

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Town Newsletter

*To our residents celebrating
Easter and Passover,
we wish you a joyful
and peaceful holiday.*

*Mayor Breithrews,
Vice Mayor Jablonski,
Council and
Staff*

"Curious Carla"

Photo submitted by Raquel Licata as
part of the Town of Southwest Ranches
Photo Contest.

APRIL 2026

IN TOUCH

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

TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday / 8:00 am - 5:30 pm • Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm • **TOWN WEBSITE:** www.southwestranches.org

YOUTUBE: Town of Southwest Ranches Official Channel • **FACEBOOK:** facebook@SWRGOV • **INSTAGRAM:** @townofswr

ELECTED OFFICIALS

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

TOWN STAFF

Russell Muñiz, *Town Administrator* (954) 434-0008
Kathryn Sims, *Deputy Town Administrator* (954) 343-7454
Danielle Caban, *Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator* (954) 343-7474
Anjali Seupaul, *Communications Coordinator* (954) 343-7475
Debra M. Ruesga, *Town Clerk* (954) 343-7451
Dan Stewart, *Deputy Town Clerk* (954) 343-7443
Jennifer McCarty, *Records and Administrative Coordinator* (954) 343-7469
Tom Holste, *General Services Manager* (954) 343-7476
Hector Rodriguez, *Administrative Assistant* (954) 434-0008
Emil C. Lopez, *Town Financial Administrator* (954) 343-7473
Christina Semeraro, *Town Procurement Officer* (954) 343-7467
Rich Strum, *Deputy Financial Administrator* (954) 343-7442
Arianna Durbeej, *Senior Accountant* (954) 343-7477
Keith Poliakoff, *Town Attorney* (954) 909-0580
Rod Ley, *Public Works Director* (954) 343-7444
Emily McCord Aceti, *Community Services Manager* (954) 343-7453
Susan Kutz, *Public Works Project Coordinator, Newsletter Editor* (954) 343-7460
Joyce Marques, *Engineering Inspector* (954) 343-7441
December Lauretano-Haines, *Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director* (954) 343-7452
Gilbert Ceballos, *Parks and Recreation Program Facilitator* (954) 343-7468
Mayuli Betancourt, *Administrative Assistant* (954) 343-7465

TOWN SERVICES / BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING – (CAP GOVERNMENT)

Simo Mansor, *Building Official* (954) 343-7448
Jeremie Bennett, *Assistant Building Official* (954) 343-7448
Derlin Guevara, *Permit Technician* (954) 343-7446
Maria Perez, *Permit Technician* (954) 343-7445

PLANNING

Jeff Katims (954) 554-8894

ZONING/PERMITTING

Julio Medina, *Community Development/Code Compliance Director* (954) 343-7458

CODE COMPLIANCE

Julio Medina, *Community Development/Code Compliance Director* (954) 343-7458
Manfred Velette, *Assistant Code Compliance Director* (954) 343-7440
Code Compliance Hotline (954) 343-7449
Concepcion Campos, *Code Compliance Officer* (954) 343-7457
Yirgllhis Hernandez, *Code Compliance Officer* (954) 343-7459
Ismail Rashid, *Code Compliance Officer* (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, *Detective* (954) 693-8290
Carlos Grave de Peralta, *Police Civilian Coordinator* (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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druesga@southwestranches.org
dstewart@southwestranches.org
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tholste@southwestranches.org
hrodriguez@southwestranches.org
elopez@southwestranches.org
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rstrum@southwestranches.org
adurbeej@southwestranches.org
keith@govlawgroup.com
rley@southwestranches.org
eaceti@southwestranches.org
skutz@southwestranches.org
jmarques@southwestranches.org
dlauretano@southwestranches.org
gceballos@southwestranches.org
mbetancourt@southwestranches.org

M-F 8:30 am - 4:00 pm CLOSED 12 pm - 1 pm
Simo.Mansor@BureauVeritas.com
Jeremie.Bennett@BureauVeritas.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

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.sbddd.org

A MESSAGE FROM



Mayor
Steve Breitkreuz

A WORKSHOP FOR THE EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY.

In February of this year, I published an article here in the Rancher proposing a workshop for the equestrian community. At the time I wanted to gauge interest and also, at the time the article was published, I did not yet have a date for the proposed workshop. Well, I am excited to pass along that there was significant interest in the idea, and we now have a specific date for the workshop. That date is March 31st, at 7:00 PM, at Town Hall, 13400 Griffin Road.

