

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Town Newsletter



Spring is Here

FIRST VETERANS
SOCIAL CAFÉ
Monday, May 25th
see page 7

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
*A Day for all Hearts
That Make a Home*

HAPPY CINCO DE MAYO

MEMORIAL DAY GRATITUDE
see page 5

MAY 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](https://facebook.com/SWRGOV) • **INSTAGRAM:** @townofswr

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	(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. 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
Anjali Seupaul, <i>Communications Coordinator</i>	(954) 343-7475
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
Lina Logreira, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 343-2535
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 Durbiej, <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
Isabel McNulty, <i>Agricultural Liaison</i>	(954) 358-2550

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
Marisol Tammero, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446
Maria Perez, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7445

PLANNING

Jeff Katims	(954) 554-8894
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ZONING/PERMITTING

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

Julio Medina, <i>Community Development/Code Compliance Director</i>	(954) 343-7458
Manfred Velette, <i>Assistant Code Compliance Director</i>	(954) 343-7440
Code Compliance Hotline	(954) 343-7449
Concepcion Campos, <i>Code Compliance Officer</i>	(954) 343-7457
Yirglhis Hernandez, <i>Code Compliance Officer</i>	(954) 343-7459
Ismail Rashid, <i>Code Compliance Officer</i>	(954) 358-2540

WASTE/BULK/RECYCLING SERVICES

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY	911
Non-Emergency	(954) 764-4357 (HELP)
Davie Police Department	(954) 693-8200
Eddy Velazquez, <i>Detective</i>	(954) 693-8290
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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gceballos@southwestranches.org
mbetancourt@southwestranches.org
imcnulty@southwestranches.org

M-F 8:30 am - 4:00 pm CLOSED 12 pm - 1 pm
Simo.Mansor@BureauVeritas.com
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irashid@southwestranches.org

lbennett@southwestranches.org

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

velazquez@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

The newsletter is mailed to approximately 2,800 residents, with additional copies available at Town Hall.

A MESSAGE FROM

“Recent TSDOR Repavement”



Mayor
Steve Breitkreuz

I recently received a call from two separate residents. (First, thank-you for the call to alert me to your concerns.) Both calls were in relation to the difficulty that we have at certain times during the day just west of two significant intersections on Griffin Road. One is west of Dykes Road and the other is west of Bonaventure Boulevard. In both cases, traffic can cause the same issue where the residential streets that empty onto Griffin Road are blocked completely by vehicles on Griffin Road. This creates significant frustrations and could escalate.

So, I have been working with the administration to partner with Broward County to assist us in either putting up signs (“Do Not Block Intersection”) or painting Griffin Road itself at these locations with a similar message. Currently, I do believe that we will be able to accomplish these permanent solutions, but until then, we are using our mobile message signs to communicate that message.

The second item is the general condition of our roads. About 10 years ago I proposed a plan to repave all our roads over a 25-year horizon. That plan was called TSDOR “Transportation Surface and Drainage Ongoing Rehabilitation,” and it was adopted by the Town. Initially, we budgeted about \$500,000 a year for this project based on the initial consultant evaluation. After a few years, we realized that this was not going to be sufficient, and we have been slowly increasing the amount. Recently, we had a new evaluation done, and it appears that to keep up, this amount will need to be increased to about \$1.5 million each year. Fortunately, we are receiving about \$500,000 from the County penny sales tax that was passed a number of years back, so the Town’s burden will be about \$1 million each year.

“It is critical that we fund TSDOR, to minimize the potholes. Certainly, the repairs of those potholes also draw from our overall budget.”



It is critical that we keep pace with our roads. As the roads continue to deteriorate, they become more expensive to repair. It is the old, “you can pay a smaller amount now or a larger amount later” message. There is another related issue, that is the overall condition of our roads, specifically, the proliferation of potholes. It is critical that we fund TSDOR, to minimize the potholes. Certainly, the repairs of those potholes also draw from our overall budget.

Recently there were some posts on Facebook regarding potholes. Here is the message I want to convey. *There is not an automatic communication line from Facebook to Town Hall, or the Mayor for that matter. So, this post sat out there for days before I saw it. At that point, I contacted the administration and it was taken care of. If you see a pothole that needs repair, please call Town Hall directly.*

There is no penalty and it is a very quick call. To report potholes, contact the Town Public Works Department at (954) 343-7441 or email publicworks@southwesttranches.org. That will allow us to get it on the repair list as promptly as possible so we can keep our roads as safe as possible.

