2026
October 6, 2026
November 3, 2026
December 1, 2026

Meet with our specialists to assist with tax saving exemptions, sign up for Owner Alert, or to answer questions regarding your property.

BCPA STAFF WILL BE ON SITE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR YOUR PROPERTY NEEDS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
WEB.BCPA.NET
OR CALL: (954) 357-5579


@MARTYKIARBCPA



FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

Protect their lives. Preserve ours.



Great Wildflowers for Birds

Common name	Scientific name	Light	Bloom color	Bloom season	Soil moisture	Region	Value to birds
Wild columbine ¹	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Cloudy	Red	Spring	Moist	N	Nectar
Crossvine ²	<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Sun	Red, orange	Summer	Moist	N C S	Nectar
American beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	Cloudy	Pink	Summer	Moist	N C S	Fruit
Trumpet creeper	<i>Campsis radicans</i>	Sun	Red, orange	Summer	Moist	N C S	Nectar
Thistle ³	<i>Cirsium spp.</i>	Sun	Purple, pink	Summer	Moist	N C S	Seeds
Mistflower ⁴	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Cloudy	Blue, purple	Summer	Moist	N C S	Seeds
Tickseed (cover image)	<i>Coreopsis spp.</i>	Sun	Yellow, orange, red	Summer	Moist	N C	Insects, nectar
Purple coneflower ⁵	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Sun	Purple	Summer	Moist	N C	Insects
Coralbean	<i>Erythrina herbacea</i>	Sun	Red	Summer	Moist	N C S	Nectar
Firebush	<i>Hamelia patens</i>	Cloudy	Red	Summer	Moist	C S	Nectar, fruit
Sneezeweed ⁶	<i>Helenium spp.</i>	Sun	Yellow	Summer	Moist	N C S	Insects, nectar
Sunflower ⁷	<i>Helianthus spp.</i>	Cloudy	Yellow	Summer	Moist	N C S	Insects, seeds
Standing cypress ⁸	<i>Ipomopsis rubra</i>	Sun	Red	Summer	Moist	N C	Nectar
Blazing star ⁹	<i>Liatris spp.</i>	Cloudy	Purple	Summer	Moist	N C S	Insects
Cardinalflower ¹⁰	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Sun	Red	Summer	Moist	N C	Nectar
Coral honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Sun	Red	Summer	Moist	N C S	Nectar
Dotted horsemint ¹¹	<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Cloudy	Purple, pink	Summer	Moist	N C S	Insects, seeds
Beardtongue ¹²	<i>Penstemon spp.</i>	Sun	Purple, blue, yellow	Summer	Moist	N C S	Insects
Wild coffee	<i>Psychotria nervosa</i>	Cloudy	Yellow	Summer	Moist	C S	Fruit
Black-eyed Susan ¹³	<i>Rudbeckia spp.</i>	Sun	Yellow	Summer	Moist	N C S	Insects, seeds
Tropical sage ¹⁴	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	Sun	Red	Summer	Moist	N C S	Insects, seeds, nectar
Lyreleaf sage ¹⁵	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	Cloudy	Blue	Summer	Moist	N C S	Insects, seeds
Little false bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Sun	White	Summer	Moist	N C S	Seeds
Helmet skullcap ¹⁶	<i>Scutellaria integrifolia</i>	Sun	Purple	Summer	Moist	N C	Seeds
Goldenrod ¹⁷	<i>Solidago spp.</i>	Sun	Yellow	Summer	Moist	N C	Insects
Indian pink	<i>Spigelia marilandica</i>	Cloudy	Red	Summer	Moist	N	Insects
Stokes' aster	<i>Stokesia laevis</i>	Sun	Purple	Summer	Moist	N C	Insects
Germaner ¹⁸	<i>Teucrium canadense</i>	Cloudy	Purple	Summer	Moist	N C S	Seeds
Eastern gamagrass	<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	Cloudy	Red	Summer	Moist	N C S	Insects, seeds
Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium spp.</i>	Cloudy	Pink	Summer	Moist	N C S	Fruit
Frostweed ¹⁹	<i>Verbesina virginica</i>	Cloudy	White	Summer	Moist	N C	Seeds
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia spp.</i>	Sun	Purple	Summer	Moist	N C S	Nectar

For more information on plant selection, flower bloom and growing tips, visit www.FLWildflowers.org/planting.
Support provided by Florida Power & Light Company through its charitable arm, the NextEra Energy Foundation, and Audubon Florida. For information on birds, visit www.FLAudubon.org.

