

SOUTHWEST RANCHER

The Official Town Newsletter

hello ♡
AUGUST

**BUDGET
WORKSHOP &
HEARING DATES**

see page 9

2026

**PHOTO CONTEST
SUBMITTALS DUE
September 9th**

see page 8

BACK
to
School
AUGUST 17TH

AUGUST 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://www.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

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gjablonski@southwestranches.org
jallbritton@southwestranches.org
bhartmann@southwestranches.org
dkuczenski@southwestranches.org

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
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 Durbeej, <i>Senior Accountant</i>	(954) 343-7477
Keith Poliakoff, <i>Town Attorney</i>	(954) 909-0580
Rod Ley, <i>Public Works Director</i>	(954) 343-7444
Emily McCord Aceti, <i>Community Services Manager</i>	(954) 343-7453
Susan Kutz, <i>Public Works Project Coordinator, Newsletter Editor</i>	(954) 343-7460
Joyce Marques, <i>Engineering Inspector</i>	(954) 343-7441
December Lauretano-Haines, <i>Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director</i>	(954) 343-7452
Gilbert Ceballos, <i>Parks and Recreation Program Facilitator</i>	(954) 343-7468
Mayuli Betancourt, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	(954) 343-7465
Isabel McNulty, <i>Agricultural Liaison</i>	(954) 358-2550

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rley@southwestranches.org
eaceti@southwestranches.org
skutz@southwestranches.org
jmarques@southwestranches.org
dlauretano@southwestranches.org
gceballos@southwestranches.org
mbetancourt@southwestranches.org
imcnulty@southwestranches.org

TOWN SERVICES / BUILDING DEPARTMENT PERMITTING – (CAP GOVERNMENT)

Luis Hernandez, <i>Building Official</i>	(954) 343-7448
Marisol Tammoro, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7446
Maria Perez, <i>Permit Technician</i>	(954) 343-7445

M-F 8:30 am - 4:00 pm CLOSED 12 pm - 1 pm
Luis.Hernandez2@BureauVeritas.com
swrinspections@southwestranches.org
swrinspections@southwestranches.org

PLANNING

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

ZONING/PERMITTING

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

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

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mvelette@southwestranches.org

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

WASTE/BULK/RECYCLING SERVICES

WM (Waste Management)	(954) 974-7500
REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS – Chief Bennett	(954) 868-2057

lbennett@southwestranches.org

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

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

TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY SERVICES

Potholes and Signs Down – Public Works	(954) 343-7441
Illicit Discharge – Environmental Response Line:	(954) 519-1499

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

OTHER

MOSQUITO CONTROL	(954) 765-4062
LOST AND FOUND ANIMALS	(754) 224-0877
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)	

[Facebook@SWRLostandFoundAnimals](https://www.facebook.com/SWRLostandFoundAnimals)
www.centralbrowardwcd.org
www.sbddd.org

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

A MESSAGE FROM

Mayor
Steve Breitkreuz



Welcome to the apex of our South Florida summer! I hope that either you have already had a chance to get away and relax or have some time planned in the not-too-distant future.

I wanted to take a moment to provide a brief update on the equestrian plan that we are working on to develop and enhance the equestrian trails here in Town. As I mentioned in my previous article, while the goal is to develop these trails across the Town, our initial effort has been to develop them in Sunshine Ranches. We will then move west until we complete the trails across the entire Town.



Kathy Cox, along with other residents of Sunshine Ranches, have provided input and based on this input we have developed a preliminary plan. Russell Muniz, our Town Administrator has been instrumental in helping to prioritize the different elements so that we can get as much in place as possible on a very minimal budget.

In the early Fall, we will be planning another townwide workshop so all residents can see the progress we've made and provide input on areas that still need work or adjustment. Once the date for the meeting is determined, I will help get the word out. If you want to be

sure that you are notified, you can go to the Town website, www.SouthwestRanches.org, and type "Town Talk" in the search bar at the very top of the page. Then select the

registration option and enter your email. That way you will be sure to hear about this event once it is scheduled.

I am very excited about this effort. I believe that it is key to enhancing our town as a rural equestrian community and will help to protect our open spaces for generations to come. 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

THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES CLOSES ON A LANDMARK \$ 16 . 8 MILLION PUBLIC- PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (“ P 3 ”) WITH FRP HOLDINGS, LLC

***DEAL ELIMINATES ALL OF THE TOWN’S DEBT, SECURES
FUNDING FOR A NEW PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY, AND ENSURES
A PERPETUAL REVENUE STREAM FOR THE FUTURE***

Southwest Ranches, Fla. - The Town of Southwest Ranches is proud to announce the \$16.8 million closing on its 24-acre industrial property located near Sheridan Street and SW 196th Avenue with FRP Holdings, LLC (“FRP”). This innovative P3 with FRP is a historic moment for the Town, making it one of only five municipalities in the state to become entirely debt-free.

In 2016, the Town purchased the property from Corrections Corporation of America through the use of a revenue bond, which consolidated all of the Town’s outstanding debt.

On June 2, 2022, the Town Council approved a P3 agreement to sell the property for \$16.8 million, securing a continuing revenue stream of 6% of net rental revenues, as well as a 3% return on all future sales. With the closing, the Town will pay off the remaining \$6.2 million balance on its bond while retaining more than \$10 million in surplus funds.