If you still run into issues, please don’t hesitate to contact me, 954-296-6018. But if you don’t want immediate action or you just want to unload on the Mayor, then definitely, Facebook is a great option! Just kidding, but please consider calling Town Hall or sending an email, so that we can keep our roads as safe as possible, and address issues as quickly as possible. 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@southwesttranches.org; X@SteveBreitkreuz

A MESSAGE FROM



**Council Member
Bob Hartmann**

Community Police Academy: A Hands-On Opportunity for Southwest Ranches Residents

The Davie Police Department's Community Police Academy (CPA) is an excellent initiative that offers Southwest Ranches residents, along with their families and neighbors, a valuable opportunity to engage with law enforcement. This 12-week academy, open to both residents and business owners in Davie and Southwest Ranches, is designed to foster understanding, trust, and collaboration between our community and the officers dedicated to serving us.

Having recently completed the program, I witnessed firsthand its positive impact. Alongside fellow residents, students from Nova Southeastern University exploring law enforcement careers, and local leaders keen to understand the role of the Davie PD, I learned about the department's robust capability to investigate and address criminal activity while maintaining strong ties with county, state, and federal law enforcement resources.

A Program with Transparency and Real-World Experience

The CPA meets every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. at the Davie Police Department's Community Room on Nob Hill Road. Participants receive direct learning experiences from the officers involved in various functions, including patrol operations, investigations, traffic enforcement, K-9 deployments, and specialized units like the Motors and Dive Teams.

What sets this academy apart is its interactive approach. Participants engage in activities that include:

- Ride-alongs with patrol officers, providing a firsthand look at how calls are managed and how officers work to maintain community safety.
- Scenario-based training, simulating real-life situations that challenge participants to think critically and make quick decisions.
- Firearms familiarization and weapons safety instruction, where participants can safely handle and fire police-issued equipment under professional supervision.
- Interactive presentations covering essential topics such as legal issues, crime prevention strategies, use of force policies, DUI enforcement, and investigative methodologies.

The Davie PD effectively highlights these experiences on social media, showcasing residents actively learning and building relationships with the officers serving our area. These platforms emphasize a critical message: a well-informed community contributes to heightened safety.

Benefits for Southwest Ranches Families

While primarily designed for adults, the academy provides benefits that resonate throughout the entire household:

- Parents acquire practical tools for discussing safety, responsible decision-making, and ways to interact confidently with law enforcement.
- Residents enhance their awareness, enabling them to identify suspicious activities and better understand how to report concerns, thus contributing to the safety of our rural neighborhoods.
- Neighbors gain insight into policing, which helps dispel misconceptions and strengthens the partnership between our community and the Davie Police Department, which provides our

contracted law enforcement services.

Numerous graduates express that the academy has significantly shifted their perceptions of policing, giving them a greater appreciation for the professionalism, training, and decision-making skills required of officers. This understanding ultimately enriches the community of Southwest Ranches, where engagement and cooperation among neighbors are essential parts of our identity.

Creating a Stronger, Safer Community

The Davie PD's commitment to community policing, youth outreach, and trust-building is clearly reflected in its social media presence. The Community Police Academy serves as one of the most effective avenues to experience this commitment up close. Participants emerge with a clearer understanding of police operations, the reasoning behind specific procedures, and how residents can effectively partner with law enforcement to uphold the safety and security of our rural lifestyle.

Southwest Ranches thrives on volunteerism and civic engagement, making the Community Police Academy a natural and beneficial fit. It empowers residents with knowledge, fortifies relationships, and reinforces the shared responsibility we all have in maintaining the safe and close-knit community we value.

How to Participate

The 59th Community Police Academy is planned for this fall and will be scheduled soon. To apply or request more information, please contact Lt. Jason Rivera at Jrivera@davie-fl.gov or call 954-693-8302.

I am always here to help! Please call me at 954-801-1758 if you have any questions or concerns about town issues, or if you'd like to chat.