Just in case you missed the previous article, let me recap the goals for this meeting. I would say that they are three-fold. First, I would like to get feedback on our multi-use equestrian trails. We will have visuals in place where you will be able to see where our current trails are, where our currently proposed trails are and the gaps between them. When we talk about trails, I am looking for feedback on where it would be best to expand our trail network. Also, there may be trails that are in place that no longer make sense and if that is true, I would like to hear that feedback as well.



“When we talk about trails, I am looking for feedback on where it would be best to expand our trail network. Also, there may be trails that are in place that no longer make sense and if that is true, I would like to hear that feedback as well.”

Second, I want to discuss safety for our equestrian riders. I would like to hear your ideas on what needs to be done to make our trails safer, encouraging more riders to actually use our trails. If our riders don't feel safe, all this effort will come to nothing. So, this discussion on safety is just as important as the trail network itself.

Finally, I want to spend some time hearing your feedback firsthand on your vision for Southwest Ranches as an equestrian community. How would you like to see the Ranches in 5 years, 10 years, or 50 years? I want to capture that vision so that we can begin to put together a long-range plan where we can all work together to make that vision into a reality.

When my daughters were young, my middle daughter, Hannah, spent much of her days caring for and riding horses. Occasionally, she would break down and let her dad ride along with her and her friends. Those were special days that I will never forget. While I enjoy riding, I would not say I was an equestrian. But this is part of the fabric of who we are as a community. It has been from that very beginning. I believe that it is critical that we preserve and promote our equestrian community as one of the central elements of who we are as a Town.

Whether you are a casual rider, a true equestrian, or just someone that enjoys a world that values our animals and particularly our horses, I hope that you will consider joining us on the evening of March 31st, at 7:00 PM. I believe that this will be a key opportunity to help form our Town going forward.

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

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

A MESSAGE FROM



Vice Mayor
Gary Jablonski

Let's take a moment to discuss RECYCLING incentives in our Town.

Did you know that our Town through the efforts of our Residents, Administration, Mayor, Council, and Staff is one of the leading recyclers in our county? Yes, you read that correctly our Town has more recycling projects than any other municipality in Broward. Our residents have regular landfill trash green plastic cans that are emptied twice a week. In addition, we should all have at least one of the yellow lid re-cycle containers that are emptied once a week. (Residents may request at no charge more than one re-cycle container please call Town Hall.) In addition, we have a free to the residents, a composting pilot program (free

this year only).

Four times a year a Hazardous Material program is held at the Rolling Oaks Barn. Residents can drop off old tires, electronics, light bulbs, paint, old prescription drugs, etc. The only thing not accepted is commercial waste like roofing materials, concrete, etc. We also have household shredding up to 4 "banker boxes" per household (that gets recycled).

Our Vegetative Bulk pickup unfortunately goes to the landfill, but we are working on that situation with our hauler WM. Speaking of WM, they have just recently opened up their new mega recycling facility next to the old one on Pembroke Road off of US 27. I had the opportunity to tour the plant and it is amazing what they have built to recycle all the household waste that can be recycled, serving five counties in South Florida. This facility is state-of-the-art technology that WM is replicating elsewhere in our State. If you have the chance to tour the facilities, take it, it's a real eye-opening experience.



The Zero Waste Board is working on starting a contest between the four districts of our Town to see which district recycles the most. It should be interesting to see the outcome of that contest. I also want to mention for those residents who are unaware, our Bulk pickup contract includes the pickup of household "white goods." This category includes old refrigerators and freezers (with the doors removed for safety). Hot water heaters, old carpeting, old stoves, furniture, etc. If you have a question as to whether an item fits that category, please call Town Hall for guidance.



Speaking of Town Hall, we really practice what we preach. Single use plastics have been eliminated from everyday use, native plants and xeriscaping are used where possible. When it comes to all the paper generated by the various departments all of it is recycled, here are some statistics that show the volume of paper we recycle at Town Hall. Our yearly paper volume is about **8.2 TONS (which is recycled)**, that saves on average **135 trees**, **57 thousand gallons of water**, **4 thousand gallons of oil** and removes **24.6 cubic yards of landfill space**. Not bad for our Town of less than 8 thousand residents. Familiarize yourself and your family with simple guidelines for recyclables and

landfill trash. Our Town does a good job at recycling and hopefully we will get even better. Thank you!

It's my Honor to Serve You, GARY

A MESSAGE FROM

GOOD DAY SOUTHWEST RANCHES



Council Member
Jim Allbritton

I am delighted to announce the Town of Southwest Ranches is hosting our **First Veterans Social Café** this Memorial Day.

**Monday, May 25th
10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**

**Southwest Meadows Sanctuary Park Pavilion
16020 Griffin Road, Southwest Ranches, FL 33331**

We invite all Veterans and their families to join us for coffee and light continental breakfast items as we come together to honor and remember the sacrifices made by our service members.

