



THE SWANSEA REPORT

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2018

Swanssea Family Christmas Fund Donations Needed By Dec 7th

Every year, the "Swanssea Family Christmas" program provides assistance during the holidays to many local Swanssea residents in need, by providing a holiday dinner and / or gifts. The program is completely funded by donations that typically come from individuals, families, neighborhood associations, civic organizations, churches and businesses.

While the Village serves as a point of contact the effort is administered by volunteers. Last year, more than 67 Swanssea families, representing 218 individuals all of whom are our neighbors, applied for and received assistance.

While new toys and new clothing are always accepted, a donation of cash allows those volunteers to purchase gift certificates which in turn allow families in need to purchase specific gifts for their children and buy food for their holiday meal.

Checks in any amount can be made payable to the "**Swanssea Family Christmas Fund**" and mailed or delivered to the Swanssea Government Center, 1444 Boul Ave., But please do so no later than **Friday, Dec 7th**. Any other donations may be dropped off to the same location. Please call the Village with any questions at 234-0044.

Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) Review Update

Long considered a prime area for growth and opportunity, the collection of properties surrounding the Swanssea MetroLink Station was recently the focus of a multidisciplinary planning study. The Village, along with Bi-State Development, and the St. Clair County Transit District, invited St. Louis' Urban Land Institute to assemble a Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) for that purpose. Their goal, per the study, was to provide "objective and reasonable advice to local decision-makers on a wide variety of land use and real estate

issues, ranging from site-specific projects to public policy questions."

The TAP asked broadly, 1.) how should the Study Sponsors position the land for development, 2.) what land uses should the Sponsors pursue for development, and, 3.) what pre-development work will be necessary to attract said development.

The extensive TAP process included a review of briefing materials, a full tour of the site, in-depth interviews with stakeholders from in and around **continued on page 7...**



Aerial map of the Study Area surrounding the Swanssea MetroLink Station.

News Briefs

Government Center Closed Tuesday, December 25th and Tuesday, January 1st Trash and Recycling Collection Will Be Delayed

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Tuesday, Dec 25th in observance of Christmas Day, and on Tuesday, Jan 1 in observance of New Years Day.



Both holidays will also affect trash and recycling collection for residents. Those with a normal collection day on Tuesday, will have collection on Wednesday instead. In turn, Wednesday routes will be picked up on Thursday, Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday and Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday.

Thursday yard waste collection that would normally occur on December 27th - the last of the current season - will shift to Friday, December 28th.

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Visit Santa at Melvin Price Park

Santa will be at his special house in Melvin Price Memorial Park. While he may be busy at other times rechecking his list, he will be at his Swansea home from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm every Saturday and Sunday and from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm each weekday evening, through December 21st.



The house is near the Lehr Community Center at the south end of the park. The park is in the 1500 block of Caseyville Ave. Photos with Santa will be available for \$5.00, and every child will receive a small gift. The Swansea Santa House is sponsored by the Swansea Park Board.

Santa could always use some extra help. If you might be interested, contact Marilyn Neumeyer at 234-6293 or 363-8694 for details.

Thanks to All Who Helped With The 2nd Annual Spooktacular

The 2nd Annual Halloween Spooktacular event was a success. It was sponsored by the Village Of Swansea Park Board and the Swansea Patriots. The Village of Swansea is grateful that they were able to hold the event again this year for the residents and surrounding neighbors. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the

event possible and donated their valuable time to the event.

Show Your Support With Advertising

This deliberation could become moot if enough businesses, organizations or civic minded citizens were willing to spend at least \$70 every month for that business card sized ad. Doing so allows you to reach 6,300 mailboxes for only 1.15¢ per mailbox. Aside from any potential return on that investment, the support of those advertisers would help to ensure that the Village can continue to use this form of communication and would help us continue to bring important information to our residents.

Make Sure Your Address Numbers Are Visible

Reminder: the address of your home, business, or apartment building must, by law, be clearly visible from the street.

Section 150.138 (D) of the Swansea Property Maintenance Code - requires that Building shall have *approved* address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches in height with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inches.