In addition to making the Town entirely debt free, a rare feat among Florida municipalities, the net proceeds, along with a \$900,000 state-sponsored grant, will fund the acquisition of property and the construction of a new state-of-the-art public safety facility that is better located to serve all Town residents.

“This is a landmark achievement for Southwest Ranches,” said Mayor Breitkreuz. “By eliminating our debt while securing a permanent revenue stream and a new public safety facility, we have laid the foundation for long-term financial stability, as well as our health and safety, for generations to come.”

A MESSAGE FROM Council Member Bob Hartmann



On July 7th, a group of our neighbors visited WM's new South Florida MRF, which gives Southwest Ranches a nearby, high capacity recycling partner that can process our town's entire annual recycling (560 tons) in about nine hours, and it directly supports Broward County's new Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Master Plan and Authority direction.

WM'S NEW FACILITY AND WHY IT MATTERS FOR SOUTHWEST RANCHES

WM's South Florida Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Pembroke Pines is a major regional upgrade that improves the odds our recyclables are recovered rather than landfilled or incinerated. **Southwest Ranches recycled 560 tons last year, which is about 22% of the town's total solid waste, and the MRF can process that annual volume in roughly nine hours,** a useful way to visualize the facility's scale and throughput.



WHAT THE FACILITY ACCEPTS AND HOW IT HELPS RESIDENTS

The MRF is built to sort the materials most of us put in the yellow-topped green or blue recycling bin: **cardboard and mixed paper; aluminum and steel cans and bottles; PET and HDPE bottles; polypropylene containers; mixed rigid plastics; and glass.** Advanced optical sorters and AI systems reduce contamination and improve end-result quality, meaning more of what you recycle **becomes new products** and fewer loads are rejected. For residents, that translates into more reliable recycling service and better value for municipal recycling programs.

HOW THE FACILITY ALIGNS WITH BROWARD COUNTY DIRECTION

Broward County's new **Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Master Plan** frames the county's direction around a **zero waste lens, diversion from landfills and incinerators, leveraging economies of scale, and harmonizing services across municipalities.** The Master Plan emphasizes expanding recycling access, improving education and outreach, and coordinating investments in regional processing capacity, all goals the Pembroke Pines MRF helps realize. The Master Plan and the creation of a regional Solid Waste Authority are explicitly intended to unify municipal efforts, leverage shared infrastructure, and increase diversion.

What This Means for Southwest Ranches' Zero Waste Strategy

Southwest Ranches is developing a **zero waste strategy** focused on source reduction, expanded recycling and composting, and stronger education. Having a nearby, state of the art MRF strengthens that strategy by ensuring recovered materials have a local, capable market destination, a practical complement to policy, outreach, and program investments the town is planning. The MRF's capacity and technology make it easier for the town to pursue expanded curbside or organics programs with confidence that materials will be processed effectively and sold into markets.





PRACTICAL BENEFITS FOR RESIDENTS AND TOWN LEADERS

- **Reliability:** Shorter transport distances and modern sorting reduce the risk of rejected loads.
- **Policy leverage:** The town can more confidently pursue program expansions knowing regional processing exists.
- **Education:** The facility's public education features (tours and outreach) offer hands on learning for schools and civic groups.
- **Regional coordination:** The MRF operationalizes Master Plan goals by turning policy into recoverable material rather than landfill waste.



