



THE SWANSEA REPORT

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JANUARY 2019

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MONTH

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Virtual Flight of Honor

Swansea, IL – The Virtual Flight of Honor program, presented by Hospice of Southern Illinois and The Belleville/Swansea Moose Lodge 1221...

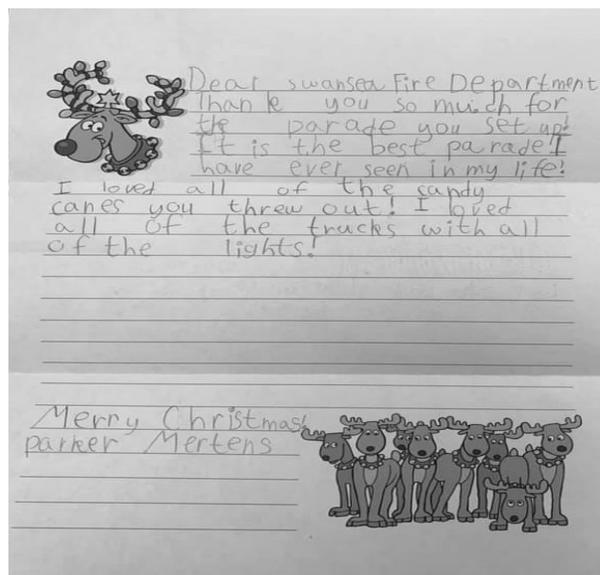
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Voluntary Crime Free Housing

In 1992, the Mesa, Arizona Police Department noted they were spending lots of time responding...

Swansea Fire Department Lighted Christmas Parade

The Swansea Fire Department Lighted Christmas Parade was a huge success and the Fire Department was glad they could give back to the community with this event. It would have not been possible without the help of the volunteers and those who had floats in the parade. The Fire Department received positive feedback about the parade and look forward to next year! The Village of Swansea & Swansea Fire Department would also like to send a thank you to Parker Mertens for the wonderful thank you letter (photo to the right).



Engine House #2 was a full house after the lighted Christmas parade. There was food, drinks, and pictures with Santa.

News Briefs

Government Center Closed Jan 1st & 21st For Holidays

Refuse & Recycling Collection Also Affected on Jan 1st

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Tuesday, January 1st in observance of the New Years holiday, and on Monday, January 21st, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Republic Services will still make collections on Jan 21st but the New Year's holiday on Jan 1st, will shift Tuesday collections to Wednesday, Wednesday collections to Thursday, Thursday collections to Friday and Friday collections to Saturday.



Christmas Tree Collection



Christmas trees can be dropped off at Melvin Price Park and Schranz Park until January 21st. Village staff will collect them until then.

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58 Families Helped By Swansea Family Christmas Program

This year, 58 Swansea families, comprised of 106 adults and 81 children, benefited because of generous donations from individuals, families, civic organizations, and businesses, all of whom helped make Christmas brighter for their neighbors.

Cash donations exceeded \$7300.00 this year, and slightly down from 2017. In addition, several organizations and individuals donated toys and clothing. The Metro East Regional Chamber of Commerce donated half of their proceeds from their Morning Mingle Holiday event along with toys, sharing the other half with Caseyville Township's Christmas Program.

Cash donations were used to purchase gift certificates at local stores which in turn allowed families in need to purchase specific gifts for their children and buy food for their holiday meal.

Special thanks to Rice Sullivan and Jarvis Electric for each adopting a Swansea family. As well as Arsenal Credit Union, Swansea Women's Fire Auxiliary, Special Needs Pageant in Fairview Heights, IL, and Swansea Senior Van Drivers for donating toys and diapers.

While coordinated by the Village, the effort is successful each year because of the generosity of many and the volunteer hours put in by a few, including Gene Kish and Doris Rebenstorff. Thanks to all who helped or participated in any way in this long-standing Swansea tradition.