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News Briefs

Meet Kristina Essenpreis-Human Resources/Payroll Specialist

Kristina Essenpreis started October 22 as the new Human Resources/Payroll Specialist. Kristina has 20+ years of office management and admin background, 10+ years of payroll serving 90-100 employees, 5 years human resources background - which included creating Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for small offices, and creating outstanding experiences for new hires and managing all employee files. She is highly skilled with insurance options for employees and bargaining for the best rates.

For the past 2 years she was working for a software company in Creve Coeur as their Business Administrator and before that she worked for 8 years in office management for a funeral establishment in St. Louis, MO.

She is from Overland, Missouri but has resided in Belleville for the last 15

years. Kristina is extremely passionate about the area where she is raising her children. She is married to Rodney and has 3 Children - Addison (12), Grant (11), Graham (11months), and a feisty Yorkie, Cooper. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her family and loves to sing.

Kristina would like to create a more formal process for each task under her umbrella. She would like to update the company handbook, and create a more streamlined process for new hires in all departments. She also envisions an online HR portal - modernizing and creating forms that could be reached by employees online rather than having to be sent directly from the HR department's email.



It's never too early

No matter what stage of life you're in, it's never too early to start planning for retirement. Let us help you balance your need to protect what you have with your desire to build for the future.



Corey Stelling
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Swansea, IL 62226
618-416-7820
robert.stelling@
countryfinancial.com



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CONTACT: Cecil Management Group @ (618) 624-4610

News Briefs

Domestic Animals

Swansea wishes to remain animal friendly; but, this requires responsibility from the owners or keepers of domestic animals. Below are some of the common-sense rules on domestic animals. More information may be obtained in the Swansea Municipal Code:



Any dog which shall have bitten or otherwise injured any person so as to cause an abrasion of the skin shall be immediately taken to St. Clair County Animal Control. It is unlawful for any person owning or possessing a dog, cat, or other domestic animal to permit such animal to go upon any private premises without the permission of the owner of such premises. A fenced-in dog park, to allow dogs to run loose, has been placed in an area of Melvin Price Memorial Park. Any park visitors may use it and no membership or fee is required. All dogs must be on a leash in Swansea parks and trails, with the exception of the dog park. It is unlawful to allow any domestic animals to

defecate on Swansea's properties including streets, sidewalks, and rights of ways, unless said person immediately removes the animal's feces. It is unlawful for any person knowingly to keep or harbor any dog which habitually barks, howls or yelps, nor any cat which habitually cries or howls to the great discomfort of the peace and quiet of the neighborhood. Such dogs and cats are hereby declared to be a public nuisance. It is unlawful for any person in charge of any animal to fail, refuse or neglect to provide such animal with food, potable water, shade or shelter, or to cruelly or unnecessarily expose any such animal to hot, stormy, cold or inclement weather. Please be a good neighbor. Don't put our personnel in a position of having to impound your animal or issuing you a fine.

TNR Legal in St. Clair County-Feral Cats

Feral Cats are cats who live outdoors and have had little contact with humans. These cats will not do well in homes due to their lack of socializa-

tion. Feral kittens are better off with their mother than in a shelter. If the kittens are alone, it is likely that their mother is out hunting for food. If you are unsure about what you should do, please call us for advice.

Trap Neuter, Release (TNR) allows feral cats to be humanely trapped, sterilized, and released back to the outdoor area where they were found. Studies show that TNR programs reduce both the number of feral cats in a community and the nuisance behaviors of these animals.

Ear Tipping is a sign that a cat has a TNR Program. Call Belleville Area Humane Society (BAHS) - 618-235-3712 for information **BAHS can track your colony, provide humane traps, and connect you with the resources you need for your community cat colony**

Find low-cost spay and neuter opportunities at BAHSpets.org or contact the St. Clair TNR and Rescue DBA Maggie's Mutt Mission at 314-339-7481.

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Or for More Info, go to www.FulfordHomes.com





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If Your Sewer System Backs Up, Call The Village First

A friendly reminder to residents: call the Village first if your sewer system starts to backup.