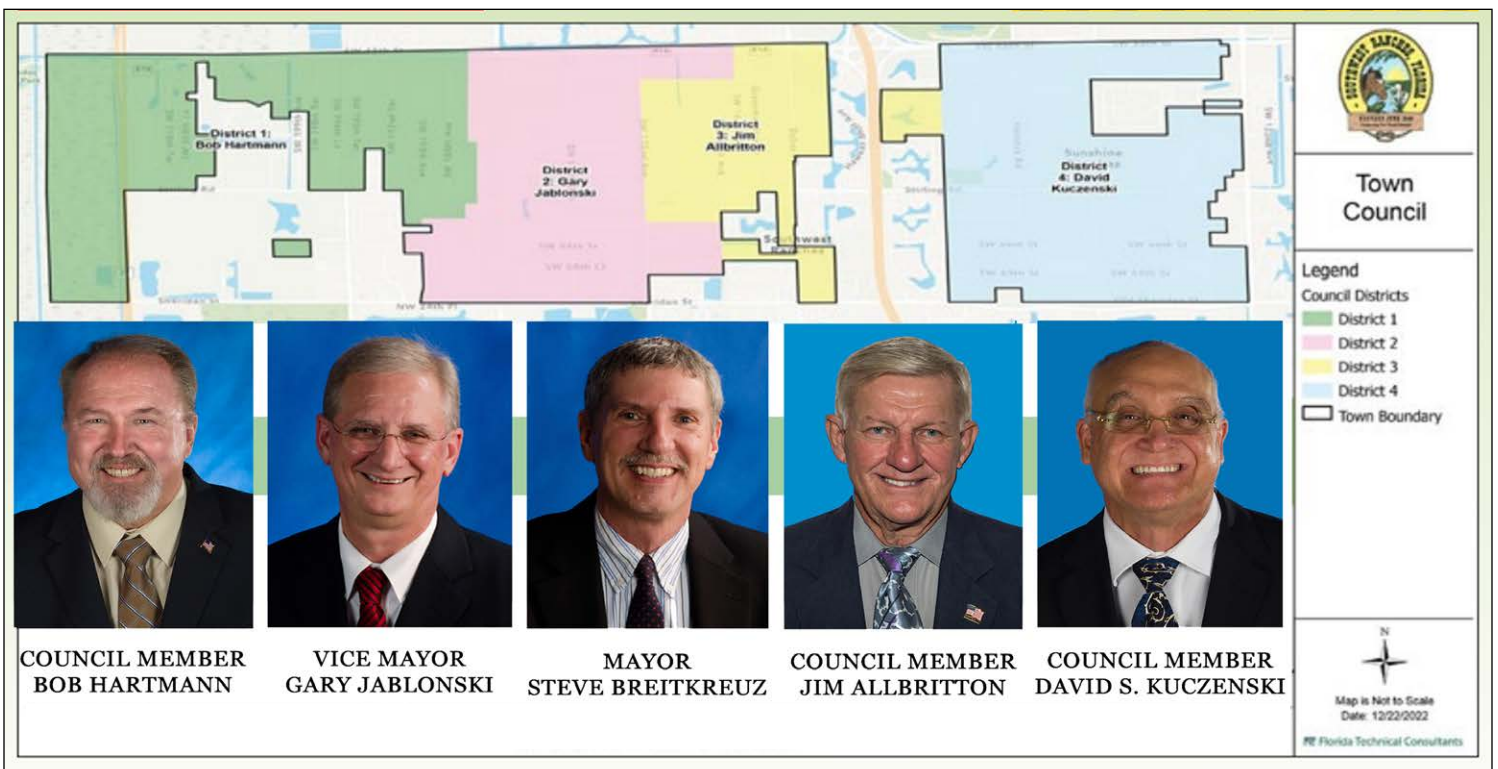
A CLEAR NEXT STEP

The combination of **560 tons recycled locally**, the MRF's ability to process that volume in about **nine hours**, and Broward SWA's Master Plan's focus on zero-waste and regional infrastructure creates a practical pathway for Southwest Ranches to accelerate its waste-reduction goals. Over the coming months, town leaders and the Zero Waste Resident Advisory Board will use this alignment to refine the zero waste plan, expand resident

education, and explore new and ongoing pilot programs (organics collection, new bulk strategies, expanded recycling streams) that leverage nearby processing capacity.

I am always here to help. If you have questions about this information, concerns about town issues, or would like to discuss next steps, please call me anytime.

With appreciation, **Bob** 954 801 1758



A MESSAGE FROM



Council Member
Jim Allbritton

GOOD DAY SOUTHWEST RANCHES

As we look back on July 4th, let's reflect on just what a special day that was. The 250th Birthday of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA. There were celebrations all across the United States, with people enjoying the Freedoms our forefathers laid out for us. I hope that each of you had a very special day with family and friends.

On a more serious note, this year's State budget process resulted in several funding requests submitted by the Town of Southwest Ranches not being approved. The Town had sought funding for a number of important projects aimed at enhancing public safety and improving services for residents. The following requests were vetoed:

- Southwest Ranches Safety Guard Rails (Sunshine Ranches) – \$694,000
- Southwest Ranches Fire Station Construction – \$900,000
- Southwest Ranches Fire Truck – \$536,215

The one project that did receive State funding approval was:

- Rolling Oaks Drainage Project – \$170,188

The Town remains committed to pursuing funding opportunities that support critical infrastructure improvements and enhance the quality of life for our residents.

Without funding help from the Federal and State level we will have a very hard time completing some of these projects. There is talk coming from Tallahassee about reducing property taxes over the next few years and possibly eliminating them all together. Please read everything very carefully, ask questions and do your own research before you vote on anything. I am proud to say that Southwest Ranches has done everything they can to keep our taxes low. No millage rate increases for several years. We have one of the lowest millage rates in the County.



Ms. December and I will be meeting soon to determine a date for our next Veterans Social Café. If you are a Veteran or know a Veteran that has not gotten in touch with us please send us your name, address, phone number and email address and we would be honored to add them to our growing list.

Please send us the following information:

- Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Email Address

We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming more veterans into our growing community network.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at jallbritton@southwestranches.org or by phone # 305-903-7043.

Let's Keep Southwest Ranches Beautiful.

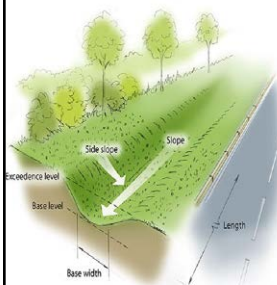
RECYCLE RIGHT!

It's so easy, just throw the water bottle in your recycle cart.
One small toss can make a big difference!



PRESERVING OUR TOWN Why Swales Matter in Southwest Ranches

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



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

❖ When placing bulk trash out for pickup, please place bulk items on the edge of your property, away from any drainage structures. If the area you typically use to place your bulk pile has been damaged either by the weight of the pile or the pick-up claw, please give the area a rest and move your pile to another location.

❖ Proper swale maintenance and responsible bulk trash placement help our crews work more efficiently and protect the natural beauty of Southwest Ranches. Your cooperation ensures that our drainage systems function properly and that our swales remain safe for equestrians and walkers.