Small actions can make a BIG impact. Join the movement and take the pledge to reduce waste, recycle



Take the Pledge

As a resident or business owner in Broward County, I pledge to:

1. Create less waste in my daily life
2. Recycle correctly
3. Reuse and repurpose as many items as possible
4. Support the work the Authority is doing to decrease our dependency on the landfill and waste-to-energy facility

Working together, we can:

- Stop 62% of our waste from ever reaching the landfill or waste-to-energy facility
- Increase our recycling rate
- Stabilize the long-term cost of processing and disposing of our waste

Solid Waste Disposal and Recyclable Materials Processing Authority of Broward County

1 North University Drive, Plantation, FL 33324
Mailing Address: PO Box 15256, Plantation, FL 33318

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We remember the heroes who gave their lives for our freedom.

They gave all their tomorrows so we could have today.

MEMORIAL DAY

*** REMEMBER & HONOR ***

Their sacrifice endures.
Their memory lives forever.

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

For information call Chief Bennett: 954-868-2057



A MESSAGE FROM



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

Howdy Ranchers

The month of May is named after the Roman goddess Maia, it is characterized by blooming flowers, agricultural growth, and significant holidays like Memorial Day and Cinco de Mayo.

Since before our Town was created, our area has been widely known as a haven for our horses. A horse is even featured on our Town logo. Horses are the backbone of our town. Last month, we held a workshop to listen to resident input regarding the horse trails around our Town. The discussion centered on discussing existing trails, proposed trails,



and expansion of future trails. I believe that enhancing our existing horse trails are essential to keeping our Town's character. By way of comparison, many years ago, Plantation formerly was the home for horses much like Southwest Ranches is today. Unfortunately for Plantation, uncontrolled development pushed

the horse families out. It was not sudden. It happened slowly, kind of like a zoning decision going a certain way that adversely affected an equestrian related business, a business requesting a waiver of growth management regulations that made it increasingly difficult to ride. After a while, it became too burdensome for a family to own horses in that city. This thought all too frequently haunts me. This is why I believe we need to transition from preserving our horse culture to promoting our horse culture. This is such a critical issue to me that I am supporting creating a temporary resident advisory board to analyze the layout of existing trails and suggest planning and recommending future horse trail locations. If this is something you may be interested in working with, reach out to me (305-815-0990) or one of my colleagues for an appointment to the advisory board.

"This is why I believe we need to transition from preserving our horse culture to promoting our horse culture."

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**



Front Cover: Happy Mother's Day - Memorial Day Gratitude

Page 2: In-Touch - Town Contact Info

Page 3: Mayor's Message

Page 4 - 5: Council Member Hartmann, Memorial Day Gratitude. Solid Waste Authority, Reflective Address Markers

Page 6: Council Member Kuczenski, Contents

Page 7: Council Member Allbritton

Page 8: Photo Contest and Entry Form, Wings Over the Ranches

Page 9: Meet our Agricultural Liaison, i9 Sports, Emergency Alert System (HQE), Empowered Partners LYFT Transportation Program, Compost Program Stats

Page 10 - 11: Flood Safety: Know Your Risk

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

Page 13: Bring Back the Pollinators: Part 2

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

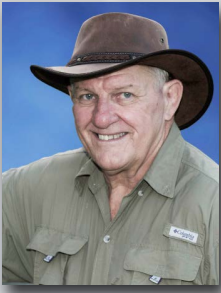
Page 15: May Town Calendar Tree Trimming and Being Hurricane Prepared, Farmers Market

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



A MESSAGE FROM

GOOD DAY SOUTHWEST RANCHES



Council Member
Jim Allbritton

I am very much looking forward to meeting ALL our Southwest Ranches Veterans on Memorial Day at our First Veterans Social Café.

Please come and help make this a very special day.

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 Gold Star Families, Military, Veterans and First Responders and their families to join us for breakfast as we come together to honor and remember the sacrifice 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

14TH ANNUAL TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES PHOTO CONTEST

Let your creativity take flight and share the beauty of Southwest Ranches through your camera or phone.

This year's theme, "Wings Over Southwest Ranches," invites you to showcase everything that makes our community special

- Animals we love
- Stunning sunsets
- Summer fun
- Eye-catching landscapes
- Town events
- Vibrant gardens in bloom
- Joyful moments in our community and more.

We want to see what Southwest Ranches means to you.

Submit your best photo for a chance to be featured in the Towns 2026-27 Calendar.

Submission Deadline: September 9th, 2026
Email photo to: Skutz@southwestranches.org



Hosted by the Southwest Ranches Zero Waste Advisory Board

NOTICE: RESCHEDULED

 Saturday, May 23, 2026 |  1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

 Southwest Ranches Community Farmer's Market

16290 Griffin Road, Southwest Ranches

Join us as we celebrate sustainability and simple actions that make a big impact in our community.