Because storm water can infiltrate the sanitary sewer system during periods of heavy rain, that additional water can overload the system and cause it to slow down or backup. It generally will do so into low lying basements. Residents who have experienced that before probably recognize the signs, or have installed a check valve to prevent back-ups.

On non-holidays, Mon - Fri, 8:00am - 4:30pm, call 234-0044, and Government Center staff will dispatch Public Works. After hours and on weekends, call 233-8114. A police dispatcher will answer, but explain that you need Public Works to respond to a sewer backup and they will route your call or message.

THANKS!

To Holland for the way you landscape and maintain your business property at 4495 N. Illinois Street!



ADVERTISE IN THE SWANSEA REPORT!

Specific ad dimensions and prices are as follows:

- 1/8 page "Business Card Size" = 2" high x 3.7" wide: \$ 70.00 / month
- 1/4 page vertical = 4.1" high x 3.7" wide: \$ 120.00 / month
- 1/4 page horizontal = 2" high x 7.5" wide: \$ 120.00 / month
- 1/2 page horizontal = 4.1" high x 7.5" wide: \$ 240.00 / month

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News Briefs

Yard Waste Ends December 15th

Burning of yard waste is for the fall season will end Dec. 15th. Currently, residents can burn on Wed and Sat only between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm, Nov. 1st through Dec 15th excluding the Wed before Thanksgiving and the Sat after Thanksgiving. Burning is not allowed on Village streets or within the Village right-of-way. Fires must be attended and kept under control at all times.

Should the weather be excessively windy, conditions be wet, or air forecasted to be Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101 – 150) or higher as determined by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, burning on said dates shall not be permitted. In the event of such conditions, the Village will post its determination on the Village's website, and send a Code Red alert to residents registered for such alerts. However, it shall be incumbent on anyone intending to burn yard waste, to first reference the Village website

While the Village makes this temporary allowance, all residents should consider the impact burning yard waste might have on their neighbors. Those with asthma or other respiratory issues can be significantly



affected by smoke.

Other options available to residents for the disposal of yard waste include mulching leaves with a lawn mower, composting, curb side collection through Republic Services (618 656-6883), or dropping off yard waste at St. Louis Compost, located at 3521 Centerville Ave., in Belleville

Fletchers Restaurant Coming to Clinton Hills

On November 21st the owners of Fletchers Restaurant purchased a 1.44 acre tract of land from Clinton Hills

Redevelopment, LLC, as the site of their new restaurant,



Fletchers Swansea. The ownership intends to make a significant investment in the old Clinton Hills clubhouse that will feature a newly redesigned kitchen, seating area, restrooms, banquet rooms, exterior patios, and video gaming room.

The menu will be identical to the menu at the Fletchers Restaurant in Belleville, which will remain open. Restaurant co-owner Derek Betz recently commented that "we are honored to be a part of the Swansea community, and are very thankful to the Village for their assistance in our new venture "

Remodeling of the building will take place during the winter months with an expected opening date in early spring of 2019. Those interested in banquet services can go to www.Fletcherskitchen.com.

Fletchers Swansea represents the first step in one of the largest potential development areas to emerge in Swansea in recent years. While development plans for the remainder of the property remain undetermined, the Village is an active participant in development plans and discussions.

What Is That Leaking Toilet Costing You?

Do you sometimes walk into your bathroom and notice that water is running in the toilet? You know, where you need to 'jiggle' the handle to stop it? Or do you ever hear the toilet fill up with a short burst of water, even though it hasn't been flushed in awhile? Both are indications of a sticking flapper valve or some other water leak.

But are you putting off fixing it until you 'get some time'? Well, a toilet leak could send as much as 200 gallons of water per day down the drain. So when you consider that you are paying not only for that unused water, but also for its treatment as wastewater, the loss costs you about \$1.69 per day.

