



# THE SWANSEA REPORT

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 3

March 2020

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**REFERENCE THE COMMUNITY CALENDARS ON PAGES 10 & 11 TO REFERENCE EVENTS, IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS.**

## Village of Swansea Project Timeline for FY21 Budget

February 1 – 14

- Continue reviewing the budget and updating projections with actual data

February 18

- Brief Finance Committee

February 27

- Tentative budget to Clerk for board packet

March 2:

- Announce the tentative budget will be available for public inspection on March 5th after 8:30 a.m.
- Set the Public Hearing for the budget as Monday, March 16th at 5:45
- Review the cover ordinance for adoption of the budget and forward from Committee to the Board
- Contact BND to publish Notice of Public Hearing on March 6th

March 5

- Post the tentative budget at Village Hall by 8:30 a.m. to make available for public inspection

March 6

- Notice of Public Hearing to be published in BND

March 16

- Public Hearing at 5:45 p.m.
- Discuss any proposed changes or modifications to tentative budget with the Board

April 6

- Review the final budget, pass the ordinance and adopt FY21 Budget

April 30

- Last date possible for Budget approval by state law. Copies of the Annual Budget are on file in Village Hall and posted on the Village website. FY21 approved budget distributed to all departments

May 30

- Last day to file Certified Copy of Budget with the County Clerk (within 30 days of adoption)



## News Briefs

### Govt. Center Closed Jan. 1st & Jan. 20th

#### Refuse Collection Also Delayed

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Monday, February 17th, in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday and on Friday, April 10th for the Easter Holiday.

The Village Board and committee meetings normally held on Monday, February 17th will shift to Tuesday, February 18th. Meeting times and location remain the same.

President's Day and the Easter Holiday are not observed by Republic Services so collection dates for refuse and recycling will not be affected.

### 3RD Annual Adult Only Easter Egg Hunt

The Swansea Park Board and The Swansea Patriots are holding their 3rd Annual Adult Only Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, April 3, 2020 at

Schranz Park. Doors open at 7 PM and the Easter egg hunt will begin at 8:30 PM rain or moonlight.

A television is one of the many super prizes available to win. Participants must be 18 or older to participate.

Music will be by Jim Hursey with Sounds Unlimited Entertainment. There will be food and refreshments available as well.

Registration is \$15.00 for one carton. Each additional is \$10.00. Advance registration not required but is encouraged. Credit cards are accepted for registration. Please call (618) 363-8694 to register with a credit card.

If paying by check, make check payable to Swansea Patriots and mail to 2661 North Illinois Street, P.O. Box 149, Swansea, IL 62226.

Don't forget to bring a flashlight so you can spot the eggs!

### Swansea Veterans Names Needed

The Swansea Memorial Day Ceremony will be Monday, May 25, 2020 at Mel Price Park at 10 AM. Veteran Residents of Swansea, please send your information to: [mneumeyer@swanseail.org](mailto:mneumeyer@swanseail.org) or call (618) 363-8694 to have your name and service added to the Memorial Day Ceremony booklet.

### Leaf Burning Resumes March 15th

Leaf Burning will resume March 15th through May 15th on Wednesdays and Saturdays only from 9 AM to 6 PM. 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 dates in (B) (1) above, 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 for any such notice.

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.

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# Village Organizes Memorial Tree Program At Melvin Price Park

Swansea residents may be aware of the construction taking place at Melvin Price Park to create the new Fitness Trail and Exercise Equipment Area. During construction contractors removed large quantities of dead and diseased trees. With the construction project nearing completion now is your opportunity to help beautify this area of the park while memorializing a loved one. The Melvin Price Park Fitness Trail Memorial Tree Program will allow for the purchase and planting of a tree, shrub, or perennial plant in this beautiful park setting. A memorial tree or plant is a living remembrance of a loved one. It provides a sense of belonging and community. They will improve the quality of life for residents of Swansea, while providing a benefit and enjoyment to people who use Swansea parks. In addition, trees are a growing and living symbol of the individuals they represent. A memorial

tree is a wonderful honor for the individual or organization to make in someone's name and it is a gift that keeps on growing and giving to the community.