Swansea Senior Van Services

The Swansea Senior Van runs on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM of each week. Riders must be 55 or older. If you would be interested, please contact the Village of Swansea at (618) 234-0044 from 8:00am to 4:30pm for complete policy for riders.

Village Laws Require Dogs To Be On A Leash

By Village law, any dog not on its owner's property, must be under the complete control of its owner or keeper at all times.



When the owner or keeper takes that dog into one of Swansea's public parks, or on a public trail, they must specifically keep the dog on a leash that is six feet or less in length. The law defines "leash" as "...any rope, cord, chain or similar item which is capable of restraining a dog."

There is one exception: within the fenced in dog park at Melvin Price Memorial Park. While owners are still responsible for their dog and its behavior, dogs are allowed to run free within the dog park fence, without being on a leash. Last year the Village lifted the annual fee for use of the dog park so it is open and available to all dog owners.

Because some people are allowing dogs to roam unleashed in parks, the Village Board is discussing the best approach to prompt compliance with the law.

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Understanding Sales Tax and On-Line Purchases

Understanding Sales Tax And On-Line Purchases

The Christmas shopping experience is now behind us, which makes this a good time to explain in depth the impact of sales tax to the Village of Swansea. In Illinois, "sales tax" is the net of a combination of taxes imposed on the sale of specific products and services, plus use taxes that are imposed on purchasers. Sales tax includes revenue to the state, the mass transit district, park district, and to Swansea, including non-home rule occupation and use tax as well as business district taxes within specified areas.

By law, if you as an Illinois resident make a purchase out-of-state, or through an on-line retailer, they should charge you sales tax. But some do not. In those cases, you as the purchaser, are required to pay the tax due directly to the Dept. of Revenue. State tax forms now include an automatic and assumed use tax calculation unless you provide specific data to the contrary.

The advent and growth of on-line shopping, while very convenient for

consumers, has a big impact on municipal finances. As sales tax revenue flattens or diminishes from sales made on-line, communities like Swansea have to either cut basic services residents want and expect, or find other more stable sources of funding those services. Sales taxes were often a way to minimize reliance on property taxes, but many municipalities today are struggling with these changes.

Some Illinois communities are pushing for changes in sales tax policy that would consider this trend occurring in the economy. While the State of Illinois has been aggressive in pushing for the payment and collection of State sales taxes from on-line purchases, in most cases the State's laws do not allow or provide for the collection of local sales tax. If those laws were changed, the playing field would be leveled to some degree for brick-and-mortar stores. Therefore, Swansea would potentially receive revenue when residents made on-line purchases.

Municipalities have benefited from what some refer to as the "Amazon tax". In 2015 the State began to collect 6.25% state sales tax from online purchases if the seller had a physical presence in the State – such as an office or distribution

warehouse. All local governments receive some percentage of that tax on a per-capita basis. But those that have distribution centers within their borders, like Edwardsville does with Amazon fulfillment facilities, receive additional revenue from any purchases shipped from those warehouse facilities.

But In Terms Of Revenue To Swansea - Does It Matter Where You Buy Your Gasoline?

While most retail purchases generate sales tax to the local government where the purchase is made, Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) is distributed differently. So buying fuel in Swansea versus another Illinois municipality really does not make a difference in the money the Village receives from MFT. Yet buying that fuel in Missouri has an indirectly negative impact on Swansea revenues. Sound confusing? Here's how it works.

Continued on Page 9

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
2310 N Illinois Street
Swansea, IL 62226
618-416-7820
robert.stelling@
countryfinancial.com



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Property Tax Levy For New Year

Village Board Adopts Property Tax Levy For new Year

On December 17th, the Village Board levied property taxes for the next year totaling slightly more than \$2.00 million. While this is an increase from last year, that increase is less than 5%, so it did not require a public hearing or special notice publication.

In the prior year, Swansea began levying for Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) pension costs. The actual annual cost of those pensions is over \$90,000 and, prior to last year, was funded from the General Corporate Fund and other revenue sources. The Village requested \$97,500 in taxes towards the cost of IMRF pensions.