Event Highlights:

- Color Guard Presentation and the singing of the National Anthem
- Remarks from our Town Officials to commemorate the service of our Veterans
- **Keynote Speaker:** Mike Miskew, Presentation Manager for the South Florida Honor Flight Group, will share insights about the Honor Flight program and speak with Veterans about their involvement
- Ample parking, shaded seating, and restrooms available at the new pavilion for your comfort

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Town of Southwest Ranches and Ms. December for their dedication in making this event a reality.

Calling All Veterans! If you are a Veteran or know someone who has not yet shared their contact information with us, please send the following details:

- **Name**
- **Address**
- **Phone Number**
- **Email Address**

Contact us at jallbritton@southwestranches.org or dlauretano@southwestranches.org, or call 305-903-7043 or 954-343-7452.

We'd be honored to include you in this special gathering. We hope to see you there!

For questions or more information, feel free to reach out to the contact emails and phone numbers listed above.

A MESSAGE FROM



**Council Member
David S. Kuczenski, ESQ.**

Howdy Ranchers,

The name April originates from the Latin word *aperire*, meaning “to open,” referring to the season when flowers and buds open in spring, symbolizing rebirth and new growth. Romans called the month *Aprilis*, and while *aperire* is the most accepted origin, some theories link it to the Greek goddess Aphrodite (Venus) or Etruscan roots. It became a popular given name in English-speaking countries in the late 19th/early 20th century.



This month the Sikh Youth Association will host the 8th Annual Unity in Diversity 5K Run and Walk through part of the Rolling Oaks Community. The Run/Walk event will require the partial closure of SW 178th Avenue during the run is planned from around 7 am until around 10 am. If you live in the areas

where the road will be closed, please make travel accommodations to include your plans. The awards for first, second and third will be presented following the event. Our very own Uncle Louie Gregory, who always gives entertaining presentations, will announce the awards. This is slated to be a great event for Unity in Diversity.

As your Council Member from District 4, my goal is to preserve Southwest Ranches' unique rural lifestyle and minimize any changes to it. Together, let's protect and maintain what makes our community special. I also strive to return all phone calls within 24 to 48 hours. My cell phone is 305-815-0990. If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me. It has been an honor to serve you on the Council.

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

SHOW YOUR TOWN SPIRIT

SWR stickers are available at
Town Hall
13400 Griffin Road
for \$1.00

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...
Madison Mansur - April 5th

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*



Front Cover: Happy Easter and Passover

Page 2: In-Touch - Town Contact Info

Page 3: Mayor's Message

Page 4: Vice Mayor Jablonski

Page 5: Council Member Allbritton

Page 6: Council Member Kuczenski, SWR Stickers - Show Your Town Spirit, Birthday Wishes

Page 7: Empowered Partners LYFT Transportation Program, Unity in Diversity, i9 Sports Registration, Word Search

Page 8: Upcoming Events: Wings Over Ranches, Food Festival, Photo Contest

Page 9: Best Protection is Flood Insurance, HQE Emergency Alert System, WM Quick Access

Page 10: Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permits, Photo Contest Entry Form, Reflective Address Markers

Page 11: Illicit Discharge into Storm Drains, Tree Trimming, Being Hurricane Prepared

Page 12: Representative Robin Bartleman, Turn Waste into Gold, Zero Waste

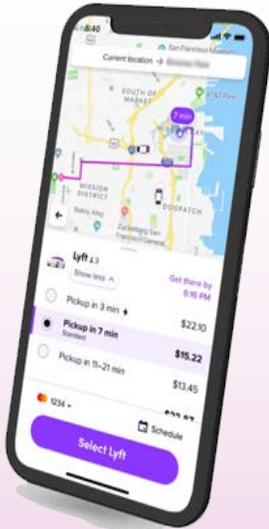
Page 13: Bring Back the Pollinators: Part 1 - Grow Pollinator-Friendly Flowers

Page 14: Marty Kiar, Clerk's Corner, Town Talk, Stay in Touch with Engineering

Page 15: April Town Calendar, Recycle Right and Sustainability, Farmers Market

Back Cover: Council and Districts, April School Calendar, HHW Event, Follow us on Social Media

Empowered Partners lyft Transportation Program



Through our partnership with United Way in the Empowered Partners program, eligible older adults can be connected to transportation services through Lyft at no cost to them, for rides up to \$50 roundtrip. Older adults can attend medical appointments, social activities, and other essential engagements.

As an agency, we can schedule rides for older adults in advance (concierge) or provide them with a unique code for rides to use on their own Lyft app.

