



THE SWANSEA REPORT

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 5

May 2020

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Dear Residents and Business Owners,

I want to take a moment to express my sincere thanks and gratitude for those of you doing your part by following Governor Pritzker's stay-at-home-order; it has been a challenging time for all of us. Staying at home might not seem like a significant measure, but it has already proven to be one of the best ways we can help fight and slow the spread of this pandemic.

COVID-19 will forever be a word that our families will remember. Someday we will look back and talk to our children about the days and weeks they were quarantined and there was no school. They will share those memories with their children, too. But with this challenge also comes opportunity. This has provided many of us an opportunity to slow down from our modern lives and to embrace our time together. Enjoy it.

I'd also like to give a huge shout out to all the essential workers on the front lines continuing to work each day in order to keep the rest of us safe at home. You are truly heroes, and this community appreciates all the work you are doing!

In an effort to keep Swansea's essential workers safe, I have worked closely with all Department Heads to ensure they can remain healthy while providing for their community. Across all departments, we have staggered shifts where we can, limited contact with public as much as possible, and continued to update all of our safety policies frequently. All village facilities have remained closed to the public, and will continue to be through, at least, the Governor's stay-at-home-orders.

As with all communities right now, we're working hard to balance our commitment of financial responsibility to the taxpayer, with our support and responsibility to our employees, while trying to provide as many of our exceptional services our residents have some to expect. While we've closed public restrooms, fitness equipment, and playground equipment, we've left our parks open so our residents may responsibly enjoy the outdoors with proper social distancing.

While our Police and Fire facilities are closed to the public, rest-assured that they are fully-staffed and working as hard as ever to take care of our community. They will not be entering homes except for in emergency situations, and will be communicating with residents from a safe distance when necessary. Additional protocol for equipment disinfection and the use of PPE's is also in effect.

Our Building and Zoning Department is currently conducting "no contact" occupancy inspections of vacant dwellings, as well as providing permitting and inspections for new construction. Code Enforcement also continues, with all violation notices being mailed. All grant applications are still being processed, and crucial infrastructure construction projects are moving forward.

I want to again remind you that this won't last forever - let's remember to do our part. Continue washing your hands frequently, staying home when you can, and wearing a mask out in public are all ways we can slow the spread of this harmful virus.

Finally, please be kind. We are all in this together and together we will all prevail.

Please be safe and stay healthy!

Sincerely your Mayor,

Michael Leopold

News Briefs

Govt. Center Closed Monday, May 25th

Refuse Collection Also Delayed

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Monday, May 25th, in observance of Memorial Day. Republic Services will observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 25th as a holiday as well. The collection of refuse and recyclables will shift one day for all routes, with Monday's refuse and recyclables picked up on Tuesday, Tuesday's picked up on Wednesday, Wednesday's on Thursday, Thursday's on Friday, and Friday's on Saturday instead. Yard waste collection will move from Thursday to Friday.

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. Although, due to Covid-19 we are not currently offering these trainings. Anyone interested in joining please contact Captain Jason Whitaker @ jwhitaker@swanseail.org to obtain more information, and/or schedule a time to meet.

Where Do The Flags Come From

Ever wonder where the flags come from that line Route 159 on various Holidays? It's the Rotary Club of Swansea putting them out. Donations from various businesses are sought out and those participating get a flag put in front of their business. The Swansea Rotary also makes sure all the intersections have a large presence of our Flag represented. If you would like to help or if interested in becoming a member of Rotary, contact Jared Viviano at (618) 977-3211.

Swansea Senior Van

The Swansea Senior Van is temporarily suspending services until June 1st unless things were to drastically change between now and then. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Time Is Running Out To Get Names Of Vets In Memorial Day Booklet

Most years when the when the Village gathers on Memorial Day to honor those who have served and sacrificed in service to the United States, the event usually includes a booklet (digital) with the names of Swansea residents who is a veteran of the Armed Services. The booklet will be posted on the website this year. While we will not be gathering this year, Swansea residents whom is a veteran of the Armed Services, retired or currently serving who would like to have the name of any such person included, please call Marilyn Neumeyer at 618-363-8694 or email mlneumeyer@att.net as soon as possible.

Thank You To The Sponsors

The Swansea Patriots would like to thank all the 2020 sponsors for the Adult Easter Egg Hunt and the Halloween Spooktacular. Although, the Easter Egg Hunt had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, we are looking forward to Saturday, October 24th for the annual Spooktacular Event that takes place at Melvin Price Park. It is always fun to turn Melvin Price Park into the Wicked Forest with a bone soup kitchen, blood bank, and spooky lighted walkways. There is bratwurst & hot dogs, along with free games for all the children. Hope to see you in October and thank you!