EVENT ACTIVITIES



Sneaker Donation Drive

Bring your old sneakers to be reused or recycled with **Sneaker Impact**.



"Thing Swap"

Trade gently used items with neighbors and give them a second life.



Plastic Bag Exchange

Bring single-use plastic bags and swap them for a reusable bag (while supplies last)

Small Changes. Big Impact.

Help Southwest Ranches continue working toward a more sustainable, zero waste future.

With Special
Guests:

Filthy
ORGANICS



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) 4701 Hawks Bluff Avenue
- **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!





Let's Welcome Our New Agricultural Liaison Isabel McNulty

My name is Isabel McNulty and I am the new Agricultural Liaison for Southwest Ranches. It's a joy and privilege to be in this role and I am looking forward to serving the Town!

I graduated from the University of Florida in 2023 with a degree in Business Administration and a specialization in Agricultural Operations Management.

My experience includes working on an organic regenerative farm in North Florida and serving as an Agricultural Research Technician with the UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center. I later continued in this role at the UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center after relocating to South Florida.

Upon learning about Southwest Ranches, I immediately connected with the Town's mission to preserve its rural lifestyle. I am committed to supporting that mission by helping residents engage in agriculture and maintain the community's agricultural heritage. My role focuses on:

- Connecting residents with resources and guidance for agricultural projects
- Promoting agricultural education
- Maintaining registries of services that support local agriculture
- Connecting residents with programs that encourage agricultural participation
- Collaborating with the Town's zero-waste initiatives

It's an honor to help you in your agricultural endeavors. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact me at 954-358-2550 or imcnulty@southwestranches.org.



SWR Resident Compost Program Stats

Community Impact Update

18,004 lbs diverted!

This is the total weight we have collected from you so far.

118 Seedlings Planted!

From a greenhouse gas equivalency standpoint your composting efforts are equivalent to 118 urban tree seedlings grown for 10 years.

17,860 miles of offset!

Your composting efforts are equivalent to not driving 17,860 miles. Whoa!

810 gallons of gas!

The number of gallons of gasoline offset by diverting food scraps from the landfill.





REGISTER NOW

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

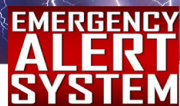
@i9sports143



SCAN TO LEARN MORE



REGISTER NOW



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

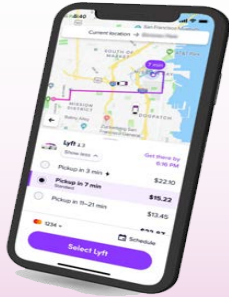
Sign up for HQE Systems to be certain that you are among the first to know about an: evacuation order, weather warning, hazardous road conditions and other notices requiring your immediate attention and/or action.

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

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 (conierge) 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







FLOOD SAFETY: KNOW YOUR RISK

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

flames unless you know the gas has not built up. Make arrangements to turn off your electricity and gas.

To sign up to be notified via voice message, text and email for important public safety information during a storm visit <http://southwestbranches.org/rapid-notify/> and Broward.org/Emergency/Pages/AlertBroward.aspx.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ADVICE

If your home or business is damaged by a flood, you may be required to meet certain building requirements to reduce further flood damage by coming into compliance with local, state, and federal criteria. To help with these costs, financial assistance such as grants, loans, rebates and the NFIP's Increased Cost of Compliance Coverage may be available. For assistance regarding financial assistance options, please contact the Town's Engineering Department at (954) 434-0008, Broward County's Mitigation Coordinator at (954) 831-3900 or visit Disasterassistance.gov.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM CHANGES

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

GET A FLOOD INSURANCE POLICY

Replacing household contents damaged by floods could place a significant financial burden on a homeowner or renter without flood insurance. Just a few inches of water from a flood can



cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Homeowner's insurance policies do not generally cover damage from floods. However, because the Town of Southwest Ranches participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy from an insurance agent and benefit from the premium discount available to all Southwest Ranches residents. Flood insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded previously. Please note that unless there is a special condition of the mortgage, there normally is a 30-day waiting period between the time flood insurance is purchased and the time coverage is in force. Though all home and business owners in these areas with mortgages from federally regulated or insured lenders are required to buy flood insurance, all residents should consider flood insurance to protect against significant financial losses.

