



# THE SWANSEA REPORT

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 7

July 2020

## Q & A Session With Your Swansea Police Chief

*Recent events around the country would be hard for our community to ignore – even if we wanted to. Out of respect to a larger national dialogue, we want to make sure we are doing our part locally to move the conversation forward in an honest, constructive, and respectful way. We feel that the best way to do that is to highlight real conversations that your Police Chief, Steve Johnson, has recently held with a variety of audiences within the community, and show rather than tell. We hope this shines a light on the actions your government, and local Police Department, are doing to address current challenges in law enforcement, and our country as a whole.*

Recently a reporter asked questions of the Swansea Police Department. We thought we would share the questions and our answers to everyone.

**QUESTION:** “The question driving my reporting is whether what happened in Minneapolis has made your police department reconsider its approach to policing and, if so, what changes could be made.”

**ANSWER:** At Swansea, we have always outlawed the philosophy, “we have always done it that way so we will keep doing it that way.” That old school line of thinking does not work in modern day law enforcement. We need the best and the brightest to constantly be looking at new ways of conducting professional law enforcement. We constantly reach out to other departments in the area and nationwide to look for “best practices.” Sometimes we find out we did it pretty well and other times we fell down and can do better. We are always students in law enforcement and constantly evolve and learn to do better.

We also learn from the mistakes of others. Frequently I send out videos of from nationwide events and have Sergeants break them down with officers. We go over them and learn from them.

A recent post I made on Facebook garnered 27,000 reads (we only have 14,000 residents) and many messages of support. We try to keep the public informed about what is going on in their community by explaining our actions and why we do certain things. We strive to get better at it and to have an even more open line of communications. Below is the post:

A citizen sent us the following question. We thought his question was very important and wanted everyone in Swansea to know our answer.

**QUESTION:** Good Afternoon, Can you inform the public on measures you take within the agency pertaining to testing/training on policies, shooting simulator, use of force and de-escalation, defensive tactics, firearms, cultural diversity, mental health crisis training, etc.? The public would like to be assured that at the very least, you are reviewing tapes as tools for educational purposes to keep the department intact. This is also a great time and opportunity for you to share information with the public on how you prepare your officers in an effort to prevent what we witnessed happen to George Floyd. I would hope that due to our current climate, this will be addressed. Thank you for your time.

**ANSWER:** Thank you for reaching out to us with such a thought-provoking and well-written question. It is critical that citizens like you interact with law enforcement and government. We are not separate or better than anyone, in fact we are the public. In 1829 Sir Robert Peel said, “To maintain at all times a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and that the public are the police, the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.” As Chief of Police, my entire premise of every decision I make is “community welfare and existence.”

In short, what happened in Minneapolis was wrong. My personal and professional opinion is the officers should be fired and charged with serious crimes. At the time of this response that is happening. I should add I have been in law enforcement for 31 years and know that sometimes things look one way on video but when the entire investigation is complete, the totality of the incident may have a different finding. But, in this case it would be hard for me to believe there would be any justifiable reason. It was wrong, disturbing and shocking to watch. It hurt me to watch.

It appears three of the four officers were fired because they did not intervene or stop the first officer. I realize we do not have all of the facts in this case but specifically in our 300.2.1 policy, our officers have a duty to intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force. Any officer present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which... **(Continued on Page 6)**

## News Briefs

### Govt. Center Closed Friday, July 3rd

#### Refuse Collection Also Delayed

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Friday, July 3rd, in observance of the Forth of July holiday. Republic Services will observe The Fourth of July on Friday as well. The collection of refuse and recyclables will shift one day for Friday customers. Friday customers will be picked up on Saturday instead. Yard waste collection will not be affected.

### Swansea Senior Van

The Swansea Senior Van is operating again and currently looking for a volunteer driver. If you have any questions or are interested please call the Government Center at (618) 234-0044 for more information.

### Sewer Billing

Penalties have not been applied to bills since the March billing cycle due to Covid-19; however, the penalties for sewer billing will resume on July 20, 2020.

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### July Farmer's Market

It's July, and the Swansea Farmer's Market is heating up. Unique fresh crops and crafts are in even more abundance and every week they serve up something good to eat. Find them on Thursdays from 10:00am - 2:00pm, rain or shine, in the parking lot of Rural King, at 2801 N. Illinois Street.

### Aldi Remodel Started

It's official! The Aldi's in Swansea is going to be remodeled and expanded. The project began on June 8th and should wrap up in September. The project scope includes an expansion of the building, an interior remodel, additional parking, new LED parking lot lighting, improved ingress and egress from IL Rte 159 and IL Rte 161, a new Bank of America ATM, and all new landscaping. Stay tuned to this page for project updates over the coming weeks and months.