To be eligible, the older adult must be 60 years of age and older, resident of Broward County, and experiencing a transportation barrier that limits their ability to travel freely in their own vehicle.

For more information call **954.745.9779** or go to www.adrcbroward.org/transportation-resources



Top Male Female winners will get pair of shoes
Top 2nd and 3rd Male / Female will receive Gift Cards

8TH ANNUAL UNITY IN DIVERSITY 5K RUN/WALK

SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH, 2026, 7:30 AM

**USATF
Certified
Course**

ROLLING OAKS PARK
17630 SW 56 ST
Southwest Ranches, FL, 33331

TO BENEFIT THE TOWN SCHOLARSHIP FUND
www.thesikhouthassociation.org/ / (561) 445 - 7987

Spring

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

BIRDS	CALF	GARDEN	LAMB	SNAIL
BLOSSOM	CATERPILLAR	GRASS	NATURE	SPRING
BUGS	CHICKS	HATCH	NEST	SPROUT
BUNNY	FLOWERS	INSECTS	RABBIT	TULIP
BUTTERFLY	FROG	LADYBUG	ROBIN	WORM

SPRING SPORTS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY LEAGUES

Flag Football, Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Volleyball

- Organized programs for boys and girls ages 3-15
- Age appropriate instruction for each division.
- Coaches background checked and certified.
- All skill levels welcome. No tryouts!
- One day per week! Practice held before game.

Hurry To Secure Your Child's Spot!

The Way Youth Sports Should Be®

SPRING SEASON BEGINS APR 2026

i9sports.com

954-437-0089

@i9sports143

@i9sports143

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE

Each location independently owned and operated.

UPCOMING EVENTS

UPDATED INFORMATION WILL BE IN THE
MAY TOWN NEWSLETTER

PHOTO

14TH ANNUAL



CONTEST

SUBMIT BY SEPTEMBER 9TH
TO SKUTZ@SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG

SOUTHWEST RANCHES Food Festival



EVERY FIRST
TUESDAY OF
THE MONTH
4pm - 9pm

APRIL 7th

THE BEST GOURMET
FOOD TRUCKS

16290 Griffin Road
Southwest Ranches FL 33331

Proceeds benefit the Aster Knight
Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation

WINGS OVER THE RANCHES

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

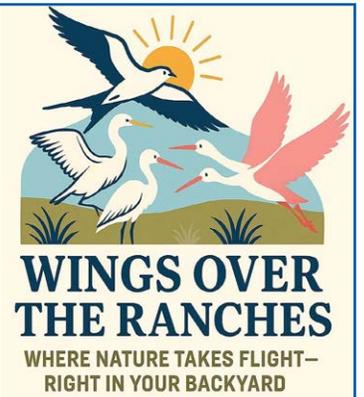
Southwest Ranches sits on the edge of the Everglades, one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in North America. Our Town is a part of the seasonal corridor used by migratory birds and is a year-round home for native species.

Join Council Member 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

- 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!



The Best Protection Is Flood Insurance

WHO SHOULD HAVE FLOOD INSURANCE? Flooding is usually not covered by a standard homeowner's insurance policy. If there is the slightest risk of flooding, a property owner should have flood insurance. Homeowners, businesses, and renters can purchase flood insurance on any building and its contents, even outside of the mapped floodplain.

WHO MUST HAVE FLOOD INSURANCE? Flood insurance is required for all building located in a mapped floodplain if they are financed by federally backed loans or mortgages.



WHO SELLS FLOOD INSURANCE? Any licensed insurance agent can sell you a policy. Private sector flood insurance may also be available.

NOT IN A MAPPED FLOOD ZONE? It makes no difference where your building is located in the mapped floodplain or shown on a floodplain map. Federal flood insurance is available to **anyone** who lives in a community participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In fact, 25% of all claims are paid outside of the mapped floodplain!

PROTECTED BY A LEVEE OR DAM? Flood control structures can and do fail. The failure can be by overtopping or collapse. For this reason, having flood insurance is a good idea. In many cases, flood insurance is cheaper on buildings behind a flood control structure.

WHAT ABOUT DISASTER ASSISTANCE? Federal disaster assistance is often only a small amount. In addition, disaster assistance is often a loan which can cost many times more than the cost of a flood policy.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit www.floodsmart.gov

HQE SYSTEMS
REGISTER NOW
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

The graphic features a dark background with bright purple and white lightning bolts. In the center, there are two white signal waves. The text is in bold, white and red fonts.

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



QUICK ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS TO TRACK AND GET INFORMATION ABOUT BULK, GARBAGE AND RECYCLE SERVICES.