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Swansea Senior Van

Swansea offers a senior van service that runs Tues., Wed. and Thurs. To utilize this service, one must be a Swansea resident, 60+ or disabled. Riders should call the Government Center at 234-0044 the day prior by 2:00pm to schedule a ride.

Swansea Senior Van

Pick up
Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday
By reservation only
call 234-0044

Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday
before 2:00 pm
for next day pick up

For pick up after appointment
779-5521

Swansea Residents only



Scheduling:

- Riders must call the day before by 2:00 pm to schedule a ride (Monday for Tuesday etc.).
- Be prepared to provide name, address, and a working phone number.
- Riders must provide the name, address including suite #, and apt time for their destination.
- Riders may only request 2 destinations per day.
- 6 rider's maximum per day.
- Riders must be reachable by phone from 2 pm till pickup for time adjustments.

- Medical appointments supersede all other requests.
- Rider will be given a card with return trip phone (618) 779-5521.
- The van doesn't go out on holidays or the day after.
- The van is not equipped for wheelchairs or motorized carts.

Riders:

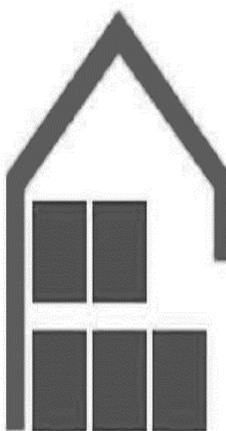
- Riders are expected to be mobile and able to enter and exit the van without help.
- NO smoking, vaping or eating on the van. No weapons.
- Rider are expected to be ready 15 minutes prior to and at their door for pickup.
- If the van does not arrive 15 minutes AFTER your pickup time call 779-5521 for an update.
- Riders that are shopping will be given a pickup time and need to be ready and waiting. Must be willing to help with loading and unloading of packages.
- Failure to cancel a scheduled trip or be a no-show will result in loss of service. (2 warnings only)
- Riders must maintain an acceptable standard of personal hygiene.
- Service animals are allowed for person with disabilities.

Drivers:

- Driver cannot go into appointments with riders.
- Drivers cannot enter private residences or lock and unlock doors.
- Drivers are only authorized to pick up and drop off at location on schedule.
- Drivers are not permitted to lose sight of van. So for apartment building all packages will be left at main door.
- Drivers will use his/her discretion to judge if a person is incapable of being transported safely.
- Drivers can cancel all appointment due to bad weather. Riders will be notified by phone.

Destinations:

- Shop Swansea First
- Belleville Walmart the first Tuesday of the month.
- Target located at 159 and Frank Scott
- Dollar General off 161 by 17th Street
- Dollar Tree: SWANSEA only
- Medical appts. in Swansea, O'Fallon, Shiloh, Belleville, Fairview Heights only.
- The van doesn't travel to Scott Air Force Base.
- Tips are appreciated but not required. Driver's are volunteers.
- Pickup and drop off will be at same location.



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Residents Question Increased Cost of Trash Stickers

An article in the March issue of the Swansea Report regarding the pending increase in trash sticker prices, prompted numerous telephone calls, emails and visits to the Government Center as residents sought some understanding into why the increase was as high as it is. Prices are slated to increase on May 1, 2020 at \$4.49 per sticker (\$22.49 a sheet)

The questions prompted additional details in this issue to try to help ensure that residents understand and have accurate information.

First the background...The Village has a unique volume based pricing system for the disposal of residential solid waste. Since residents are charged for each trash can placed

out for collection - but recyclables are collected at no charge - there is a built-in incentive to recycle. It has been very effective. Since the start of the program Swansea has regularly diverted over 30% of the waste stream from landfills. And recycling has been a natural part of the lives of an entire generation.

The Village issues one license to one company to provide those services and the prices to be charged

for trash stickers are part of that process.

Bid prices in 2011 were for a three year contract (through Apr 2014) with the possibility of two one-year extensions (through April 2016). Only two companies submitted bids in response to that request for proposals. The individual sticker prices, as bid are outlined in the table below. It is obvious, that the Waste Management bids were far higher
(Continued on Page 9).....