### Tour De Belleville

The Tour De Belleville has been cancelled this year. The website instructs those interested to check back May of 2021 for more information on next year's event.

### Boul Avenue Multi-Use Trail & Trailhead Park



Construction of the Boul Avenue multi-use trail and trailhead park is well underway. The trail will follow Boul Avenue along its northern side, from High Mount School to the property behind Cholula's Mexican Restaurant (the former Dairy Queen building). The property behind the restaurant is owned by the Village and is the site of a new park that will act as a trailhead for the MetroBikeLink trail. The new Boul Avenue trail will, therefore, be connected to the MetroBikeLink trail as well as to a trail from Melvin Price Park that currently terminates at Boul Avenue. The trail will accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists. It would greatly improve safety for school students who currently walk on or along Boul Avenue when walking to and from school, or to and from sporting events and practices at the Park. Construction will continue through summer and be wrapping up at the end of August.

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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:

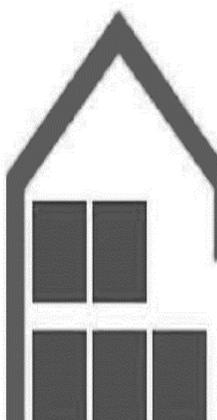
- Riders are expected to be mobile and able to enter and exit the van without help.
- NO smoking, vaping or eating on the van. No weapons.
- Rider are expected to be ready 15 minutes prior to and at their door for pickup.
- If the van does not arrive 15 minutes AFTER your pickup time call 779-5521 for 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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# News Briefs

## 2020 Chad Wood Memorial Scholarships

The Rotary Club of Swansea announces the recipients of the 2020 Chad Wood Memorial Scholarships. The Scholarships are made possible through funds raised at the "Annual Service Above Self 5K" that was to be held Saturday May 30, 2020. The 5K unfortunately was cancelled due to the COVID19 Pandemic.

This year three \$2,500 Scholarships were available to deserving high school seniors residing in the Village of Swansea.

The 2020 recipients are: Abigail Lanter, a graduate of Althoff Catholic High School and daughter of Sue and Matt Lanter; Tyler Thompson, a graduate of Belleville East High School and son of Cheryl Venorsky and Ronald Thompson; and Jackson Tyler, a graduate of Belleville East High School and son of Carol and Tom Tyler.

Chad Wood Memorial Scholarship honors the memory of Chad Wood, who passed unexpectedly in May 2005..

Chad was a fine student, a superb athlete for the Belleville East Lancers, and a devoted and loving son to his parents, Ray and Penny Wood. Ray Wood was the Charter President when the Rotary Club of Swansea was formed in 2002.

Besides perpetuating Chad's memory and commemorating the wonderful gifts he shared with the many lives he touched, the Scholarship looks to support the education opportunities of the future leaders of the Swansea community.

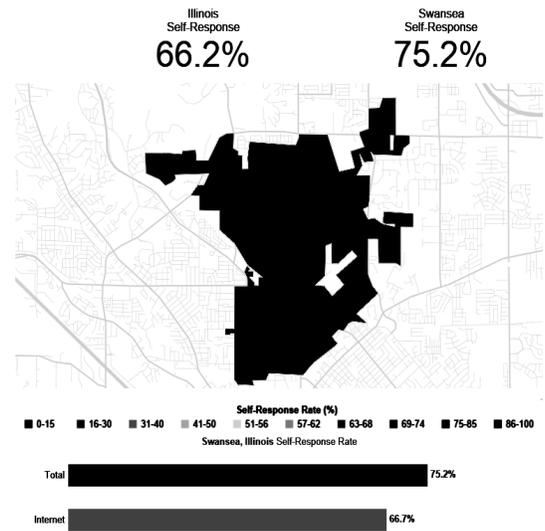
"The Rotary Club of Swansea congratulates each recipient, and wishes continued success to each applicant", said President Jared Viviano.

## 2020 Census

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. These statistics are used to determine each state's representation in Congress

and to inform the allocation of more than \$675 billion in federal funding annually. Local leaders may use these statistics to make decisions about programs and services for their community. The deadline has been extended to October 31st. If you have any questions please call the Government Center at (618) 234-0044.

Check out Swansea's responses in the picture below compared to the State of Illinois:



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# Fire Department Urges Fire Safety In Summer

With summer months always come outdoor cookouts and barbecues. The Swansea Fire Department has a few tips to make sure you stay safe while enjoying your time with friends and family.