Based upon recommendations provided by the Village's actuary, an additional \$63,835 was levied towards Police Pensions, while the Fire Pension levy decreased by \$130,692.

For the second year, the Village has requested \$25,500 in taxes specifically for Public Parks. These funds are intended to be used for capital expenditures for park projects, not for operational costs.

The following is a listing of all property taxes to be levied by the Village of Swansea for the fiscal year commencing May 1, 2019 and ending April 30, 2020:

General Corporate Purposes: \$217,200.00

Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund: \$97,500.00

Municipal Fire Protection: \$155,040.00

Municipal Fire Pension Fund: \$81,800.00

Municipal Police Protection: \$205,000.00

Municipal Police Pension Fund: \$1,173,100.00

Municipal Auditing Tax: \$11,000.00

Tort Judgments General and Liability Insurance: \$46,800.00

Public Parks Tax: \$25,500.00

Total: \$2,012,940.00

While some might be critical, the Village Board deliberated over the levy at length, and did not take this increase lightly. The Village has consistently tightened its budget and lowered operational costs where it can, balancing that against the need for new revenue streams to fund the ever increasing cost of providing efficient and effective public services.

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News Briefs

Reiniger Jewelers Celebrates 100 Years of Business

Reiniger celebrated 100 years of business in December. To thank their customers and community for 100 years of love and support they did their first ever diamond drop!



Reiniger Jewelers, Inc.
 2704 N. Illinois St.
 Swansea, IL 62226
 618.235.1219
 871 N. Illinois Rt.3
 Waterloo, IL 62298
 618.939.4367

The community was invited to join them for the evening, explore the custom designs and view the hand carved ice sculpture which held inside a 1CT diamond that they gave away to a lucky person who guessed when the Diamond Dropped!

Reiniger Jewelers is a third generation family owned and operated business that was started in 1918 in a little shop above the Dime Store in East St Louis. Fast forwarding to 1992, the torch was passed to the current owner Paul Reiniger. He had a vision of what he wanted for the company and the impact he wanted to have on the community.

With a growing staff of 11 and locations in Swansea and Waterloo, they now have a full repair shop, do custom design and so much more. Reiniger Jewelers holds itself to such a high standard and quality of work. Combining that with their caring and talented staff it has definitely created a buzz in the community. For years they have been known as the *Best Kept Secret* in Swansea but not so much anymore and after 100 years Mr. Reiniger says it's time to celebrate.

"I am thankful for the many years the local community has supported us and we are fortunate to be able to give back on a regular basis. This event will be a token of our appreciation and look forward to many more years of serving our community and creating custom jewelry that can be passed down for many generations to come." Paul Reiniger