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

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



TRASH TALK:



ZERO WASTE ADVISORY BOARD EDITION

- District Recycling Contest - keep up the good work
- WM Recycling Center evening tour in July was a great success
- The Board's work is well under way with the Zero Waste Consultants.
- The Board will have working meetings with the consultants the 1st hour of each meeting. Residents are welcome to share their input.
- Fun Fact - About 80% of all water bottles and drink cans are not recycled. By recycling, this is one easy way to increase our recycling rate.
- To keep up to date on the board's work and events look for our Zero Waste Advisory Board tile on the Town's Website or scan the QR code here. - >



REFLECTIVE ADDRESS MARKERS

HIGHLY VISIBLE DAY OR NIGHT

Order today...

this could help save your life or someone you love.

IF WE CAN'T FIND YOU WE CAN'T HELP YOU.

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

MOUNTING PREFERENCE:

Vertical (up/down) _____
Horizontal (left/right) _____

COLOR PREFERENCE:

_____ green w/white letters
_____ blue w/white letters

\$20.00

Make check payable to:
Southwest Ranches Fire Rescue
17220 Griffin Rd., Southwest Ranches 33331

For information call Chief Bennett: 954-868-2057



Front Cover: Back to School, Budget Workshop

Page 2: In-Touch

Page 3: Mayor's Message, Town Talk, Turn Waste into Gold, Stay in Touch with Engineering

Page 4-5: Council Member Hartmann, Council and Districts

Page 6: Council Member Allbritton

Page 7: Recycle Right, Preserving Our Town; Why Swales Matter, Reflective Address Markers, Trash Talk, Contents

Page 8: Upcoming Events: Photo Contest, Carnival, Pumpkin Patch, Halloween Spooktacular

Page 9: Budget Workshops, HQE Emergency Alert System, Ranches Roundup - "Cultivating Our Agricultural Community"

Page 10: What is a Wetland

Page 11: Celebrating Student Volunteers and Community Partners

Page 12: Robin Bartleman, Recycle Your Sneakers

Page 13: Forestry and Natural Resources; Monarchs and Milkweed

Page 14: Clerk's Corner, Well Check, Marty Kiar, SWR Stickers

Page 15: August Town Calendar, Transportation Program, Update Your Voter Registration, Prototype Barn

Back Cover: Household Hazardous Waste Event, August School Calendar, Follow Us on Social Media

UPCOMING EVENTS



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:

A few examples.

Animals we love, Summer fun, Town events, Joyful moments in our community, Stunning sunsets, Eye-catching landscapes, Vibrant gardens in bloom.
"What the Town of Southwest Ranches means to you."

RULES

- No previous photos will be accepted
- Photos must be at least 8.5 x 11 (landscape) - 300 DPI resolution
- All entries must be submitted with entry form and a short caption for the photo
- Photos must be taken in Southwest Ranches

Submission Deadline September 9th, 2026

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

Email photo to: Skutz@southwestranches.org along with any questions.



SOUTHWEST RANCHES COUNTRY FAIR AND CARNIVAL



WHEN:

Thursday, January 14th, 5-10pm
Friday, January 15th, 5-10:30pm
Saturday, January 16th, 1-10:30pm
Sunday, January 17th, 1-10:30pm
Monday, January 18th, 12-6pm

WHERE:

Southwest Ranches
Sanctuary Park
16290 Griffin Road,
Southwest Ranches

BENEFITING: SOUTHWEST RANCHES PARKS FOUNDATION

**FOOD & CRAFT
VENDORS WANTED
SPONSORSHIPS
AVAILABLE**

CONTACT: SWRCOUNTRYFAIR.COM

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR



GET READY, SOUTHWEST RANCHES RESIDENTS!

IT'S TIME TO BRING OUT YOUR SPOOKY SPIRIT!
JOIN THE TOWN'S HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR YARD
DECORATING CONTEST AND TRANSFORM YOUR YARD INTO
A FRIGHTFULLY FUN MASTERPIECE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL
SKUTZ@SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG

SOUTHWEST RANCHES PUMPKIN PATCH Festival

CARVE OUT SOME FUN AT THE PATCH!

OCTOBER 16-18, 2026

FRI 16 TH	SAT 17 TH	SUN 18 TH
4-10 PM	10-10 PM	11 AM-8 PM

- BIG BEAUTIFUL PUMPKIN PATCH
- PUMPKIN CRAFTS
- CARNIVAL RIDES
- PUMPKINVILLE INFLATABLE ZONE
- FALL PHOTO OPS
- FESTIVE FALL GAMES
- BUBBLEMANIA BUBBLE STATION
- MIDWAY CARNIVAL GAMES
- FALL FOOD COURT
- PUMPKIN BEER GARDEN

SWRANCHESPUMPKINPATCH.COM

"FINANCE ACADEMY"

by Emil Lopez



" BUDGET WORKSHOPS AND BUDGET HEARINGS"

The following publicly held Budget workshop/meetings will be in Council Chambers:

Tuesday August 11, 2026 at 7PM

- Budget Workshop on Proposed Budget

Monday September 14, 2026 at 6PM (Tentative)

- First Public Hearing for Tentative Millage (via resolution) and
- Budget Adoption for FY 2026-2027 (via ordinance – First Reading)
- Final Fire Protection and Solid Waste special assessment adoption (via resolution)

Thursday September 24, 2026 at 6PM

- Second Public Hearing for Final Millage (via resolution) and
- Budget Adoption for FY 2026-2027 (via ordinance – Second Reading)

" HOW TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE TOWN"

The Town welcomes participation from all vendors qualified to do business with the Town.