Wildflowers for Nectar

Hummingbirds gather nectar from wildflowers with tubular flowers. Many flowers produce fruit that other birds will eat.



Gardening tips

- Choose a diversity of wildflowers that bloom across the seasons.
- Include species of various heights.
- Cluster wildflowers in groups of 3 or more of each species.
- Leave space in your plantings for growth and movement.
- Include native trees such as oaks, black cherry, maples and pines that provide insects. Remember: Decomposing leaf litter used as mulch is also a source for insects.
- Add a birdbath to complete your bird sanctuary.

Wildflowers for Seeds and Fruits

Sparrows, warblers, finches, nuthatches, titmice, chickadees, cardinals and indigo buntings feed on seeds and fruits, as well as larger birds like thrashers, redwing blackbirds, bobwhites, doves, mockingbirds, catbirds and grosbeaks.

After wildflowers have bloomed, leave seedheads on the plants for birds. Other flowerheads may shatter, scattering seeds on the ground that attract smaller birds, such as finches.

- Thistle (*Cirsium spp.*)
- Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*)
- Tickseed (*Coreopsis spp.*)
- Coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*, *Rudbeckia spp.*)
- Sunflowers (*Helianthus spp.*)
- Wild coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*)
- Sage (*Salvia spp.*)
- Little false bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- Eastern gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*)
- Blueberry (*Vaccinium spp.*)
- Ironweed (*Vernonia spp.*)



Most birds feed insects to their chicks, and many insects visit wildflowers for nectar and pollen. Insect-eating birds include goldfinches, chickadees, titmice, cardinals, grosbeaks, wood warblers, blue jays, sparrows, thrashers, nuthatches, crows and mockingbirds.

Some great Florida wildflowers to plant for attracting insects are:

- Tickseed (*Coreopsis spp.*)
- Sneezeweed (*Helenium spp.*)
- Blazing star (*Liatris spp.*)
- Dotted horsemint (*Monarda punctata*)
- Beardtongue (*Penstemon spp.*)
- Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia spp.*)
- Sage (*Salvia spp.*)
- Skullcap (*Scutellaria spp.*)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*)
- Stokes' aster (*Stokesia laevis*)
- Germaner (*Teucrium canadense*)
- Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*)

© 2021 Florida Wildflower Foundation, Inc. Photos by Eleanor Dierich, Dara Dabson, Mary Kevin, Wayne Pritchett, Bob Peterson and Peg Urban. Cover photo by Christina Evans. Numbers correspond to species information on back of brochure.



Attracting Birds with Florida's Native Wildflowers

TAKE ACTION
Add wildflowers to your landscape now to help birds thrive!



Wildflowers for Insects and Caterpillars





BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE OCTOBER 9, 2025 TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING

- Adopted Resolution 2026-001 approving an Emergency Replacement of a Well Fire Pump and Controller for the Town Hall Fire Suppression System.

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE OCTOBER 23, 2025 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Resolution 2026-002 approving an agreement with All Water for water system regulatory and maintenance services.
- Adopted Resolution 2026-003 designating Administration Authority for Plats and Replats.

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.

RACHEL B. GREENE
1938-2025

Rachel B. Greene passed away
November 11, 2025.

Rachel was born in Valdese, NC but ultimately called Sunshine Ranches her home since 1974. She was an Elementary School Teacher for over 30 years in Miami Dade County and was active in the founding of becoming the Town of Southwest Ranches.

She will be missed by so many.

MARTY KIAR
BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

2026 Homestead Exemption

All qualified Florida residents are eligible to receive a Homestead Exemption on their homes, condominiums, co-op apartments, and certain mobile home lots. To qualify for Homestead Exemption, you must own and make the property your permanent residence on January 1 of the year for which you are applying for this valuable exemption. Pursuant to Florida law, all assessments and exemptions are based upon the status of the property on January 1. If you acquired the property as your permanent residence in 2025 and have not applied for Homestead Exemption, you can apply for 2026 exemptions at any time there is no need to wait until 2026 to file your exemption application. You can easily apply online at https://web_bcpa_net/bcpaclient/#/HomesteadExemption

The timely deadline to file for all 2026 exemptions is March 2, 2026. You must make the property your permanent residence by January 1, 2026 to qualify; however, you have until March 2 to timely file your application with our office. The late filing deadline for all 2026 exemptions is September 18, 2026.

Once approved, your Homestead Exemption automatically renews each year provided there is no change in the ownership or use of the property. **If you have already applied and been approved for Homestead Exemption at your current property, you do not need to reapply for this exemption.** You will receive a Homestead Exemption renewal card next month to keep for your records.