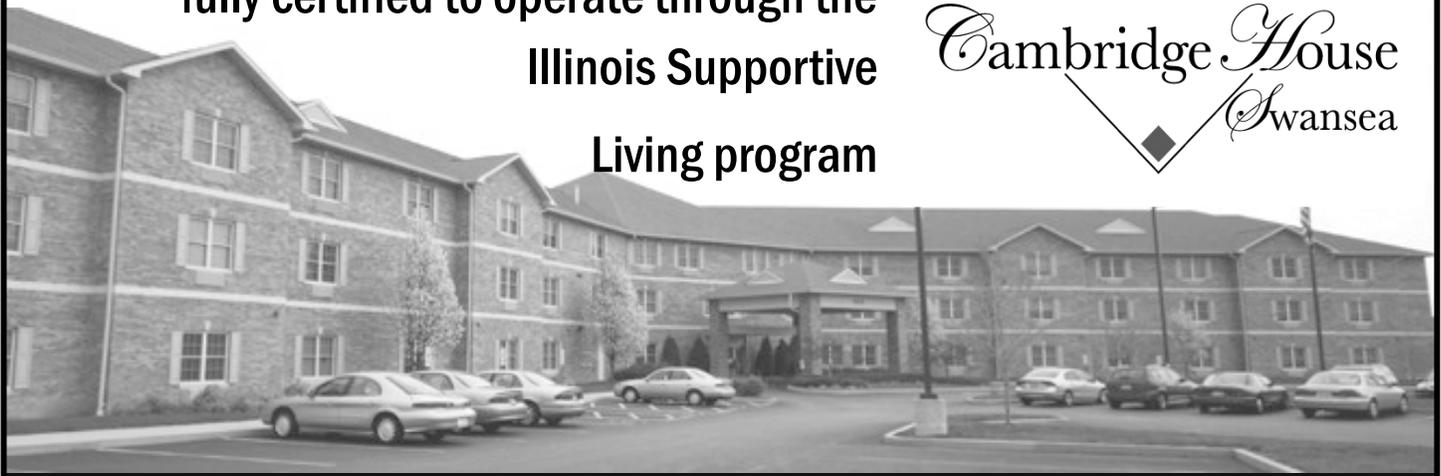


The Reiniger Family



The Reiniger Jewelers Staff of 2018

Your affordable assisted living community...
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Cambridge House Assisted Living;
 3900 Sullivan Drive; Swansea IL 234-8910



News Briefs

The Virtual Flight of Honor Program



Swansea, IL – The **Virtual Flight of Honor** program, presented by **Hospice of Southern Illinois** and **The Belleville/Swansea Moose Lodge 1221**, is a morning of honor, reflection and appreciation. On November 28, 2018, veterans, their families and the community “took off” at the Virtual Flight of Honor program, a product of Hospice of Southern Illinois’ Level 4 Status in the We Honor Veterans Program, a national program between the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and The Department of Veteran Affairs.

Several community partners came together to make a successful ceremony and reception lead by Hospice of Southern Illinois’ own veteran Marine, Kim Johnson of Granite City. Together, alongside the Village of Swansea Mayor Leopold, Chief of Police - Steven Johnson, Fire Chief - Chris Tell and team, other village officials, leaders and employees, and other community partners, all honored **21 veterans** through a patriotic service, educational virtual tour of a typical “Honor Flight” day, and everyone’s favorite part, “welcome” the veterans home!

Those in attendance experience the excitement, from a Veterans point of view, a typical “Honor Flight” day without leaving their hometown. Our services are open to veterans, their families and to the public. To learn more about Hospice of Southern Illinois’ Veteran programs, visit our website, www.hospice.org/.



Names and titles left to right... Kim Johnson, Hospice of Southern Illinois’ Community Education, Phil McGann, Belleville/Swansea Moose Lodge 1221, Village of Swansea Chief of Police, Steve Johnson, Village of Swansea Mayor, Michael Leopold, Christine Tyre, Hospice of Southern Illinois’ Community Education, Lisa Phillipson, Hospice of Southern Illinois’ Community Relations & Education Director



Virtual Flight of Honor Program.

News Briefs



From left to right...Village of Swansea Chief of Fire Department, Chris Tell, Village of Swansea Chief of Police, Steve Johnson, Village of Swansea Mayor, Michael Leopold



From left to right...Village of Swansea Chief of Police, Steve Johnson, Village of Swansea Mayor, Michael Leopold

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
swanadm@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 swanadm@swanseail.org among those email addresses so staff can help coordinate any requested response.

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

News Briefs

Glo Bingo is Back

Friday, January 25, 2019 at the Swansea Moose, 2425 North Illinois St., Swansea, IL 62226. Tickers are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Price includes 6 bingo cards, glow hat, and glow dabber (\$5 per additional card). For tickets contact Jason Whitaker @ (618) 978-8795 or purchase tickers online at glo-bingo.com (\$2 per ticket service fee). Benefits proceed the Swansea Fire Department.

Rotary Club Dinner Auction

Swansea Rotary Club and Fairview Heights MIDDAY Rotary Club want to invite you to the Winter Dinner Auction "A Sweet Ride" to be held at the Gateway Classic Cars, 1237 Central Park Drive, O'Fallon, IL 62269 on Saturday, February 16th, 2019.