Think about that. Let one week go by before you get around to making the repair, and the delay cost you \$11.82. Put it off for a month and your loss grows to about



YOUR SWANSEA AREA BANKING TEAM:



Marilyn Rossi
Center Manager



Justin Chapman
Commercial Lending



Dave Demond
Mortgage Lending



Lisa Hock
Wealth Management

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of Edwardsville SM
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News Briefs

\$51.00. Or wait two months until your sewer bill comes out, and \$101.35 went down the drain in the mean time. Literally.

Experts estimate that in the average U.S. home, 14% of your annual water usage is from leaks. So one way to keep utility costs in check is to quickly fix any leaking toilet, dripping water faucet, or leaky exterior hose bib, before they impact both your water and sewer bills.

New Businesses In The Village

This Village of Swansea would like to welcome the following new businesses to town:

- American Maintenance & Welding, Inc.
- Bel-O-Pest-Solutions
- Colvent Group
- Fletcher's Swansea
- Keith Wolf--State Farm Insurance
- Edward Jones--Joel Pierce
- Top Notch Customz Window Tinting
- I Restore STL

The Village encourages residents to look for opportunities to support our locally owned and small businesses.

Not only does it help those businesses and the people they employ, some of the sales tax you pay on purchases made in Swansea come back to the Village.

continued from the front page... Technical Assistance Panel...

the community, and eventually a set of recommendations meant to be used by the Sponsors to help address site development. And while challenges certainly exist, the results are very encouraging. The study area has a large number of assets that can be used to leverage future plans. Swansea is a bedroom community whose residents prefer to support commercial businesses in the community. Among the assets they enjoy are excellent trails and transit availability; good quality, small school districts; and excellent and locally-controlled utilities that make future development cheaper and efficient. Additionally, the site is home to the Moose Lodge 1221, a strong community partner that serves as an event space for members and outside organizations alike. More recently, Metro Landing, the new active senior housing development has had an excellent response from the community.

Recommendations coming from the study include, among others, a phased-in pursuit of mixed-use development, deployment of Business District and TIF funds to provide better connectivity to the site, pursuit of IDOT funds for extending IL -159 streetscape improvements, introduction of mixed-income or non-age restricted housing, and use of TIF funds on sidewalks, signage, wayfinding, and branding.

VILLAGE OF SWANSEA CONTACT INFO

Swansea Government Center
1444 Boul Avenue
Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm, M-F
www.swanseail.org

Administration, Mayor's Office, Village Clerk, Utility Billing & Public Works
Phone: 618-234-0044
swanadmn@swanseail.org

Building, Zoning, Permits
Phone: 618-355-0280
swanbnz@swanseail.org

Swansea Police Department
Emergency: 911
Non-emergency: 618-233-8114
swanseap@swanseail.org

Swansea Fire Department
Emergency: 911
Engine House: 618-234-3291

Village of Swansea Officials

President: Mike Leopold
mayor@swanseail.org

Village Clerk Lauren O'Neill
loNeill@swanseail.org

Treasurer John Walter
jwalter@swanseail.org

Trustee Matt Lanter
mlanter@swanseail.org

Trustee Rocky McDonald
rmcdonald@swanseail.org

Trustee Brian McGuire
bmcguire@swanseail.org

Trustee Marilyn Neumeyer
mneumeyer@swanseail.org

Trustee Stephen Pulley
spulley@swanseail.org

Trustee Brian Wells
bwells@swanseail.org

If emailing multiple officials it may be best to also include swanadmn@swanseail.org among those email addresses so staff can help coordinate any requested response.