Village staff, with input from the Heartlands Conservancy, has selected native species and have selected locations that are proper for each variety, which include Flowering Dogwood, Redbud, White Oak, Bald Cypress, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Sweetbay Magnolia, Purple Coneflower, New England Aster, and many more species. Memorial Trees and Plants will be planted in spring and fall, and after planting will be watered, pruned, and mulched by Swansea Public Works Staff and volunteers. In addition, during the design of the Melvin Price Fitness Trail and Exercise Area a special section was identified that will

serve as a memorial garden specifically for pets.

Forms for this program can be found on the Swansea website, social media, and at the Village Government Center. The cost for Memorial plantings ranges from \$45.00 to \$150.00, and memorial plaques will be placed with all plantings. Donations in lieu of a planting can also be made.

For further information or to volunteer to plant or maintain plantings you can call the Swansea Building and Zoning Department at 618-234-0044.



NOT ACCEPTED: PAPER-GLASS-PLASTIC-WOOD-CARDBOARD-TIRES

## MONTHLY RECYCLING DRIVE





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& Larger +**

\$40

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618 344 7232

Vehicles

Appliances

Machinery

## News Briefs

### Swansea Fire Department Cadets

The Swansea Fire Department Cadet program was created to allow youths between the ages of 13-21 to have first hand involvement with the operations of being a Firefighter. We are a self funded program that operates off of strictly donations and fundraisers and is offered at no cost to its members. All members are insured through The Boys Scouts of America. Cadets partake in classroom and hands on evolutions along side the members of the Swansea Fire Department. All members receive their own Turn Out gear to allow them to safely learn the roles and responsibilities of a Firefighter. Cadets meet Monday evenings from 7 pm-9:30 pm, and some weekend training's are offered as well. Anyone interested in joining please contact Captain Jason Whitaker @ [jwhitaker@swanseail.org](mailto:jwhitaker@swanseail.org) to obtain more information, and/or schedule a time to meet.

### Trash Sticker Price Increase/Yard Waste Begins

The price of Trash Stickers will increase as of May 1st, 2020. Weekly Trash Stickers will increase in price from \$21.60 per sheet of five stickers to \$22.45. Any stickers purchased at the current price will still be honored if used beyond May 1st.



Yearly Trash Stickers will increase in price from \$237.56 to \$247.06 on May 1st. Thereafter, the cost for the annual sticker is reduced on a pro rata basis by \$4.76 each week, until the stickers expire on April 30, 2020. That way, someone purchasing an annual sticker after May 1 only pays for that portion of the year they are actually have the service. New annual stickers will not be available the last week of April 2020. Republic yard waste services will begin in

April. Yard waste prices will increase to \$12.01 and are billed on a quarterly basis. Yard waste services require a minimum commitment for three months.

### Derelict Vehicles In The Village

Village codes prohibit any vehicle from being parked on a surface that is not an "improved surface". The definition of improved surface basically means that vehicles cannot be parked on a grass or dirt area. The code also prohibits the storage or abandonment of inoperable vehicles. Vehicles found in either state will be tagged and towed after 7 days. The Village also has the option to issue citations to the owner of the vehicle being towed.

When an inoperable vehicle is on private property it must be fully enclosed within a garage. Placing a tarp or car cover over a vehicle is not an acceptable alternative.

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## Chiefs Corner

# Burglary Prevention

Burglaries can occur anywhere. A burglary occurs when a person enters a building, residence or vehicle without proper authorization and commits a theft or felony offense while inside. Although Swansea has a very low crime rate these can happen anywhere. Almost all of the burglaries that occur in Swansea involve entry into houses and/or vehicles that have been left unlocked. The following information can help you reduce your chances of being the victim of a burglary.

### Safety Tips for Your Residence:

Exterior cameras and an alarm system can really help prevent something bad. Many bad guys look for cameras now and select residences that do not have them.

Make sure all exterior doors/windows

are closed and locked when leaving. The vast majority of our burglaries involve doors/windows left unlocked.

Use dead-bolt type locks on exterior doors.

Place a wooden pole or broom handle in sliding glass door tracks to keep the sliding door from opening.

Leave a radio or television on if you are going to be gone for a few hours.

Put some lights on a timer if you will not be returning until after dark.

If you are going to be away for several days, either stop your newspaper delivery or make arrangements for a friend, neighbor or relative to pick up your paper on a daily basis. Don't let the papers accumulate in your yard. Go to our web site and you can complete a form and the police department will conduct vacation checks for you.