Tickets for this fun evening of music by Jarid Viviano of Perfect Entertainment, a sit-down dinner and silent auction followed by a live auction will begin at 5pm with dinner served at 7pm. There will be many wonderful items to bid on and it's a perfect evening to treat your sweetheart to a wonderful night out

which benefits so many projects in the community by both clubs.

Here a just a few of the projects taken on by the Swansea and Fairview Heights MIDDAY clubs throughout the year:

- High Mount/Wolf Branch-Student of the Month
- High Mount Food Program (Over the Holidays)
- College Scholarships for Local High School Kids
- Christmas Gifts for Kids
- Illinois Center for Autism
- Safe and Clean Water Wells

Both of these Rotary Clubs also participate in the Rotary International projects such as Polio Eradication and the Belize Children's Fund.

Every year the Rotary Foundation matches the donation of the local clubs and the current President picks his project. The Swansea Club this past year sponsored the Rotary Foundation matched funds which donated a total of \$4,000.00 for the Swansea Police & Fire Academy for Kids. These are just a few of the projects which the Swansea and Fairview Heights MIDDAY club are involved in.

At the end of the evening there will be a will a paddle raise for donations for various projects for the year. Last year a total of \$9,000.00 was raised to help the SRO Programs with the Swansea Police Department. This year a couple more projects by the Swansea Rotary and Fairview Heights MIDDAY Rotary will be presented for the paddle raise donation. Don't pass up this opportunity to be a part of these of worthwhile project.

Jeff Parker, President of the Swansea Rotary Club and Richard Erdmann, President of the Fairview Heights MIDDAY Rotary Club don't want you to miss out on a fun evening of music, dinner, auctions and viewing the gorgeous vehicles which will be surrounding all of the auction items.

"A Sweet Ride" should be full of fun and excitement as donations for all the wonderful projects that both the Swansea and Fairview Heights MIDDAY Clubs contribute too throughout the year.

Rotary's theme is "Service above Self". Helping the local community as well as the Rotary International Community is what we strive to do. The vast majority of the donations will stay right here to help others.



THIS IS NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S BINGO

Proceeds Benefit:
Swansea Fire Dept.
Friday, January 25, 2019

Doors Open at 6:30 pm, Bingo Starts at 7:30 pm

Swansea Moose
2425 North Illinois St.
Swansea, IL 62226

\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.
Price includes 6 bingo cards, glow hat, & glow dabber
(\$5 per additional 6 cards)
For tickets contact: Jason Whitaker (618) 979-8795 or
purchase tickets online at
glo-bingo.com (\$2 per ticket service fee)



Over \$1000 in Cash Prizes
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DRAWINGS & RAFFLES
Must be 18 yrs or Older to Attend

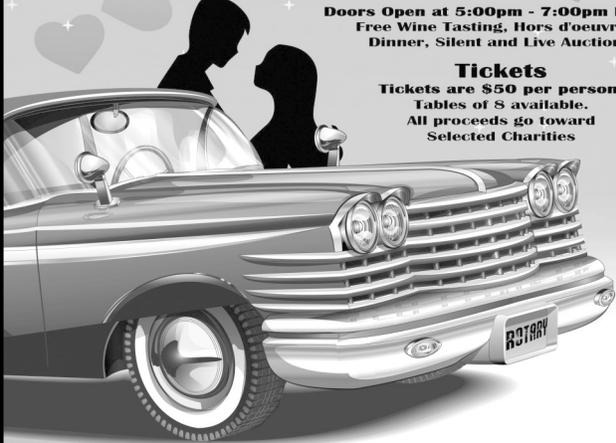
A Sweet Ride ...
Dinner Auction
Saturday, February 16, 2019



1237 Central Park Dr
O'Fallon, IL 62269

Doors Open at 5:00pm - 7:00pm Dinner
Free Wine Tasting, Hors d'oeuvres,
Dinner, Silent and Live Auction.