PLEASE VISIT THE TOWN WEB SITE: WWW.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG

- Click on Town Resources, Garbage and Recycling.
- Once the page opens click on solid waste, bulk waste, and recycling service lookup.
- Once this page opens, type in your address on the top right-hand corner where it says find address or place.

This will show your bulk trash, garbage and recycling service days by month and day, your zone, Council Member, Council Districts and District you live in.

WM IS HERE FOR YOU.

To improve customer service, residents of Southwest Ranches have a special email address to reach WM (Waste Management): southwestranches@wm.com, southwetranches@wm.com

FILL, EXCAVATION AND SITE GRADING PERMITS

Any activity or project involving fill, excavation, dredging, or grading will change the topography of a property. The changes in elevation warrant the need for a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit. This requirement is in accordance with Chapter 4, Code of Ordinance of the Town of Southwest Ranches. Elevation change can affect the conveyance of stormwater as well as altering drainage patterns inside and adjacent to the property. As a result, it is essential for the Town of Southwest Ranches and the respective Drainage District to be able to review and monitor such activities.

There are three levels of Fill Permits - Level One, Level Two, and Level Three. The level is determined by the amount of fill being brought in and the size of the property the fill is being brought to. Please note that one large truck of fill is approximately 18 cubic yards.

Some examples of activities that require a permit include the construction of a berm or retaining wall, excavation to create a pond, site grading, impacting wetlands, and filling in low areas. Please note that fill will not be allowed in any surface water management areas or within the swales in the Town's right of way.

Fill material brought in shall not contain any pollutants or toxic chemicals as they will contaminate the land and ground water. Fill material that is not sufficiently permeable is also not recommended.

There are exceptional cases where it will not be necessary to obtain a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit. Projects with an active development permit such

as the construction of a new home, residential addition, pool and deck, etc., will not require a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit. Routine maintenance activities such as fill for an existing horse arena or stall, tree planting or removal, and water well repair will also not require a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit. Please note that properties that have Agricultural Exemption are not exempt from the requirements of a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit for material brought in.

For more information please view the application for a Fill, Excavation and Site Grading Permit at <http://www.southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/development-permits-2/> or call Joyce Marques at 954-343-7441.

Amount of Fill (CY)	Property Size (Acres)			
	Up to 2 Acres	Over 2 but not more than 5 Acres	Over 5 but not more than 10 Acres	Over 10 Acres
Cubic Yards (CY)				
Up to 36 CY (2 trucks)	Level 1	Level 1	Level 1	Level 1
>36 CY up to 72 CY	Level 2	Level 1	Level 1	Level 1
>72 CY up to 144 CY	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	Level 1
>144 CY up to 288 CY	Level 3	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
>288 CY up to 360 CY	Level 3	Level 3	Level 3	Level 2
Over 360 CY	Level 3	Level 3	Level 3	Level 3

TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CAPTION FOR PHOTO: _____

I UNDERSTAND, ACKNOWLEDGE, AND AGREE THAT THE SUBMISSION OF PHOTOGRAPHS TO THE TOWN CONSTITUTES A "WORK MADE FOR HIRE," AND I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO THE WORK AND THE WORK PRODUCT, INCLUDING MORAL OR OTHERWISE. THIS STATEMENT SHALL CONTROL OVER THE PROVISIONS OF 17 U.S.C. SECTION 106A(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 106A(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 continuuwsang 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) _____

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**



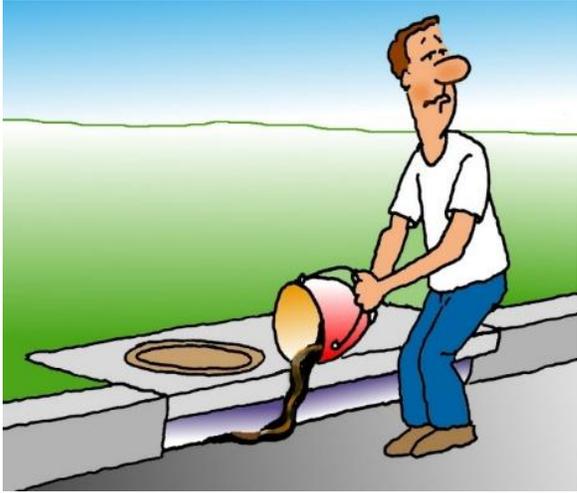
Make check payable to:

Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue

17220 Griffin Rd., Southwest Ranches 33331

Information call: Chief Bennett: 954-868-2057

ILLICIT DISCHARGE INTO STORM DRAINS



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

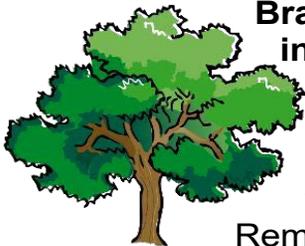
The pouring or inadvertent flow of chemicals, oils, paints, and any other hazardous materials can result in negative consequences to the surrounding environment as well as poses a health risk. Other hazardous materials include motor oil, anti-freeze, mercury, thermometers, pesticides, and herbicides. Common sources for illicit discharge include leaking containers, vehicle related accidents, improper fueling, illegal disposal, and improper maintenance.