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

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

Elevation Certificate Information

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

WATER QUALITY AND FLOOD CONTROL EFFECTS OF DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

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

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

PROTECT PROPERTY FROM FLOODING

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

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

BUILD RESPONSIBLY

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

Please be advised that any new development or improvement on a property will be subject to current Town regulations and may also be subject to state and federal regulations. Please contact the Southwest Ranches Building Code Ser-

vices Division at (954) 434-0008 for specific information and to report unpermitted construction activities.

FLOOD RISK SPECIALIST AVAILABLE TO ASSIST RESIDENTS

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

LOCAL FLOOD HAZARDS

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

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

Since portions of Southwest Ranches have been designated as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), it is advisable to check the interactive map viewer to see the location of your property with respect to the SFHA. Visit <http://southwestranches.org/departments/town-engineering/flood-insurance-information/> and select Flood Maps. You could also get flood hazard information for your property by calling (954) 434-0008 and providing your address and zip code.

PROTECT NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS

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

*Source: Broward County Flood News,
Summer 2018,*

Volume 24, Issue 1



May is National Military Appreciation Month

This month is a time to honor those who have served our country and recognize the sacrifices made by their families. This session, the House passed legislation to better support Florida's veterans. We expanded access to dental care by strengthening

the Veterans Dental Care Grant Program through **HB 253**, helping veterans who do not qualify for federal dental benefits receive essential services. I was proud to cosponsor **HB 199**, which improves access to veterans treatment courts that offer rehabilitation-focused alternatives for veterans facing mental health or trauma-related conditions. Finally, we addressed housing insecurity through **HB 1481**, which creates incentives for landlords to rent to veterans, helping reduce homelessness.

I'm also excited to highlight a community initiative supporting veterans' health. The **Florida Mission of Mercy Veterans First Initiative** will provide free dental care to veterans beginning on **May 14, 2026**, at the **Prime Osborn Convention Center in Jacksonville, Florida**. To register, visit FLAMOM.org.

As we recognize National Military Appreciation Month,

we reflect on how we can continue to support those who have given so much in service to our nation. I also want to wish you a meaningful Memorial Day. On this day, we honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, and we remain committed to supporting the families they left behind.

For those seeking support, resources are available.

- **Broward County Veterans Services:** Broward.org/veterans - (954) 357-6622

- o They provide assistance with benefits eligibility and filing VA claims.

- **Mission United:** Unitedwaybroward.org/mission-united - (954) 486-4833

- o Led by **United Way Broward**, this resource connects veterans and their families to employment, education, and more.

- **Veterans Crisis Hotline:** 988 (then press 1)

- o The hotline provides 24/7 confidential support to veterans and their families.

- **William "Bill" Kling Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic:** (954) 475-5500

- o The clinic provides primary care and specialty services, including cardiology, mental health support, and more.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at 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 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



- Congratulations to District 3, our 1st Quarter 2026 recycling contest winner. Let's all Recycle Right and give them some competition for the second quarter of 2026!

- Town's International Day of Zero Waste has been rescheduled for Saturday, May 23rd 1PM - 3PM at the Farmers' Market (Southwest Meadows Preserve)

- The Zero Waste Advisory Board looks forward to working with the Zero Waste Consultants to implement zero waste strategies in Southwest Ranches



FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Bring Back The Pollinators: Part 2 - Provide Nest Sites

(<https://xerces.org/bring-back-the-pollinators/provide-nest-sites>)



Pollinators need more than just pollen and nectar to eat. To thrive, they need places to take shelter and raise their offspring! North America's native bees build their nests in the soil, dead wood, hollow plant stems, or cavities in trees and rock walls. Butterflies and moths lay their eggs on plants and trees called "host plants," which provide food and shelter to their caterpillars. Some butterflies and moths lay eggs on a variety of plant species, but others specialize on just a few, or even just one plant.



Why Nest Sites and Shelter Matter: What You Can Do

To keep pollinators coming back year after year, they need support during all their life stages, including eggs and larvae. Many urban development and landscaping practices don't provide nesting sites or shelter. Ground-nesting bees are rarer in towns and cities, likely because there is very little bare soil for them to nest in. By adding nesting sites, you are upgrading your habitat from a pollinator rest stop into a real home!



1. Leave bare soil

Ground-nesting bees — the majority of the 3,600 species in the US — need access to bare earth. Thick layers of mulch, lawns, and paved surfaces often found in towns and cities reduce nesting habitat for these bees. Consider mulching with compost instead of wood bark mulch — it has many of the same aesthetics, weed suppression, and water retention properties as mulch, yet allows for nesting and improves your soil!