RANCHES ROUNDUP

"Cultivating Our Agricultural Community"

by Isabel McNulty, Agriculture Liaison

Gardening in 10b

Southwest Ranches is within USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 10b, where prime vegetable growing season is in the fall.

There are garden tasks you can prioritize this month:

- Start seeds in trays now so they're ready to transplant in late September or October
- Prepare your garden beds by incorporating compost or aged manure into the soil
- If you're eager to plant, consider heat-loving crops like okra, peppers, or eggplant, which are suited for growth in summer heat.

Prepare Livestock for Hurricane Season

- Identify: Update livestock identification (microchips, tags, and photos) and keep veterinary and emergency contacts on hand.
- Plan: Review evacuation routes and transportation before a storm is forecast.

Prepare: Stock 5-8 days of feed, water, and medications; inspect fences, gates, and shelters.

Agricultural Classification

• Agricultural Classification is a property tax assessment category that values land based on its agricultural use value instead of full market value. For land to be granted Agricultural Classification, the use of the land must be primarily for bona fide commercial agriculture as of January 1st of the application year.

To apply for Agricultural Classification, visit: <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/Agricultural>

Dealing with Coyotes

- Visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website for information on coexisting with coyotes and free virtual webinars each month: <https://myfwc.com/conservation/you-serve/wildlife/coyotes/>

Upcoming Webinars/Events

- UF IFAS Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program Palm Problems? Palm Solutions!
- Tuesday 8/18 @ 11am (free virtual webinar) <https://tinyurl.com/ifaspalmwebinar>

Florida Wildflower Foundation

Get to Know Florida's Common Aquatic Plants

- Wednesday 8/19 @ 2pm (free virtual webinar) <https://tinyurl.com/flaquatic>
- UF IFAS Extension Broward Urban Horticulture
- Wild in the Garden

Saturday 8/29 @ 10am (Flamingo Gardens) <https://tinyurl.com/ifaswildgarden>

It's a joy and privilege to serve as your Agricultural Liaison! As always, please feel free to contact me at 954-358-2550 or imcnulty@southwestranches.org.

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



WHAT IS A WETLAND?

Wetlands are areas of transition between land and water. In general, a wetland is an ecosystem where water is at or covering the surface of the ground for all or part of the year; in Florida, wetlands may be defined by looking at the types of plants growing in them, by the types of soils present and/or the presence of hydrologic (water level) indicators.

THE VALUE of WETLANDS

One of the world's most important natural resources and are the most productive ecosystems in the world.

Improving Water Quality

Wetlands serve as Natural Filtration Systems

Protecting from Floods

Wetlands provide storage areas that provide flood protection

Controlling Shoreline Erosion

The plants found in wetlands retain excess nutrients and some pollutants and physically hold soil in place with their root systems, reducing and absorbing wave energy and erosion.

Recharging Florida's Aquifer

Wetlands serve as important aquifer recharge areas or areas where groundwater is replenished.

Recreation and Appreciation

Wetlands have recreational, historical, scientific and cultural values. They provide places to hunt, fish, canoe, boat, bird watch and photograph wildlife, and they provide natural scenic vistas for nature lovers and artists.

Biological

Wetlands provide food that attract many animal species. Dead plant leaves and stems break down in the water to form small particles of "detritus" or enriched organic material. This detritus feeds many small aquatic insects, shellfish and small fish that are food for larger predatory fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals.

Many of the U.S. breeding bird populations including ducks, geese, hawks, woodpeckers, wading birds and many songbirds feed, nest and raise their young in wetlands. Fish use inland and coastal wetland areas for spawning and nursery areas.

Wetlands have been compared to tropical rain forests and coral reefs in the number and diversity of animal and plant species they support. In fact, more than one-third of the United States' threatened and endangered species live only in wetlands and nearly half use wetlands at some point in their lives. In addition to the habitat wetlands provide, they also provide important water quality benefits.

Human Impacts on Wetlands

South Florida's wetlands have also suffered secondary impacts from human development pressures. The alteration of Southeast Florida's hydrology by the elaborate canal systems designed to protect residents from flooding has impacted wetlands by decreasing the hydrology necessary for maintaining wetland plant species. Pollutants from storm runoff on streets and highways combined with the use of fertilizers and pesticides have increased the nutrients introduced into surface waters and degraded the water quality that supports wetland plant species. Another impact has been the introduction of non-native plant species also known as exotics. Two well-known exotics, the Melaleuca and Brazilian pepper trees, have overgrown wetland areas. Their rapid growth chokes out native species and decreases the habitat value of the wetlands.

Frequently Asked Questions <https://www.broward.org/Environment/WaterPrograms/Pages/WetlandsProgram.aspx>



2026

CELEBRATING STUDENT VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS



At the June 25, 2026, Town Council Meeting, the Schools and Education Advisory Board (SEAB) proudly awarded scholarships to 33 outstanding college students. Their commitment to community service has made a positive impact and serves as an inspiration to others. The Town congratulates these remarkable students and thanks them for their hard work and community spirit.

For many years, Kathy Sullivan has devoted her time and heart to organizing Town events that raise scholarship funds for Southwest Ranches students. Through her tireless efforts, thousands of dollars have been raised, providing educational opportunities for countless young people. Her leadership and dedication have inspired residents, volunteers, and sponsors to support the scholarship program year after year.