BIDDER AS OF 2011 RFP	THRU 4/12	THRU 4/13	THRU 4/14	THRU 4/15	THRU 4/16
Waste Management	\$3.80	\$3.90	\$4.00	\$4.10	\$4.20
Allied / Republic Serv	\$2.73	\$2.84	\$2.95	\$3.07	\$3.19
Allied / Republic Serv	Negotiated revision to prices...			2.95	2.95

CONTRACTOR	THRU 4/15	THRU 4/16	THRU 4/17	THRU 4/18	THRU 4/19	THRU 4/20	THRU 4/21	THRU 4/22	THRU 4/23	THRU 4/24
Allied / Republic	2.95	2.95	\$3.84	\$3.99	\$4.15	\$4.32	\$4.49	\$4.67	\$4.86	\$5.05

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- Service for pools/hot tubs




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Police Work During A Pandemic

During this time of uncertainty related to the COVID-19 pandemic, please know the members of the Swansea Police Department are doing everything they can to help keep the community safe. We understand how important our community is and to ensure we do everything we can. You may have noticed officers have taken a different approach to some calls for service. We also are wearing masks virtually every time we get out of our squad cars and if we believe we will have to be within 6 feet of someone, we are also wearing glasses/goggles, gloves and a mask. This is for the person's safety as well as the officer's.

Here are some updated points to consider:

The CDC strongly suggests if you are outside and think you may be close to any person you should wear a mask. This can even be a homemade mask. Officers are also doing this.

We will take some reports over the telephone. These will be fraud or

lower types of crimes without immediacy. We have always prided ourselves on being community oriented and this is a change for us because if you call us we want to be there in person. However, we need to lower the risk to you, your family and the officers. All emergency calls we will still respond in person.

If you need an officer, please exit your residence (if safe) and wait for them outside. If you feel safer inside, depending upon the type of call, we will assess the totality of the incident to determine how best to gather information and help. We are trying to keep officers healthy by not going into residences, when possible.

Please understand if an officer does not shake your hand. We want to but most likely will not in order to keep everyone healthy.

Please speak with your children to ensure they are properly socially distancing when possible. We have had several calls of children playing sports or gathering and not following safe practices during a pandemic. The last thing in a million years we want to do is send an officer to break up a basketball game of kids.

PLEASE, have a discussion with them ahead of time so we don't have to. We really don't want to do that.

Please visit some of our amazing parks in Swansea and go for walks and exercise. It is proven this keeps you healthy and happy. These are tough times for our children that are seniors in high school (I have one of them) and some are very sad because of prom, graduation, college or trade school closings, job loss, etc. Talk to them, exercise with them, watch them and ensure you are there for them.

Police Officers have, perhaps, always been the master at social distancing throughout the years. We know and survive on using time, distance and cover to our advantage especially against an adversary. Use those same principles to keep your loved ones safe.

If you need us, we will be there.

Steve Johnson
Chief of Police



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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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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 verified the form and sent back to the Government Center with the \$35 annual fee.

However, any new business or organization that initiated operations

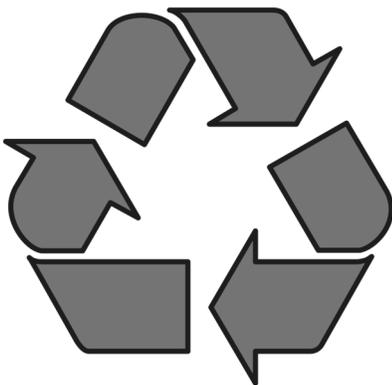
within the Village in the last year, or which has not previously registered with the Village, must either contact the Swansea Government Center to secure and submit an application, or download the form from the Village website at www.swanseail.org, and complete and return it to the Government Center 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).

Any questions regarding the annual registration, please give the Government Center a call at (618) 234-004.

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-



ONLY place these items in the recycling container



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How to prepare your recyclables



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Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid



Keep it loose
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Tools
Food
Toys

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Diapers
Scrap Metal

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Code Enforcement

In an effort to ensure that Swansea remains a clean and vibrant community, the Village is increasing its enforcement of its property maintenance codes, with Code Enforcement staff doing proactive area sweeps each month. If a resident receives a violation notice but has questions, staff are more than willing to explain the details. Village residents are encouraged to report violations. The Village Property Maintenance Code is available on the Village website at: <http://www.swanseail.org/DocumentCenter/View/1454>.

Derelict Vehicles

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.

Grass and Weeds

In Swansea, grass and weeds that exceed 8 inches in height are a nuisance by ordinance. So not keeping your lawn adequately maintained can result in a fine as a violation of that ordinance. Let it go too long, and the Village may step in and cut your grass for you.

However, when the Village does so, it charges standard time and material hourly rates for each worker and the equipment used. The Village then files a lien against the property to ensure it can collect payment for having to cut the grass. The Village will now also consider taking violators to court, and / or filing for foreclosure to collect on

unresolved liens. That's because the Village has more pressing things to do with its staff than cutting the lawns of some residents. Ideally, every resident will simply take care of their own property and collectively help the community.