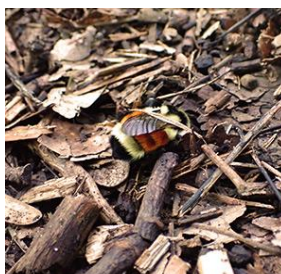


2. Save the stems

Leave the stems of perennial plants alone over fall and winter, then cut them knee high once spring has warmed up. Plants with pithy stems, such as raspberries, provide excellent habitat for small carpenter and other cavity-nesting bees.

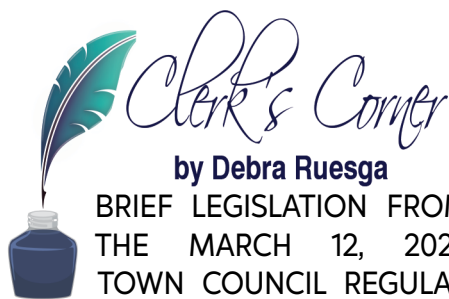
3. Build a brush pile and keep dead trees

Allow dead trees to remain in your landscape and add fallen branches or logs to your habitat areas. Some pollinators will nest inside the wood itself, while others love to burrow underneath.



4. Leave the leaves

A layer of leaves is vital insulation from the cold for many pollinators and other beneficial insects. Leave the leaves where they fall or rake them around shrubs or to a corner of the yard. You will experience a more diverse wildlife community come spring!



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

- Adopted Resolution 2026-028 Approving an Agreement with Broward County to receive \$587,890 for Design & Construction of Turn Lanes on Dykes Road.
- Adopted Resolution 2026-029 Approving a Purchase Order to Kimley Horn Totaling \$68,215 for Design of the Grant Funded Turn Lanes on Dykes Road.
- Adopted Resolution 2026-030 Rescinding resolution No. 2024-034 and Approving a Water Services Agreement with Pembroke Pines for 14251 Mustang Trail.
- Adopted Resolution 2026-031 Providing an Amended and Comprehensive Fee Schedule for Event Permit Fees.
- Adopted Resolution 2026-032 Entering into an Agreement with Broward SOE for Municipal Election Services.
- Adopted Resolution 2026-033 Amending Resolution No. 2026-009 to Correct May Meeting Dates in the Approved Town Council Meeting Schedule for 2026.

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

- Adopted Resolution 2026-034 approving an Agreement with Abbe & Associates for Zero Waste Consultant Services.
- Adopted Resolution 2026-035 approving an Agreement RES FL Consulting LLC for Implementation of NPDES.
- Adopted Resolution 2026-036 approving funding agreement with Broward County Surtax for \$485,358 to resurface roads in Green Meadows.
- Adopted Resolution 2026-037 approving Change Orders 1-6 with East Coast Builders for the Southwest Meadows Sanctuary Park Pavilion Project.

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



MARTY KIAR
BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER



LEGAL SURVEYS – PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

Owners are not required to file surveys with our office -- unless they are seeking to split or combine parcels -- so we very rarely see copies of legal property surveys. Property owners should have a copy of their legal property survey in the closing documents when they purchased the property. This survey defines the property's boundaries, legal description and any easements or restrictions to help resolve any property line disputes and can be used for any permitting requirements.

COPIES OF DEEDS ARE PUBLIC RECORDS & AVAILABLE FOR FREE ONLINE

We often hear of mailings aimed at Broward County property owners offering to provide the owner with a copy of their deed or previously recorded document. The company will provide this service for a fee; however, most documents are available online for free.

Deeds and many other important documents are available online on Broward County's Records' website and linked from the property record page. To search for a recorded deed on our website, simply search for the property record and click on the blue "Book/Page or CIN" number located under "Sales History for this Parcel" on the property record page. This will link you to the recorded document in Broward County Records where you can print a copy of the document at no cost.

Deeds recorded prior to January 1, 1978 and recorded deeds utilizing social security numbers must be ordered in person or by written request to County Records. To search for documents recorded with Broward County Records, please visit County Records' website and select your search criteria. Documents matching these criteria will be displayed and you can print a copy of the selected document. Broward County Records Division may be reached at 954.831.4000 should you need additional assistance.