## Barbeque Safety Tips

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors to prevent any carbon monoxide build up in an enclosed area.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- When starting a gas grill, open the tank valve to full to light the grill then back off 1/4 turn once lit.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

## Home Fire Safety

- Have a working smoke detector in every bedroom and at least one on every level of the residence.
- If you need assistance with smoke detectors, please contact the Swansea Fire Department for installation of up to three (3) 10 year smoke detectors at no cost.
- Illinois state law requires a working carbon monoxide detector within fifteen (15) feet of every occupied bedroom.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on a monthly basis to make sure that they are working properly.
- Replace carbon monoxide detectors every five (5) years from the date of manufacturer and replace smoke detectors every ten (10) years from date of manufacture.
- Never leave lit candles unattended.
- Summertime Burn Safety

- Wear short sleeves or roll them up when cooking on the grill.
- Use long-handled barbecue tools.
- Keep a 3-foot safe zone around grills, fire pits and campfires.
- Attend public fireworks displays; this leaves the lighting to the professionals.

## Campfire Safety Tips

- Always follow the campfire rules for the area where you are camping or living. Some parks and towns prohibit fires, and these rules are there for a reason. Check the local regulations before you build your fire.
- Do not store gasoline, liquid fire starter, or any other type of flammable liquid near the campfire. It's too easy for stray flames to ignite these materials.
- Do not build large campfires, even if they seem impressive. It's much safer to keep fires small so they are easier to control.

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# Police Department

is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force. An officer who observes another employee use force that exceeds the degree of force permitted by law should promptly report these observations to a supervisor. Using a knee to someone's neck for almost 9 minutes is not how we train.

So if every police department is answering like I am, why does this happen? Hiring, training and professionalism is critical for law enforcement to succeed. Unfortunately, four officers have greatly tarnished the dedication and reputation of over 800,000 officers in this country. We need to continue to learn from others and always work hard to ensure our community, organization and profession are proud of what we do every day. I was on President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. I traveled to the White House twice to meet with the task force in person. One key point they taught me was there are over 18,000 different law enforcement agencies nationwide. That means 18,000 different policies, training, hiring, discipline, professionalism, etc. Nationwide standards on all of them need to be developed and attained.

We are lucky in Swansea that our citizens allow us to have the funding to hire the best of the best, train with the best equipment and modern day techniques, spend time on de-escalation videos and in person training, and belong to great training organizations that emphasize the right way to do things. All of this helps us remember and demonstrate daily our Swansea Police Vision Statement: To be the standard in law enforcement through leadership, innovation, and commitment to excellence.

All of the Swansea Officers have exceeded state guidelines for training. In most cases, we double or triple the standards especially as they relate to the topics of use of force and de-escalation, defensive tactics, firearms, cultural diversity, and mental health crisis training. There is no place in professional law enforcement for the "bare minimum." I want and demand the best of the best for all of our citizens. Our philosophy: "Every day is a day to train better." We constantly watch nationwide videos of law enforcement of what

was done right as well as what was done wrong. We use simulators not just to teach us when to shoot, but as important, when not to shoot. We empower each officer to correct other officers and ensure we always do it the right way. Less than the best is not tolerated but we also know we can improve.

We have the Swansea Citizens Academy for everyone. Citizens conduct ride along with officers. We have the Swansea Police and Fire Youth Academy. We interact in the schools with a School Resource Officer and build youth and parent relationships. However, most importantly we treat everyone with dignity and respect and fully embrace the sanctity of life. Our top goal and mission is community caretaking. We will never waiver from that.

If you would ever like to talk in person or over an iced tea, please call anytime (618-233-8114).

Steve Johnson

Chief

Swansea Police Department

**QUESTION:** "Beyond that, I'd also like to talk more about exactly what training your officers go through on de-escalation and use of force, and how programs like the Citizens Police Academy or the Code Red system affect community-police relations in Swansea."

**ANSWER:** Swansea Officers have mandated training as required by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. Frequently mandated training does not go far enough because it works towards the lowest common denominator. It is also severely underfunded by the state. Almost every Swansea Officer doubles or triples the minimum required training. We believe that every day is a day to train and get better. We have official training, hallway discussions, video training, simulators, firearms (when to and when not to), constantly debrief high stress calls for service, go over reports with full shifts and the department, emails, and formal in person training. As you can see, we are serious about it and know how important it is to keeping a professional workforce. Topics overlap from de-escalation, communications,

ethics, racial diversity, critical incident response, mental health, officer safety, excited delirium, and much, much more. The list of classes are in a spread sheet that will cover two full size desks for just one officer.

Every single use of force situation a sergeant or officer in charge must respond to the scene and investigate. Then the report and a separate tracking form goes to the shift sergeant, then goes to the Deputy Chief then the training director and then the chief. Every step of the way it is closely scrutinized. Even if the officer did everything right we look at how can we train better or what better tools could we have used to de-escalate or prevent it from happening. Then we implement that aspect into immediate training for all officers.