Make a list of your valuables (make, model, serial number and value).

Keep one copy of the list at home

and store another copy in a safety deposit box or other location in case of a fire.

If you see something suspicious do not hesitate, but call us immediately. Call 911 or the non-emergency number of 233-8114. We will always send an officer to check it out.

Steve Johnson

Chief of Police



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- ❖ Teamwork
- ❖ Service
- ❖ Leadership

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## Spring Rains Always Bring The Potential For Flooding

Spring in Swansea means the grass is growing, flowers are blooming, and rain is falling. While heavy rain and flooding occur during any season of the year, most of the major floods in our area have occurred during the spring and fall rains. And while only about 60 acres in the Village of Swansea are within the regulated floodplain, many other areas outside the designated floodplain are also susceptible to flooding.

So the Village wants to remind its residents of a few safety tips relating to flooding:

Do not walk through flood waters. Currents are deceptive. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you must walk, use a stick to test that ground remains under the water ahead of you.

Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else.

Do not drive around barriers, as the road or bridge may be washed out.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Report downed power lines to the power company or 911.

Turn off all electrical circuits and gas lines that may come in contact with flood water.

Residents of Swansea can help minimize flooding and the resulting damage by checking with the Building and Zoning Department prior to building on, altering, grading, or placing fill on your property. A permit may be required to ensure that a project is compliant with all codes. Report any suspected illegal building, filling, or dumping to the Village at 618-234-0044.

If your house has flooded in the past or you fear that it may flood in the future, talk to the Village about protecting your house or business. There may be ways to modify your building to minimize flood damage.

Where flooding tends to be shallow, measures such as small floodwalls, regrading the yard, and flood proofing the walls or utilities can be relatively inexpensive. Where flooding is deep, a

building may need to be elevated. Again, be sure to check if permits are required before performing any work.

Even if you're not in the mapped floodplain, your property may be subject to flooding from local drainage. In either case, flood insurance may be a good investment because most homeowners insurance policies do not cover damage caused by surface water flooding. Contact your property insurance agent to see if a flood insurance policy would help you.

If you have questions about your flood hazard you can contact the Building and Zoning Department.

Keep Pollutants Out Of Storm Water. As a reminder don't pour oil, grease, pesticides, or other pollutants down storm drains or into drainage ditches or streams. Streams and wetlands help moderate flooding and are habitat for fish, frogs, and other species that provide recreation or food. Let's protect them and their homes.

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Fairview Heights, IL 62208  
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## News Briefs

### Swansea Rotary Club Sponsors Dinner and Auction March 14th

The Rotary Club of Swansea is hosting the Pot O' Gold auction at Gateway Classic Cars, 1237 Central Park Drive, in O'Fallon, IL on March 14th. Doors Open at 5:00pm. Dinner is at 6:30pm. Open bar on select items from 5-7, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, silent and Live Auction. Tickets are \$60 and tables of 8 available. Both a silent and live auction will also be part of the fundraising event. All proceeds go towards Swansea Rotary's school programs, Polio Eradication, Fireman & Police Youth Academy and various local charities. More information is on the club's website at [www.swansearotary.org](http://www.swansearotary.org), Swansea Rotary Facebook, or contact Marion at 618-520-8678 or Lisa at 618-292-3669 with any questions.

**Pot O' Gold Dinner Auction**

**Saturday, March 14th, 2020**  
Gateway Classic Cars in O'Fallon  
1237 Central Park Dr #1, O'Fallon, IL 62269

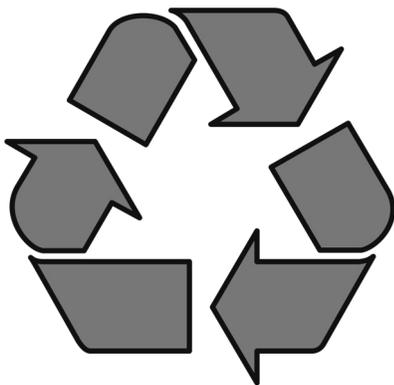
presented by  
**The Rotary Club of Swansea**