To honor her extraordinary commitment and lasting impact on generations of students, the Schools and Education Advisory Board established the *Kathy Sullivan Service Award*. The award recognizes individuals who demonstrate the same spirit of volunteerism, leadership, compassion, and dedication to supporting the youth of Southwest Ranches.

The SEAB also extends its sincere appreciation to the Sikh Youth Association for their generous donation and continued partnership in supporting the student scholarship program. Their commitment to education and our community is creating meaningful opportunities for local students and help shape brighter futures.



The Town of Southwest Ranches and the Schools and Education Advisory Board thank Kathy Sullivan, the Sikh Youth Association (SYA), and all those who continue to invest in the success of our students. Together, they are making a lasting difference in the lives of future generations.



Projects Funded for District 103

The 2026 legislative session has officially concluded, and the Governor has signed the budget. The final budget stands at \$117.6 billion, and \$810 million in appropriations were vetoed. I am proud to share that four of my projects for District 103 were approved by the Governor, totaling more than \$2.6 million. This funding will improve flood mitigation and expand support for individuals with disabilities.

• Villages of South Florida Autism -- \$2,000,000

Florida is home to an estimated 472,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). 75% of them live with a family caregiver, and 31% of those caregivers are over the age of 60. As caregivers age, their ability to provide 24/7 support diminishes, which leaves adults with IDD vulnerable to institutionalization or homelessness. This assisted living facility for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities will offer social and vocational programs while utilizing smart technologies to support communication and emergency response.

• Southwest Ranches Rolling Oaks Drainage -- \$170,188

Inadequate drainage infrastructure has led to repeated incidents of roadway damage and restricted access for emergency vehicles and approximately 350 homes in the Rolling Oaks neighborhood. Upgrading the drainage systems will reduce flooding and improve public safety in the area.

• Miramar and Pembroke Pines Flood Mitigation -- \$328,892

New sluice gates at the S-2 and S-7 pump stations and Basin S-3 will allow for quicker drawdowns before and after large-scale storm events, which will improve flood protection across Miramar and Pembroke Pines.

• Pembroke Falls Drainage -- \$125,000

A new sluice gate and telemetry system will lower water levels more efficiently before heavy rainfall, improving flood protection in Pembroke Falls.

Together, these projects will help improve emergency preparedness, strengthen drainage systems, and expand critical community services across District 103. For families preparing for back-to-school, the sales tax holiday is currently underway and runs through August 20.

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

RECYCLE YOUR SNEAKERS



Sneaker Impact is dedicated to sustainability by recycling gently used sneakers to benefit the environment.

**Town of Southwest Ranches Zero Waste Advisory Board Members
Rose Allbritton and Jessica Hartmann
at Southwest Meadows Sanctuary**

GIVING SNEAKERS NEW LIFE



**Town of Southwest Ranches
Zero Waste Advisory Board
Board Members:**

**Rose Allbritton, Linda Flack,
Debbie Green, Jessica Hartmann,
Harold Gabnitsky (not pictured) and
Staff Liaison, Dan Stewart (not pictured)**



FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES



POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP

Protect their lives. Preserve ours.



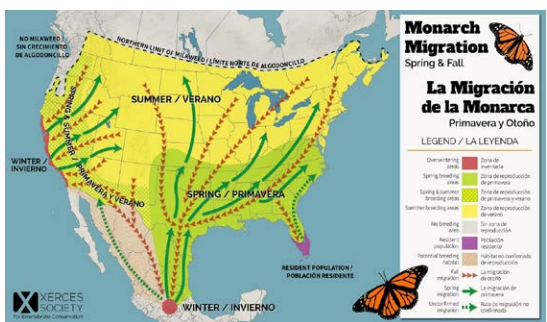
MONARCHS AND MILKWEED

(adapted from <https://www.flawildflowers.org/monarchs-and-milkweed/>)

The beauty and amazing migratory journey of the **Monarch butterfly** (*Danaus plexippus*) has captivated the public's interest. But threats to its survival — including habitat loss, pesticide use and frequent roadside mowing — have created concern and a desire to help. Unfortunately, some of our efforts may be causing more harm than good.



Monarch caterpillar on
Pink swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) by Peg Urban



Monarchs in Florida

Historically, the Eastern migratory population of Monarchs moved through the Panhandle and North Florida on its annual journey. However, in recent years, some butterflies have deviated from their southwest route toward Mexico, traveling down Florida's peninsula instead. While it is unclear where these butterflies ultimately end up, it is believed that some may cross the Gulf of Mexico, others may continue south into the Caribbean, and some may settle in South Florida, where a non-migratory population resides. Beyond its significance in the migration route, North Florida also serves as part of the spring breeding range of Eastern migratory Monarchs. Meanwhile, South Florida has seen a notable surge in its non-migratory population. This surge is largely due to the widespread planting of non-native Tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) and the practice of butterfly rearing. Although these efforts are well intended, they have inadvertently created ecological and health risks for Monarchs.

How you can help

In Florida, you can support Monarch butterflies by providing fall-blooming nectar plants for migrants, planting Florida's native milkweeds for North Florida's spring-breeding population and South Florida's year-round population, and advocating for reduced mowing on roadsides.