Grass Clippings

And while on the topic of cutting grass, note that it is also a violation to deposit or otherwise discharge grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste onto the public right-of-way or into public drainage ditches or storm sewers. Drainage ways need to be kept clear of materials that might cause rain water to backup onto property, or into the street where it could cause an accident to occur. If not mulching or bagging your grass clippings, the discharge from your mower should be directed into your yard, not onto the street. And do not bag and then dump clippings into drainage ways.

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
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robert.stelling@
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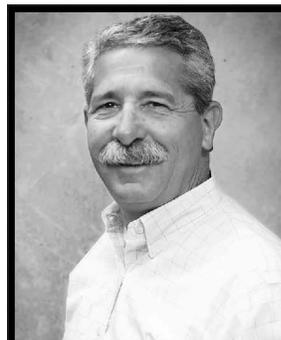
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Understanding the History May Also Help With Understanding Board Decisions

(Continued from page 4).....

than Allied Waste / Republic Services, and the contract was awarded to them.

In 2014, as the Village considered extending that contract, Republic Services made an offer to the Village. That offer was to not increase the sticker prices as previously bid in the optional 4th and 5th years, but to hold the year three price of \$2.95 per sticker for those two years as well. In exchange, Republic asked that the contract be extended for 10 years rather than 2, and submitted prices for each of those extra years.

That proposal was discussed in committee and Village Board meetings in March and April of 2014. Multiple perspectives were offered and considered by Trustees, and in the end the majority of the Board members voted to pass a resolution on April 7, 2014 that extended the previous 3-year contract for 10 years, thus establishing the prices for single stickers, annual stickers, and yard waste services through April 2024. Those prices for single stickers are reflected in the table on page 5.

As you can see, the price of \$2.95 per sticker (tables to the left) in year three of the previous contract was in fact held at that same level for the first two years of the new contract extension. Yet in year three - the year that is about to begin on May 1, 2016 - the sticker price jumps to \$3.84 and that change caught the attention of many.

Still, some trustees noted that while the increase is significant and may have alarmed some residents, the May 1, 2016 price from Republic is

nearly equal to the price that Waste Management would have charged at the beginning of their contract, if they had won the bid five years ago.

So while no one welcomes such a significant increase, in comparing it to other possibilities residents have been paying lower rates for some time. And while the increase is around 30% for this one year, increase in the years beyond that are already set and closer to 3% or 4%.

Under Swansea's system residents still have some control over costs. For example, any recyclable items currently put in your trash could go into the recycling bin instead, thereby lowering the volume of trash, which might mean you use less stickers.

Our system is especially appreciated by senior citizens, older couples or individuals who do not need to put out trash every week. It therefore costs them less than a typical system where everyone pays the same, regardless of how much trash they generate, and where they pay something towards subsidizing the larger trash generators.

Single use stickers will remain on sale at the current price of \$4.32 a sticker (\$21.60 a sheet) through April 30th and will still be honored by Republic Services after May 1st. They can be purchased at the Government Center, Schnucks in Swansea Plaza, or ZX Gas Station at 2400 N. Illinois St. A new annual sticker would need to be purchased at the new price for service beginning May 1, 2020. Annual stickers were available starting the last week of April.

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 Jeff Parker
jparker@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.



The Swansea Report is also posted on the website at:
www.swanseail.org

Swansea Community Calendar - May 2020

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



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Swansea Community Calendar - June 2020

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

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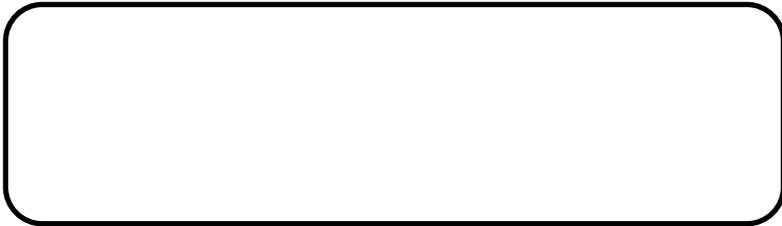
Specific ad dimensions and prices are as follows:

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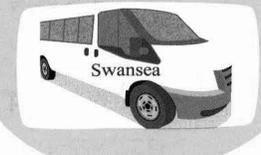
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- ✓ 1/4 page vertical at 4.1" high x 3.7" wide is \$120.00 for one month or 1.9¢ / mailbox
- ✓ 1/4 page horizontal at 2" high x 7.5" wide is \$120.00 for one month or 1.9¢ / mailbox
- ✓ 1/2 page horizontal at 4.1" high x 7.5" wide is \$ 240.00 for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

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