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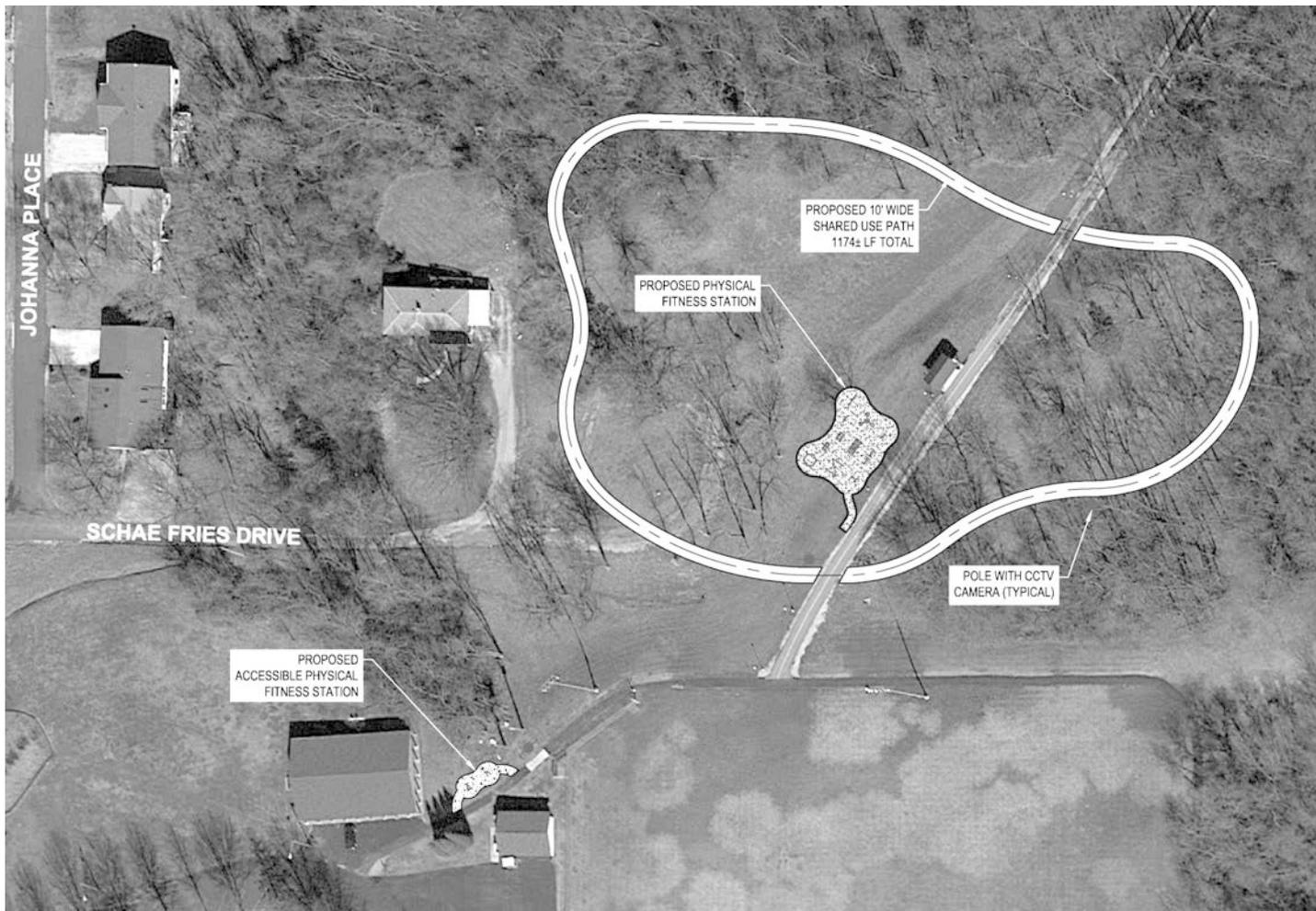
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News Briefs

Park Grant Funding For Melvin Price Park Project

The Village received \$172,000 in park grant funding for Melvin Price Park. The Village received notice in early November from St. Clair County that it had been awarded \$50,000 in funding from the St. Clair County Property and Recreation Committee towards exercise equipment and \$122,000 in funding from the St. Clair County Grant Commission towards a shared use loop trail in Melvin Price Park. These projects will further the Village's commitment to providing parks with a wide variety of amenities. The exercise equipment will feature 13 stations with two of them being wheelchair accessible and will be installed along the path that connects Melvin Price Park to Boul Avenue. The shared use loop trail will provide additional trail area for walkers and cyclist alike. The loop trail will be lit up at night and feature security cameras.