While Homestead Exemption is the most common exemption, there are additional exemptions available to qualified applicants. Here is the link to the all the additional exemptions for your review: https://web_bcpa_net/bcpaclient/#fHomestead

If you have any questions about Homestead Exemption or any other exemptions, please call 954.357.6830 or email me at martykiar@bcpa.net.

Take care,

Marty Kiar

Marty Kiar, JD, CFA

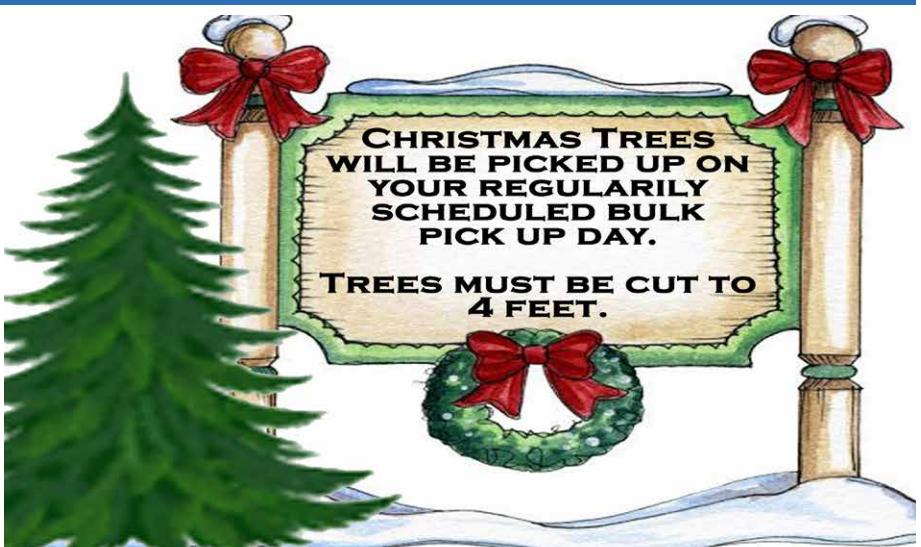




PHOTO BY: Debbie Green
"Only in Southwest Ranches"

December 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7pm • SWR Parks Foundation Meeting Town Hall 7pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CODE 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 	2	3	4	5	
	BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12	
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 11 - 4pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools & Education Advisory Board - Town Hall 7pm <p>JUDGING FOR HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST</p>	<p>AWARDS PRESENTED FOR HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST</p>	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm 	12	13
	BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	BULK ZONE 7	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12	
21	22	23	TOWN HALL CLOSED	24	TOWN HALL CLOSED	26	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56th St. 7pm 				27	
	BULK ZONE 1	BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK WILL BE	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6	
28	29	30	TOWN HALL CLOSED	31	SERVICED DECEMBER 29		
	BULK ZONE 7 & 4	BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9				



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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Janet Capo - December 4th
Jack Ancona - December 18th
Haley Navarro - December 29th
Violet Vollger - December 31st



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

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



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

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!



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

JANUARY 10, 2026 . 8:00 - 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 (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

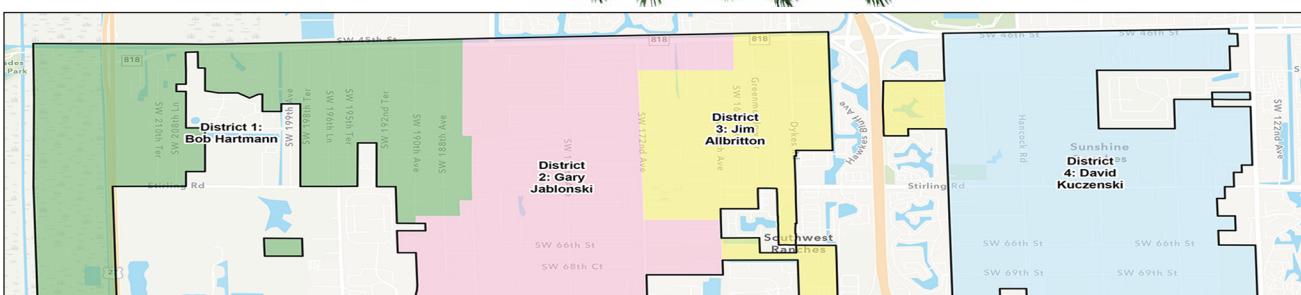
Appliances
Asbestos
Explosives or Ammunition
Medical/Infectious Waste
Non-Residential Waste



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Town Council

Legend

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



**VICE MAYER
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 seeks 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 Muniz at muniz@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.

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