Nectar for Monarchs

Plant these natives along with native milkweed to provide nectar for Monarchs:

- Blazing star (*Liatris spp.*)
- Chaffhead (*Carphephorus spp.*)
- Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*)
- Beggar's tick (*Bidens alba*)
- Scorpiontail (*Heliotropium angiospermum*)
- Snow squarosestem (*Melanthera nivea*)
- Climbing aster (*Symphotrichum carolinianum*)
- Flattop goldenrod (*Euthamia caroliniana*)
- Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*)
- Yellowtop (*Flaveria linearis*)



Monarch on **Elliott's aster** (*Symphotrichum elliottii*) by Mary Keim

Why plant native?

Florida's native plants have evolved here over thousands of years. They have symbiotic relationships with the wildlife and ecosystems around them, and have adapted to Florida's unique climate, pests, and soils. When the right plant is used in the right place in planted landscapes, they typically don't need fertilizers or insecticides, or additional water once established.

Native milkweed

There are 21 milkweed species native to Florida. The three native species featured below are generally available at Florida native nurseries.



Photo by Mary Keim

Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) is the most widely recognized native milkweed. Its showy clusters of bright reddish-orange flowers bloom late spring through fall. This native wildflower grows 12 to 15 inches high in a bushy form and has coarse lance- or oval-shaped leaves. Because it grows naturally in sandy habitats, it adapts well to dry landscapes.



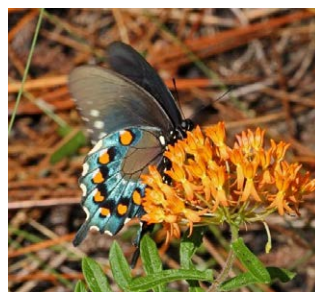
Photo by Mary Keim

Pink swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) is found in moderate to moist sunny habitats, where it grows 2 to 4 feet tall. It blooms in summer with very showy light pink- to rose-colored flower clusters. Its fleshy linear leaves grow up to 6 inches.



Photo by Peg Urban

White swamp milkweed (*Asclepias perennis*) is a shorter bushy plant growing to about 2 feet. Summer flowerheads are small with white to light-pink flowers. Bright green leaves are lance shaped. It prefers moist to wet soil conditions and can adapt to shady locations.



DID YOU KNOW?

Queen and Soldier butterflies also use native milkweeds as host plants for their caterpillars, and Pipevine, Spicebush and Eastern swallowtails rely on them for nectar. Many other butterflies and bees — including native sweat bees, leafcutter bees, and yellow-faced bees — need milkweed's pollen and nectar.

Pictured: **Pipevine swallowtail on Butterflyweed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*) by Mary Keim



BRIEF LEGISLATION FROM THE JUNE 11, 2026 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

- Adopted Resolution 2026-045 approving the Purchase of Real Property - 18211 SW 148 ST and 18221 SW 48 ST
- Adopted Resolution 2026-046 approving an RLA with Broward County - LED Monument Sign - Town Hall
- Adopted Resolution 2026-047 approving an RLA with Broward County - LED Monument Sign - Dykes and Griffin Road
- Adopted Resolution 2026-048 for authorizing the Purchase Order to Professional Service Industries - Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment

JUNE 25, 2026 - TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

- Adopted Resolution 2026-049 approving Archbishop McCarthy SP-86-26
- Adopted Resolution 2026-050 approving an Agreement with Allstate Resource Management, Inc. for Lake and Wetland Maintenance Services on Eight Town Parks and Public Properties
- Adopted Resolution 2026-051 approving the Second Amendment to ILA for SWA
- Adopted Resolution 2026-052 consenting to the City of Sunrise Providing Water Services to 5560 Hancock Road
- Adopted Resolution 2026-053 ratifying the Approval of Payments for Water and Sewer Permit Fees to the City of Sunrise

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.



SHOW YOUR TOWN SPIRIT

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



MARTY KIAR
BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER



2026 TRIM NOTICES

The Broward County Property Appraiser's Office mails the TRIM (proposed tax) Notices in August of each year. This is NOT a tax bill but shows your property's 2026 Just/Market Value, exemptions, and proposed taxes as set by the taxing authorities listed on the notice. The TRIM Notice is your opportunity to review your 2026 Just/Market Value and ensure you are receiving all the tax-saving exemptions you are eligible for.

Florida Statutes require our office to use January 1 as the date of assessment each year. The 2026 Just/Market Values are based on the market data from 2025 with January 1, 2026 as the date of assessment.

The Property Appraiser's Office does not set or collect property taxes. If you have questions about the proposed tax rates, the contact information and public hearing dates for the individual taxing authorities are listed to the right of each agency name on the TRIM Notice.

I RECENTLY APPLIED FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION - WHY IS IT NOT SHOWING?

Florida Statutes require our office to use January 1 as the date of assessment and to determine exemption eligibility each year. If you purchased your home after January 1, 2026, you are eligible for 2027 Homestead Exemption. The 2027 exemptions will show online in December and be included for the 2027 tax year.

I HAD HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION LAST YEAR - WHERE DID MY EXEMPTIONS GO?

If you purchased your home in 2025, you may have "inherited" the previous owner's exemptions last year. These 2025 exemptions were removed at the end of 2025, so are no longer showing on your TRIM Notice for tax year 2026. Fortunately, you can still late file for 2026 Homestead and any other exemptions you may qualify for until September 18, 2026.

I AM A SENIOR CITIZEN - WHY ISN'T THE SENIOR EXEMPTION SHOWING?