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

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



TREE TRIMMING AND BEING *Hurricane Prepared* TAKE STEPS NOW.



Branches can pose serious problems for your home, car, roadways and innocent bystanders.

Take the proper precautions to properly prune and trim trees on your property:

- Trim trees and shrubbery regularly by cutting weak branches and thinning foliage to decrease the chance that plants will be uprooted.
- Remove limbs resting on your roof.

• Do not attempt to trim any vegetation growing on or near overhead power lines. Only specially trained line-clearing professionals should work around powerlines.

• Please refrain from trimming trees once a hurricane watch has been posted as the trimmings may become projectiles during the storm.

• Residents without experience using a chain saw should seek professional assistance, or the assistance of someone familiar with operating the equipment.



Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to reaffirm our commitment to protecting children and ensuring our child welfare system works as it should. This session, I passed HB 47: Specific Medical Diagnoses in Child Protective Investigations, to strengthen our child protection system while ensuring families are

protected from wrongful child removals caused by medical misdiagnoses. HB 47 is narrow in scope and addresses a serious but specific problem – medically complex children. During committee hearings, we heard from parents whose lives were turned upside down after bringing their infants to the ER for care. Diana Sullivan brought her 11-week-old daughter to the ER for a swollen thigh, she was accused of abuse, and her infant and children with no injuries were removed from her care. It took her 19-months of separation from her children and paying \$300,000 in legal fees to obtain a second opinion. That second opinion confirmed that her daughter had Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, a condition referenced in the initial Child Protection Team report but not fully investigated. Sara Michler faced a similar ordeal. Wrongly accused of shaken baby syndrome, she spent 11 months and nearly \$100,000 fighting to regain custody of her child, missing irreplaceable milestones along the way. These stories highlight an

important truth: medically complex children require medically informed investigations. A child wrongfully removed from a loving home suffers real harm. Certain medical conditions, including Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, osteogenesis imperfecta (brittle bone disease), rickets, and vitamin D deficiency, can cause symptoms that mimic signs of abuse. Under current procedures, when a child is found with unexplained injuries, parents do not have a clearly defined right to seek a second medical opinion after a removal. Parents deserve that right.

HB 47 is narrow in scope and strengthens, not weakens, child protective investigations. The bill authorizes a parent or legal custodian, after a child is removed, to request a second medical opinion and establishes clear timelines for that review. It creates a structured process for addressing conflicting diagnoses and requires the Department of Children and Families to promptly request a review of relevant medical records when a qualifying condition is identified.

Child Protective Investigators play a vital role in keeping Florida's children safe. This legislation ensures that when medically complex conditions are involved, we incorporate appropriate medical expertise and due process into the process. No one should be afraid of a second opinion. Protecting children means getting it right.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at Robin. Robin.Bartleman@flhouse.gov, our office at (954) 872-1770, or on my personal cell at (954) 668-3662.

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.



TRASH TALK: ZERO WASTE ADVISORY BOARD EDITION



- Southwest Ranches Zero Waste Advisory Board Logo reveal
- Please join us on a tour of the new WM Recycling Facility on Saturday, April 18th. Contact Dan Stewart at Town Hall to sign up
- Let's continue to follow zero waste strategies to promote a clean Earth this Earth Day on April 22nd
- First Quarter Recycling Contest results coming soon



FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP**

Protect their lives. Preserve ours.



Bring Back The Pollinators: Part 1 - Grow Pollinator-Friendly Flowers

(<https://xerces.org/bring-back-the-pollinators/grow-pollinator-friendly-flowers>)



Plants form the foundation of good habitat for most insects, including pollinators. Flowering native plants provide the nectar and pollen that pollinators eat, the vegetation that butterfly caterpillars feed on, and nesting resources for many bees. Growing the right flowers, shrubs, and trees is the foundation of your pollinator habitat.