Tickets
Tickets are \$50 per person.
Tables of 8 available.
All proceeds go toward
Selected Charities



The Rotary Club of Fairview Heights MIDDAY



The Rotary Club of Swansea

Tickets can be purchased online at www.swansearotary.org
Or for ticket information or questions,
Contact: Marion at 618-520-8678 OR Lisa at 618-292-3669

Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Continued...

The Illinois Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Fund gets its money from a tax imposed "...on the privilege of operating motor vehicles upon public highways and of operating recreational watercraft upon the waters of this State, based on the consumption of motor fuel." So when you fill up your vehicle at any gasoline pump in the state of Illinois, the price **includes a tax of 19 cents per every gallon** – money that is collected by the station and sent to the State of Illinois to be deposited in the Illinois MFT Fund. **If your vehicle uses diesel fuel, the station collects an additional tax of 2.5 cents for every gallon, which is also sent to the state and deposited in the MFT Fund.**

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is responsible for allocating these monies in accordance with state law, including distributing some of that money to counties, townships, and municipalities like Swansea. So each month the state direct deposits Swansea's share of all the Motor Fuel Tax Fund collected for the preceding month into our account.

But before that happens, there is some money 'taken off the top' of the MFT Fund. Of the money deposited each month into the Illinois Motor Fuel Tax Fund the full distribution is as follows:

- First, the 2.5 cents tax collected on every gallon of diesel fuel is

transferred into the State Construction Account Fund. None comes to municipalities.

- Then \$420,000 of the tax collected each month is transferred to the State Boating Act Fund.
- Next, \$3.5 million of the tax collected each month is transferred to the Grade Crossing Protection Fund.

A sufficient amount of money is set aside each month to cover costs for:

- The Department of Revenue's administration of the MFT Law;
- IDOT's administration and supervision of the use of MFT funds;
- Any tax refunds allowed by law;
- A set \$30 million per year into the Vehicle Inspection Fund;
- Any amounts required to be paid by the Court of Claims; and
- All International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) payments owed to other states.

Now, from the remaining MFT tax monies collected that month, 45.6% is deposited as follows:

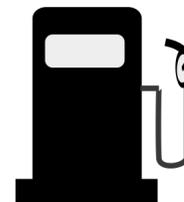
- 37% of that portion goes into the State Construction Account Fund;
- The other 63% goes into to the Road

Fund, which includes \$1.25 million per month to fund the Township Bridge Program.

Finally, here it comes! The other 54.4% of the remaining MFT tax monies collected each month are distributed by IDOT as follows:

- 16.74% to Cook County;
- 18.27% to all other Counties;
- 15.89% to townships and road districts in proportion to the total miles of roads in the State; and finally
- 49.10% to the municipalities, like Swansea, on a per capita (population) basis.

So in the end, Motor Fuel Tax revenue has nothing to do with where you buy gasoline in the State of Illinois. Swansea gets a share because you live in the Village. As our population increases, we receive more MFT funds. Should our population decrease, we would receive less. Swansea does not impose a sales tax on fuel sales, so in reality it does not matter where you buy your fuel in the state – in terms of the revenue impact to the Village.



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at this *locally owned*
establishment.



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We're **Arsenal Credit Union**, and we're here to serve you a better way to bank. We're based in the community and focused on your needs and financial goals. See why we're better than the big chain financial institutions today!

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Swansea, Illinois
618.239.6363 | ArsenalCU.com

News Briefs

Village Adopts Voluntary Crime Free Housing Program

In 1992, the Mesa, Arizona Police Department noted they were spending lots of time responding to drug dealing and escalating crime at the city's apartment complexes. Because most criminals don't buy homes - they tend to rent - calls for service at rental properties in Mesa were six to eight times the rate for owner occupied housing.

As a result, rental housing was disproportionately drawing away resources from the rest of the city. In an effort to prevent these crimes, the community passed what was called a "crime free rental housing ordinance". That legislation has now been modeled by nearly 2,000 cities throughout the world, including Belleville, O'Fallon, Collinsville, Fairview Heights and Granite City.