The Senior Exemption is both an age and income-based exemption that is not automatically applied to a property because of the income requirement. To be eligible for this exemption, an applicant must be age 65 or older as of January 1, 2026 and have an adjusted household gross income for 2025 not exceeding \$38,686. If you believe you qualify for this additional exemption, you can still late file until September 18, 2026.

To review all the tax-saving exemptions available to qualified applicants and to apply for these online, please visit our website.

The absolute deadline to apply for any 2026 exemption is September 18, 2026.

If my office can be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact me directly.

Take care,

Marty Kiar

Marty Kiar, JD, CFA



MartyKiarBCPA
@MartyKiarBCPA



WELL CHECK PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

After a hurricane or other emergency, residents may experience prolonged power and phone outages and may not be able to leave their home or let others know that they are in need. If you feel you are at risk due to a disability, health issue, regardless of age, and would like a "WELLNESS CHECK" from our Southwest

Ranches Volunteer Fire Department please call Town Hall (954) 434-0008 and give us your name, and or loved one's name, address, phone number and email address so we may add you to our list.

While we hope we don't have a disaster, we need to be prepared. If you or a loved one live alone in Southwest Ranches, please consider signing up for this service. If resources are needed, they will be able to refer residents accordingly.



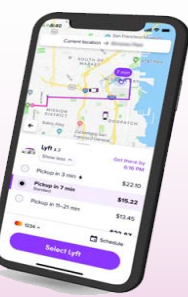
PHOTO BY: Mayuli Betancourt-
"Prince Vibes"

August '26



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
BULK ZONE 12						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	• Country Estates HOA Meeting - Grace Baptist Church 19200 Griffin Rd. 7pm	• CODE HEARING Town Hall 9am • BCPA Office - Town Hall 10:30 - 12:30pm • Zero Waste Advisory Broward Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	• Zero Waste Broward Task Force Meeting - Town Hall 7pm			• Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
BULK ZONE 1		BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	• Schools & Education Advisory Board -Town Hall 7pm	• BUDGET WORKSHOP ON PROPOSED BUDGET - Town Hall 7pm		• TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm		• Wings Over The Ranches Birding Tours - Calusa Corners Park 4701 Hawke's Bluff Ave 8 - 10:30 am • Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
BULK ZONE 7		BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	• Rural Public Arts & Design Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	• Drainage & Infrastructure Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	• Fire Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	• Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board Meeting - Town Hall 7pm		• Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
BULK ZONE 1		BULK ZONE 2	BULK ZONE 3	BULK ZONE 4	BULK ZONE 5	BULK ZONE 6
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	• SWR Parks Foundation Meeting - Town Hall 7pm	• Rolling Oaks Civic Association Meeting - Rolling Oaks Barn 17630 SW 56th St 7pm	• Sunshine Ranches HOA ZOOM 7 - 9pm	• TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - Town Hall 7pm		• Farmers' Market 16290 Griffin Rd. 10 - 3pm
BULK ZONE 7		BULK ZONE 8	BULK ZONE 9	BULK ZONE 10	BULK ZONE 11	BULK ZONE 12
30	31					
BULK ZONE 1						

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

United Way   Area Agency on Aging of Broward County

UPDATE YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION



Many individuals have updated their Driver's Licenses in the past few years, but have you updated your Voter Registration information? If you have received a new license number, it's essential to reach out to Broward or Miami-Dade Supervisor of Elections Office to update your voter registration details.

- For Broward County residents, visit the Broward Supervisor of Elections website: Broward SOE website: <https://browardvotes.gov>
- For those in Miami-Dade County, visit <https://www.miamidade.gov/global/elections/home.page>

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:
ecaceti@southwesteranches.org



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

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL!!!



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Official Channel

SCAN QR CODE
TO VISIT US AT

WWW.SOUTHWESTRANCHES.ORG



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

Saturday, October 10, 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 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	YouTube	Facebook	on our Website
 @townofswr	 https://tinyurl.com/SWRYouTube	 @swrgov	 https://www.southwestranches.org/

ACCEPTED IN YOUR BIN*

These items can go in your recycling bin, as long as they're clean and dry.

PLASTIC BOTTLES, CUPS & CONTAINERS

Recycle plastics by shape: bottles, jars, jugs, cups and tubs. The "chasing arrows" symbol doesn't necessarily mean it's recyclable.

Empty and dry containers, then put the cap or lid back on before tossing in the bin.
No foam or compostable cups.

FOOD & BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

Rules for recycling milk cartons, juice boxes and food cartons vary by city, county and state. Check local recycling programs for options to recycle cartons.

Make sure containers are completely empty to avoid contamination.

NOT ACCEPTED IN YOUR BIN

Try to reduce and reuse these items instead of putting them in the garbage.

NO BAGGED RECYCLABLES

Do not bag recyclables. They must be loose in the bin. If you collect your recyclables in a bag, empty them directly into your cart and reuse the bag!

NO PLASTIC BAGS

Plastic bags are not accepted as part of curbside recycling programs – they get tangled in equipment and threaten worker safety. Do not bag recyclables as materials inside may not get recycled. Reuse plastic bags, or learn where you can recycle them at plasticfilmrecycling.org.

NO PLASTIC WRAP & FILM

NO POLYSTYRENE FOAM

OTHER MATERIALS

Typically not accepted for curbside pickup.