Why Flowers Matter

Habitat loss is one of the main reasons that pollinators are struggling. Natural areas have been built over and turned into roads, industrial zones, farmland, neighborhoods, and more. What habitat is left is often fragmented into small, unconnected pieces, which makes it harder for wildlife to find the resources they need, and puts them at risk when traveling between fragments. By growing native flowering plants in towns, cities, parks, community gardens, and farms, you can bring back some of the habitat that's been lost! Even a small patch of wildflowers in your balcony or yard can make a huge difference. Pollinator plantings can also connect isolated habitat fragments, helping wildlife move around more safely.

Use plants native to your region

Numerous studies have shown that native plants support more pollinators — both more species and greater numbers of bugs — and other invertebrates than non-native plants.

Pick a diversity of plants and bloom times

Build a mix of plants that will keep flowering from spring into fall. Different pollinator species emerge at different times of year, and good pollinator habitat will provide food for them all season long. Spring flowering plants are particularly important for emerging bumble bee queens, and late summer flowering plants provide resources for newly hatched queens who are about to overwinter.



Right plant, right place

Make sure you select plants that will grow well at your site.

Consider sun exposure, wind, water availability, and soil type. If you are using a planter, you can choose a potting soil that matches the plants you'd like to grow, or use sand, perlite, pebbles, and other mix-ins to adjust the soil you already have.



Avoid cultivated, ornamental plants in your pollinator habitat

Double-flowered hybrids or other ornate varieties often produce little or no pollen or nectar. Also, many pollinators use visual cues to identify flowers; those identifying patterns can be lost if plants are bred with a different color.



by Debra Ruesga

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE FEBRUARY 12, 2026 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

- Adopted Ordinance 2026-002 Creating Section 3.4 of the Town's Code of Ordinances Entitled "Non-Native Species Protection".
- Adopted Resolution 2026-026 approving an Agreement with the City of Sunrise for Water Services for 5500 SW 145th Avenue.

BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE FEBRUARY 26, 2026 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING:

- Adopted Ordinance 2026-003 amending the "Indoor and Outdoor Assembly" Regulations.
- Adopted Ordinance 2026-004 amending the "Noise Ordinance" - Construction Hours.
- Adopted Resolution 2026-027 approving an Agreement with BRJ Restoration for Construction of a Multi-Purpose Storage Unit.

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.

PROTOTYPE BARN



In furtherance of the Town's goal of preserving its rural lifestyle, the Town Council has given residents a simpler mechanism to build a barn that is in compliance with Florida statutory requirements. As such, the Town contracted with an architect who agreed to create a prototype barn drawing, in compliance with the Florida Building Code, which can be permitted for residents throughout the Town. The plans are for a three stall barn with a tack room.

A Town resident looking to build a barn can simply purchase a pre-drafted architectural plan from the Town, which they then can submit, at a reduced cost, and on an expedited basis, to get a permitted barn that will be in compliance with both state and local regulations.

Please call or email Emily Aceti for more information: eaceti@southwestranches.org.



MARTY KIAR
BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER



QUALIFYING FOR THE LIMITED-INCOME SENIOR EXEMPTION - DOES YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY COUNT?

To qualify for the 2026 Limited-Income Senior Exemption, an applicant must be 65 years or older as of January 1, 2026 with a combined household adjusted gross income not exceeding \$38,686 for 2025. Many seniors believe they do not qualify for this exemption because their social security payments exceed this amount; however, applicants who file income taxes should look at their adjusted gross income amount (line 11 on the IRS 1040 form) to see if they do qualify for this additional savings. If you are not required to file an income tax return based on your age and income, you would qualify for this exemption. To apply for the additional Limited-Income Senior Exemption, please visit our website at web.bcpa.net and click on "Exemptions & Classifications".

If you are already receiving the Senior Exemption and have not moved to a new home, your exemption will automatically renew for the 2026 tax year unless you notify our office that you no longer meet the income threshold.

BCPA'S TAX ESTIMATOR - AN ONLINE TOOL TO HELP YOU PLAN FOR YOUR NEW HOME

While the Property Appraiser's Office does not set or collect taxes, we know the importance of understanding what the property taxes will be on a new home. Before purchasing your new home, you can estimate what the property taxes will be using your purchase price and the current tax rates available. It is important to understand that this tool is simply an estimate and does not include any non-ad valorem fees associated with the property. The non-ad valorem fees are shown on the property's previous tax bill or TRIM Notice also available online.

If you currently own a home with Homestead Exemption, you can also estimate the taxes on a new home using any portability you may have on your current home.

Both the Tax Estimator and Portability Estimator are available online at web.bcpa.net under the "Online Tools" tab.

If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please call us at 954-357-6830 or email me directly at martykiar@bcpa.net.

Take care,

Marty Kiar

Marty Kiar, JD, CFA



TOWN TALK *a way to stay in touch with the Town*



Would you like to receive emails about what is happening in the Town?