What does it cost to Advertise in the SWANSEA REPORT?

What is it costing you to NOT advertise here?

- ✓ 1/8 page (Business Card) at 2" high x 3.7" wide is \$70.00 per month or 1.1¢ / mailbox
- ✓ 1/4 page vertical at 4.1" high x 3.7" wide is \$120.00 per month or 1.9¢ / mailbox
- ✓ 1/4 page horizontal at 2" high x 7.5" wide is \$120.00 per month or 1.9¢ / mailbox
- ✓ 1/2 page horizontal at 4.1" high x 7.5" wide is \$ 240.00 per month or 3.8¢ / mailbox

What You Need to Know About Snow Plowing...

A reminder as to how the Village approaches snow plowing might be helpful towards understanding the process, and will hopefully prompt residents to maintain reasonable expectations.



First, snow plows move snow from the middle of the road to the sides. So by design, plows will inevitably deposit some snow at the ends of driveways and sidewalks that may have already been cleared. The reality is that you may have to shovel that area again. Consider helping neighbors who are elderly or physically unable to do so.

Knowing that, if you pile snow at the end of your drive, do so on the right side as you face the street. Why? Because a snow pile on the left might get pushed across the drive as the

plow moves past.

Check to ensure that your mailbox doesn't hang out into the roadway. The closer it is to the road, the more likely it could be damaged by the snow pushed aside by the plow. Wet snow is heavy and it doesn't take much to knock over a mailbox.

And if possible, don't park on any street until plowing has ended. Crews often clear drive lanes first and then return later, maybe even the next day, to "plow back" snow at the edge of the streets or around the perimeter of cul-de-sacs. Designated snow routes are listed on page 10.

The 'route' a snow plow travels may not make sense to some. In some neighborhoods it might seem as though they plow half of your street and then disappear for awhile. But the routes are designed to minimize backing up and turning around and doing so may mean that the truck travels over other



streets before it returns to yours to finish the other side of the street.

Designated Snow Routes for the Village of Swansea

When it snows, it's a good idea to move all vehicles off Village streets before snow plows come through. Not doing so will hamper the Village's ability to effectively clear the streets.

However, there are streets in the Village specifically designated as snow routes. Section 72.40 (A) of the Swansea Municipal Codes states: "Within the village, whenever there is an accumulation of three inches or more of snow, no person, firm, or corporation shall park or allow any motor vehicle to remain parked, on any designated snow route ...for a period of 24 hours following said accumulation, or until said route has been sufficiently cleared of snow."

Continued on page 10...



Even Santa needs a break.



Now you can take a break from high interest rates and buy what you need this holiday season (or just get away to somewhere warm) with a personal loan from **Arsenal**. Apply online today at **ArsenalCU.com**.

4384 North Illinois Street
Swansea, Illinois
618.239.6363

News Briefs

Continued from page 9...

There is a very logical reason for this regulation. Designated snow routes are those primary arterials for moving traffic in or out of residential areas and as such they are cleared first to make it easier for you to get to or from your home. The Village needs to do so as quickly as possible - without having to navigate around parked vehicles - in order to move on to residential streets that don't carry as much traffic.

Designated snow routes in Swansea are as follows.

Beau-Gon: for its full length within Village limits

Bettina Dr.: Lakeland Blvd. to Big Bend Blvd.

Big Bend Blvd.: Bettina Dr. to Leawood Dr.

Bobbie Dr.: Castle Dr. to Brian Dr.

Brian Dr.: Bobbie Dr. to Mary Jo Dr.

Caseyville Ave.: Gilbert St. to North Belt West

Castle Ct.: Route 161 to Castle Dr.

Castle Dr.: Castle Ct. to Bobbie Dr.

Creekside Ct.: Creekside Dr. to Old Collinsville Rd.

Fawn Meadows: Lake Lorraine Dr. to Old Collinsville Rd.

Fournie Dr.: Mary Jo Dr. to Josephine Dr.

Fullerton Road: Rte 161 to Rte 159

Gilbert St.: North Illinois St. to Kenwood Dr.