EXEMPTIONS EXPRESS – BCPA VIRTUAL VISITS

Customer service remains our number one priority, and we are committed to providing you with convenient and comprehensive service. If you would like to schedule a virtual visit with a BCPA team member, you can schedule a date and time that is convenient for you using Exemptions Express. Our staff is available to provide information about tax-saving exemptions or answer any questions you may have related to your property. There is also an event calendar showing where our representatives will be in the community assisting property owners.

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



MartyKiarBCPA
@MartyKiarBCPA

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: Mike Green
"Sunflowers are like friends;
they bring warmth and
happiness into our lives"

MAY 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 • CODE Hearing Town Hall 9:30am	2 • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
3 • I9 Youth Sports Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 8 - 1pm • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 11 - 4pm	4 • Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7pm	5  • CODE HEARING Town Hall 9am • BCPA Office - Town Hall 10:30 - 12:30pm • Zero Waste Advisory Board - Town Hall 7pm	6	7 • Public Safety & Traffic Committee - Town Hall 7pm	8 BULK ZONE 5	9 BULK ZONE 6 • I9 Youth Sports Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 8 - 1pm • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
10  • I9 Youth Sports Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 8 - 1pm • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 11 - 4pm	11 BULK ZONE 7 • Schools & Education Advisory Board - Town Hall 7pm	12 BULK ZONE 8 • Parks, Recreation Forestry & Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	13 BULK ZONE 9 • Zero Waste Broward Task Force Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	14 BULK ZONE 10 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm	15 BULK ZONE 11	16 BULK ZONE 12 • I9 Youth Sports Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 8 - 1pm • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
17 • I9 Youth Sports Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 8 - 1pm • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 11 - 4pm	18 BULK ZONE 1 • Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	19 BULK ZONE 2 • Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	20 BULK ZONE 3 • Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	21 BULK ZONE 4 • Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	22 BULK ZONE 5	23 BULK ZONE 6 • I9 Youth Sports Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 8 - 1pm • INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO WASTE held at Southwest Ranches Community Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 1 - 3pm
24 • I9 Youth Sports Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 8 - 1pm • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 11 - 4pm	25 BULK ZONE 7 MEMORIAL DAY TOWN HALL CLOSED First Veterans Social Cafe - Southwest Meadows Sanctuary 16020 Griffin Rd. 10 - 11:30 am	26 BULK ZONE 8 • Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56th St 7pm	27 BULK ZONE 9 • Tentative FLOW DMV EVENT - Town Hall 10 - 2pm <u>appointment only</u> • Sunshine Ranches HOA ZOOM 7 - 9pm	28 BULK ZONE 10 • TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm	29 BULK ZONE 11	30 BULK ZONE 12 • I9 Youth Sports Country Estates Park 18900 Griffin Rd. 8 - 1pm • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
31 BULK ZONE 1						

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.

• Hire a Licensed and Insured Certified Arborist





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

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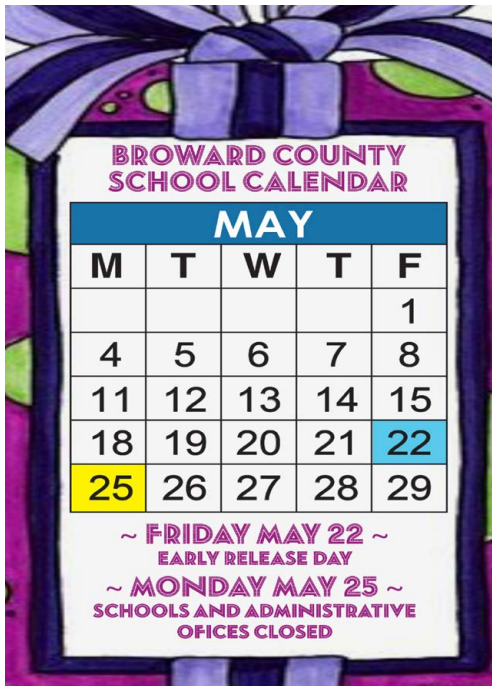


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YouTube
YouTube:
Town of Southwest Ranches
Official Channel

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



**BROWARD COUNTY
SCHOOL CALENDAR**

MAY				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

~ **FRIDAY MAY 22** ~
EARLY RELEASE DAY

~ **MONDAY MAY 25** ~
**SCHOOLS AND ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICES CLOSED**

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

Saturday July 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 Huns at rhuns@townofswr.com 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.

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