Send your email address to: Druesga@southwestranches.org



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



PHOTO BY: Matthew Morris
 "Cows Jump Over the Moon
 and Chickens Jump Over
 Sheep to Sleep"

APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1  PASSOVER Begins at Sundown	2 • Public Safety & Traffic Committee - Town Hall 7pm	3 	4 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
BULK ZONE 3			BULK ZONE 4		BULK ZONE 5	
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 HEARING Town Hall 9am • BCPA Office - Town Hall 10:30 - 12:30pm Monthly Southwest Ranches Food Festival - Meadows Sanctuary Park 16020 Griffin Road 4-9pm • Zero Waste Advisory Board - Town Hall 7pm	8 • Zero Waste Broward Task Force Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	9 PASSOVER Ends at Sundown • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm	10	11 • 19 Youth Sports Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 8 - 1pm HHW Event 8 - 2pm Shred-a-thon 8 - 2pm Drug Drop Off 10 - 2pm Rolling Oaks Barn -17630 SW 56th St. • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
BULK ZONE 7		BULK ZONE 8		BULK ZONE 9		BULK ZONE 10
12 • 19 Youth Sports Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 8 - 1pm • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 11 - 4pm	13 • Schools & Education Advisory Board -Town Hall 7pm	14 • Parks, Recreation Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	15 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	16 • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	17	18 • 19 Youth Sports Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 8 - 1pm • WM Recycling Facility Tour with Zero Waste Advisory Board 10 - 12pm • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
BULK ZONE 1		BULK ZONE 2		BULK ZONE 3		BULK ZONE 4
19 • 19 Youth Sports Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 8 - 1pm • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 11 - 4pm	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 • 19 Youth Sports Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 8 - 1pm • 8th Annual Unity in Diversity 5K - Rolling Oaks Park 17630 SW 56th St. 7:30am • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
BULK ZONE 7		BULK ZONE 8		BULK ZONE 9		BULK ZONE 10
26 • 19 Youth Sports Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 8 - 1pm • 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 • Flamingo Greenway Public Workshop - Town Hall 5:30 - 7:30pm		
BULK ZONE 1		BULK ZONE 2		BULK ZONE 3		BULK ZONE 4

RECYCLE RIGHT AND SUSTAINABILIY

Spring gardening tip:



Empty black plastic plant pots don't go in your curbside recycling bin. Reuse or return them to your local home garden center's take back programs.

THE SOUTHWEST RANCHES COMMUNITY

Farmer's Market

NEW SEASON begins Sept 20
Open every Saturday AND Sunday

SATURDAY: 10AM - 3PM
SUNDAY: 11AM - 4PM

FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE

16290 Griffin Rd., SW Ranches, FL



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

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US POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI, FL
PERMIT
#622

Printed on Recycled Paper

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!



SCAN QR CODE
TO VISIT US AT
WWW.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG



BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOL CALENDAR				
APRIL				
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	

FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD
SCHOOLS AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED

MONDAY, APRIL 6TH
EMPLOYEE PLANNING - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH
REPORT CARDS ISSUED

TUESDAY, APRIL 28TH
INTERIM REPORTS ISSUED

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE,
ELECTRONICS & BULK
DROP OFF EVENT**

Saturday, April 11, 2026
8:00am - 2:00pm

Rolling Oaks Barn
17630 SW 56 Street, Southwest Ranches, FL 33331

Document shredding from 8am-2pm
Prescription drug drop off 10am-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 HHW Items
Aerosol Cans, Antifreeze/Coolant/Paint Batteries: Home and Vehicle Batteries BBQ & Camp Size Propane Cleaners Fluorescent Tubes/Bulbs Garden Chemicals Paint: Latex and Oil Based Pesticides Pool Chlorine Tires (Up to 4 per household, no rims) Used Oil and Filters	Computers, Cables, DVD Players, Keyboards, Mice, Adapters, Monitors, Printers/Scanners, Radios, Stereo Components, TV's, Tape Players, VCRs	Appliances Asbestos Explosives or Ammunition Medical/Infectious Waste Non-Residential Waste

For more information, please contact 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

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

COUNCIL MEMBER BOB HARTMANN	VICE MAYOR GARY JABLONSKI	MAYOR STEVE BREITKREUZ	COUNCIL MEMBER JIM ALLBRITTON	COUNCIL MEMBER DAVID S. KUCZENSKI

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 Martin at rmartin@townofswranches.org or call 954-434-0008 so that we can provide a solution or provide the information in an accessible format. If you use auxiliary 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 are experiencing, 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.

Map is Not to Scale
Date: 12/22/2022
RE Florida Technical Consultants