Green Haven Dr.: for its full length

Huntwood Road: for its full length

Josephine Dr.: Fournie Dr. to Rte 161

Kenwood Dr.: Gilbert St. to Kingsbury Dr.

Kingsbury Dr.: Kenwood Dr. to North 17th St

Kinsella Ave.: West "H" St. to Caseyville Ave

Lakeland Blvd.: Rte 159 to Bettina Dr.

Lake Lorraine Dr.: for its full length

Leawood Dr.: Big Bend Blvd to Twin Lake Dr.

Lyonshall Blvd.: within Village limits

Mary Jo Dr.: Brian Dr. to Fournie Dr.

Morgan St.: 17th St. to Rte 161

Polo Run: for its full length

Rand Lane: for its full length

Roger St.: 17th St. to Rte 161

Smelting Works Rd.: North Illinois St. to Drake Rd. for those portions within the Swansea municipal limits

Steinberg Farm Rd.: Rand Lane to William Lane

Twin Lake Dr.: Leawood Dr. to Huntwood Rd.

William Lane: Old Collinsville Rd to

Steinberg Farm Rd.

Basketball Goals Can Cause Problems

With the advent of portable and movable basketball goals, some residents place them at the back of curb so the hoop hangs out over the street. Others might even install a goal permanently in such a location. Both would be a violation of Village codes.

First, while it might seem ideal to use the street as a basketball court, it is dangerous and thus not allowed by the Village. Obviously, placing a goal in this manner would probably prompt your children or others from your neighborhood to play in the street. So if one of them is hurt in doing so, or causes an accident, you as the homeowner or tenant might be held liable.

At the same time, if basketball players are obstructing traffic, they could be fined for doing so. But there is another important consideration. When snow plows come through this winter, some will have their beds raised to spread salt. And that raised bed can collide with anything overhanging the roadway, including a basketball hoop or goal. Such a collision will often destroy the goal but could damage the truck as well, again something for which you might be held liable.

Be proactive. If you have a basketball goal in violation, move it or remove it to at least 10 feet behind the curb or street edge.

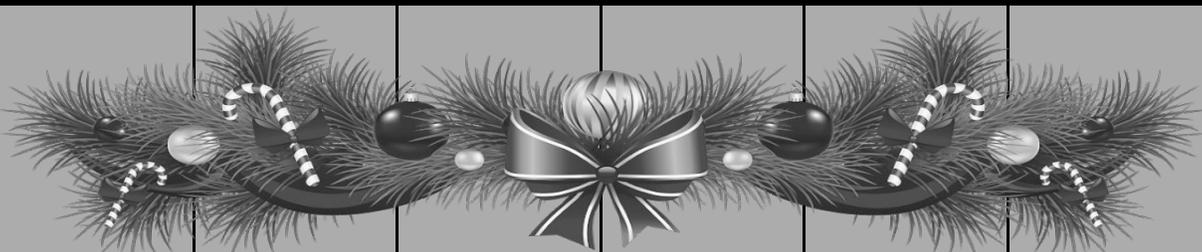


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Swansea Community Calendar - December 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Santa Arrives at Melvin Price Park
2	3 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:00pm Govt. Center	4	5	6 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center—	7	8 Swansea Park Board Meeting 7:00am Norman Lehr Center Swansea Patriots Meeting 8:00am Norman Lehr Center
9	10	11 Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6:00pm Govt. Center	12	13 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center—	14	15
16	17 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:00pm Govt. Center	18	19	20 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center—	21 Santa 's last day at Melvin Price Park	22
23	24 Christmas Eve 30 31 New Year's Eve	25 Holiday Govt Center Closed for Christmas	26	27 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center—	28	29

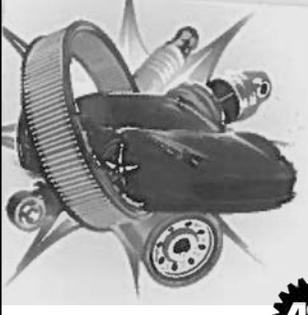
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