**Tickets**  
Tickets are \$60 per person.  
Tables of 8 available.

Rotary Club of Swansea Illinois  
Rotary International

### Recycling Information

Recycling more at home does not require much effort if you spend some time to create a comprehensive recycling system. This system starts with having places to store your recycled materials in the house, whether this is a box, bin or bag. Keep the recycling container next to the trash can and it will remind everyone to recycle as much as possible. For more tips and references you can visit: [www.recyclingsimplified.com/residential-](http://www.recyclingsimplified.com/residential-)



**ONLY place these items in the recycling container**

**Flattened Cardboard**

**Paper**

**Metal Cans**

**Plastic Bottles & Jugs**

**How to prepare your recyclables**

**Empty. Clean. Dry.™**  
Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid

**Keep it loose**  
Never put recyclables in containers or bags

**NEVER place these items in the recycling container**

Plastic Bags & Wrappers	Clothing & Shoes	Tools	Electronics & Batteries	Medical Yard Waste
Soiled Paper	Greasy Pizza Boxes	Food	Construction Waste	Diapers
Styrofoam		Toys		Scrap Metal

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# Swansea Rotary Club Again Offers Chad Wood Scholarship

The Rotary Club of Swansea annually sponsors scholarships in the memory of Chad Wood, who was a student at Belleville East when he died in a May 9, 2005 automobile accident.

In 2019, the club will award three \$2,500 scholarships, with the competition open to all graduating high school students who reside in the Village of Swansea at the time of the March 20, 2020 application deadline, and/or who have resided in the Village of Swansea for at least three of the past five years immediately prior to the March 20, 2020 application deadline.

Students who expect to graduate from Althoff Catholic High School; Belleville East; Belleville West; Governor French Academy; private or parochial schools in Madison County or St. Clair County, IL; St. Louis City or St. Louis County (MO), and who satisfy the residency requirements as above stated, are eligible, subject to the following qualifications:

- The applicant must be a person of good moral character who has

demonstrated a commitment to the concept of community service and volunteerism.

- Each applicant must submit an essay of 350-500 words on a subject related to Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self."
- The applicant must have attained a GPA of at least 3.0+ at the time of application (if school is on a 4.0 basis) or 4.0+ (if on a 5.0 basis).
- The applicant must submit at least one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, clergy member, or other unrelated adult who knows the applicant's interests, work habits and capabilities.
- The application, essay and letter of recommendation must be submitted by mail no later than Friday, March 20, 2020. The envelope must bear a post-mark date of March 20, 2020 or earlier.

Please visit the Swansea Rotary website at [www.swansearotary.org](http://www.swansearotary.org) to download a copy of the application form and to review complete rules and

regulations.

The completed application form, essay and recommendation letter(s) must be mailed to:

Ruth Ann Erdmann  
2238 Deer Springs Trail  
Shiloh, Illinois 62221

Selection of recipients will take place in the first few weeks of April and recipients will be notified by the Rotary Club. The selected scholarship recipients and their parents will be invited to attend the Swansea Rotary Club's 7:30 AM meeting on Thursday, June 4, 2020 and will be presented with their certificates and scholarship checks at that time.

## Rotary Club of Swansea Illinois

 Rotary International

### 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@  
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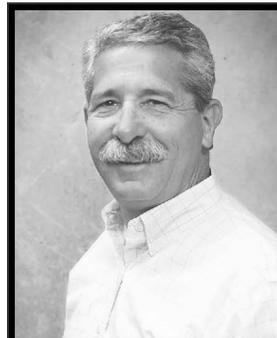
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## News Briefs

### Every Business and Non-Residential Use of Property Must Register

Under the requirements of the Swansea Zoning Code, every business, service occupation and home occupation - collectively known as non-residential uses - must register annually with the Village. This regulation helps ensure that all such uses are properly lawful in the zoning districts within which they operate.

The process also identifies those businesses that are required to pay sales tax, so that the Village has a database of such businesses against which it can verify tax payer information provided by the state. Since Swansea shares zip codes with other communities, in the past revenue that belongs to Swansea was erroneously paid by the State to neighboring communities - one reason that the Village strongly recommends that businesses clearly list their location as being in the Village of Swansea.

All businesses and organizations who have completed the form in the past, have been sent a new one in the mail to the address on record, and should have filed that new form and paid the \$35 fee by April 30th.