Typically, these ordinances require landlords to be licensed and to attend training that teaches them how to keep crime out of their properties. The ordinance may also require background checks on proposed tenants and an addendum to a lease or rental agreement that informs tenants they could face eviction if their unit is identified as a nuisance. These local laws help landlords and police pool their resources and purge criminals from rental housing.

That's great for communities that have a crime free rental housing ordinance, but maybe not so great for their neighbors who do not. When criminals are prevented from renting in one commu-

nity because of the local laws, they may simply move to other nearby communities that don't have similar laws.

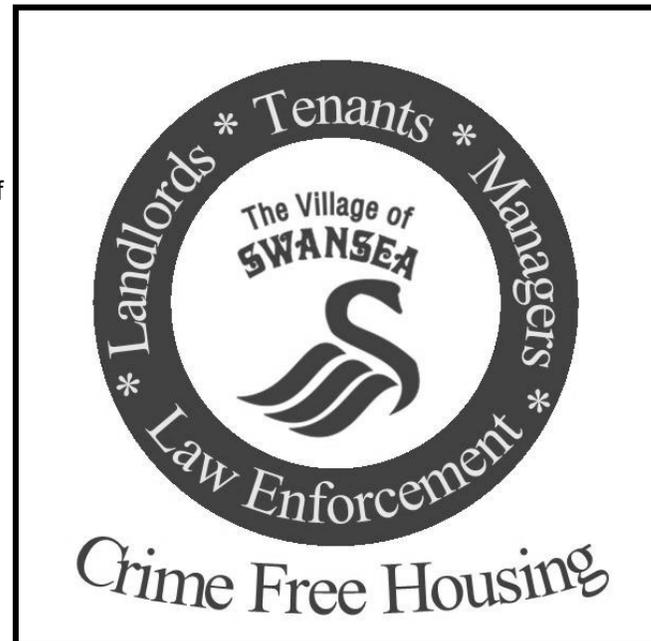
The answer for Swansea, which is surrounded by crime free rental housing communities, seems simple - pass crime free rental housing ourselves. But unfortunately, it is not that simple. In Illinois, state statutes don't specifically allow municipalities to adopt such an ordinance, so that is possible only for those communities that are "home rule". And Swansea is not.

The challenge then becomes how to effectively respond to the potential of increased crime in our community and the possibility that rental housing will disproportionately draw away police resources. The 2010 census reported 5,704 housing units in Swansea, with 26.2% of those, or 1,494 being renter occupied. That in itself is not bad.

Every community needs a healthy mix of available housing stock. As young people start a life independent of their parent's home, they often do so by renting an apartment. Some assigned to Scott AFB want to rent off-base housing while stationed here. And for others, renting provides some freedom from the maintenance

and other encumbrances that come with home ownership. So rental property is a necessary and desired option in Swansea. And most residents who choose that option still want to live in a stable, quiet neighborhood, no different from owner occupied homes. They should not have to accept a higher incidence of crime as an inevitable component of rental housing.

In the absence of a referendum to bring home rule to Swansea, or the State lowering the population threshold from 25,000, any 'crime free rental housing program' in Swansea needs to be a voluntary, cooperative effort - between the municipality, landlords and residents living in rental housing - to keep crime out of their neighborhood.



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What is it costing you to NOT advertise here?

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

Swansea Community Calendar - January 2019

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

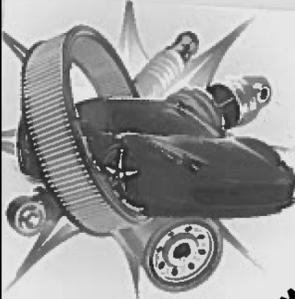
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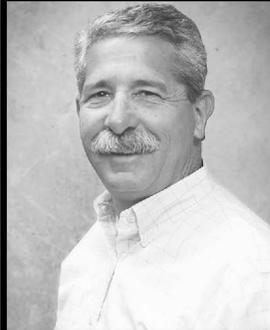


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