However, any new business or organization that initiated operations within the Village in the last year, or which has not previously registered with the Village, must either contact the Swansea Government Center to secure and submit an application, or download the form from the Village website at [www.swanseail.org](http://www.swanseail.org), and complete and return it to the Government Center with the required fee. The annual fee is \$35.00 for this registration, but late registration increases that fee to \$110.00 (\$35.00 + \$75.00).

### Bruce Adams Annual Scholarship

The Metro-East Regional Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for the Dr. Bruce Adams annual scholarship. The Chamber will offer a \$1,000.00 scholarship to a graduating student of Belleville East High School, Belleville West High School, Althoff Catholic High School, or Governor French Academy. To be considered, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. Applicant must be a resident of the Village of Swansea or the City of Fairview Heights for at least 12 months prior to their application.
2. Applicant must be planning to enter an accredited college, university, junior college or vocational school.
3. Applicant must submit a completed application including a written statement between 300-500 words explaining why they are applying for the scholarship. Statement should include goals, school selected, and how the money will be used.
4. Provide three letters of recommendation with at least one being from a staff member of the school.
5. A current copy of a transcript must be included with the completed application.

Applications are available at each school's guidance office or by contacting the Metro-East Regional Chamber of Commerce office by email at: [chamber@MetroEastChamber.org](mailto:chamber@MetroEastChamber.org) or phone at 233-3938. The completed applications may be returned or mailed to the address listed above on or by end of business day on March 31st, 2020. Incomplete applications & late applications will not be considered

### VILLAGE OF SWANSEA CONTACT INFO

**Swansea Government Center**  
1444 Boul Avenue  
Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm, M-F  
[www.swanseail.org](http://www.swanseail.org)

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

**Building, Zoning, Permits**  
Phone: 618-355-0280  
[swanbnz@swanseail.org](mailto:swanbnz@swanseail.org)

**Swansea Police Department  
Emergency: 911**  
Non-emergency: 618-233-8114  
[swanseap@swanseail.org](mailto:swanseap@swanseail.org)

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

#### Village of Swansea Officials

**President: Mike Leopold**  
[mayor@swanseail.org](mailto:mayor@swanseail.org)

**Village Clerk Lauren O'Neill**  
[loNeill@swanseail.org](mailto:loNeill@swanseail.org)

**Treasurer John Walter**  
[jwalter@swanseail.org](mailto:jwalter@swanseail.org)

**Trustee Matt Lanter**  
[mlanter@swanseail.org](mailto:mlanter@swanseail.org)

**Trustee Rocky McDonald**  
[rmcdonald@swanseail.org](mailto:rmcdonald@swanseail.org)

**Trustee Brian McGuire**  
[bmcguire@swanseail.org](mailto:bmcguire@swanseail.org)

**Trustee Marilyn Neumeyer** [mneumeyer@swanseail.org](mailto:mneumeyer@swanseail.org)

**Trustee Jeff Parker**  
[jparker@swanseail.org](mailto:jparker@swanseail.org)

**Trustee Brian Wells**  
[bwells@swanseail.org](mailto:bwells@swanseail.org)

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



The Swansea Report is also posted on the website at:  
[www.swanseail.org](http://www.swanseail.org)

# Swansea Community Calendar - March 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:00pm Govt. Center	3	4	5 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center	6	7
8	9	10 Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6:00pm Govt. Center	11	12 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center	13	14 Rotary Club Pot O' Gold Dinner @ 1237 Central Park Drive O'Fallon— Doors open at 5:00 PM  Swansea Park Board Mtg. 7:00am - Norman Lehr <b>Swansea Patriots Mtg.</b>
15	16 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:00pm Govt. Center	17	18	19 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center	27	28
29	30	31				



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# Swansea Community Calendar - April 2020

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

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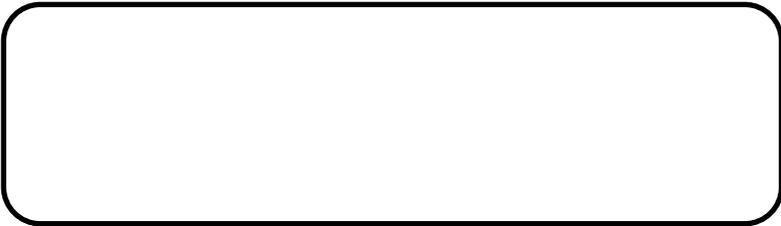
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