The Swansea Citizens Police Academy is an amazing connection to the community. It allows an average person to experience police work and see why we do and do not do certain things. Every graduate has sent me amazing messages afterwards how it was literally life changing for them.

Here is an example:

A black female filed a complaint against a white officer believing the officer's actions were racially unjust or motivated. She had been parked at the Thompson Center at 3:00 AM and left a friend's house to get to her vehicle. As she entered her vehicle an officer pulled up behind her but did not have his emergency lights on. She waited a moment then drove on. He pulled behind her again and turned on his emergency lights and stopped her. He approached and asked what she had been doing there. She replied she was leaving a friend's house. He checked her driver's license and then said there had been several burglaries in the area and he was just checking her. He did not detain her beyond that or issue any tickets. She then left. She thought about it and felt she was stopped because of the color of her skin and accused of being suspicious. She filed a complaint. I read the complaint, read the report and watched the police video. I decided to handle this differently as an experiment. I called her up and asked her to meet me in person at either the station or a public place if she felt better about that. We ended up meeting for an iced tea at

# Police Department

Burger King. We talked for nearly two hours. I explained to her things she did not know. She explained to me things I did not know about her life and past experiences. I told her I had directed officers to patrol that area late at night because of an increase in burglaries in the area. The Thompson Center had a sign prohibiting trespassing on the property past dark. She did not see the sign or know about the burglaries. The officer pulled up behind her and could not see what the driver looked like in the dark. His video confirmed that. He called it out to dispatch but did not turn on his emergency lights. He walked up to her and just as he got up to the driver's door she pulled away and drove off. The video showed this but she didn't know. He then quickly went back to his squad car and pulled her over. Immediately upon talking to her, he believed she had not been involved in any criminal activity and believed her account of visiting friends. However, it is required by Illinois Law that her personal information be taken to report racial make up during any traffic stop. He explained to her the reason for his stop. She took it one way and he meant it another way. Could we have done better communicating? Always.

After several hours of us talking at Burger King, I believe she partially agreed with me and felt better about the interaction, maybe not 100% but she understood more. I also talked to the officer about it and communications. A few months later, our Swansea Citizens Police Academy was starting up. I called her up and asked her to attend. He declined because she was working multiple jobs and had to also take care of her kids. The time and money for it would be impossible. I told her I was waiving the fee, I would have a civilian at the academy that could watch her kids while she attended and I would personally pick her up from home and give her a ride to and from. She thought about it and attended.

The question was does the citizens academy work building relationships? She attended the academy and ride along and she told me it changed her thoughts on police officers and she discovered they actually hate writing tickets and want to help people. Although money was tight, she held a fundraiser and donated money to our youth academy. She made cookies

and treats for the officers. And most recently on the above post she posted this: "Chief Steve Johnson is a man of his word. He was a blessing in my life and took his time, after a police encounter that I had serious issues with, to reach out to me. He took my concerns seriously, listened, talked to me, invited me to Citizens Academy, and left me feeling optimistic about the job he is doing for Swansea. I wish more officers had a chief like him." Although she mentioned me by name, this is not about me. It is about the philosophy of professional law enforcement in Swansea. I believe the citizens academies can and do make a difference.

The Code Red system alerts citizens to critical things that are going on in the community. From runaways to community events to criminal events. We have to be careful to not overuse it but getting information to everyone is very important. Not everyone is on social media or watches the news. It is a great tool to communicate with.

**QUESTION:** "I know that you've also taught other law enforcement officials about patrol techniques, safety and leadership. I'm hoping you could provide some insight on the national conversation about police reform right now. Specifically, what do you think of some of the changes being proposed (banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants, requiring racial bias and duty to intervene training, decreasing funding)? What do you say to the people proposing dismantling departments altogether (like what happened in Minneapolis over the weekend)? What initiatives could other departments make to increase trust and transparency within their communities?"

**Answer:** I have been very fortunate to teach for a professional law enforcement company, police academies, homeland security, FBI, US Attorneys and have taught in all 50 states and outside of the country. There are over 800,000 police officers nationwide and over 18,000 police agencies. The biggest problem I see is that means 18,000 different policies, training, hiring, discipline, professionalism, etc. Nationwide standards on all of them need to be developed and attained. All cops want this. They want to be the best. Locally almost all of the chiefs are in constant communication about best practices, im-

proving training, minority recruitment, and communications.

Chokeholds are banned in Illinois and have been for a long time. Police can only use it as a last resort to save a life. No-knock warrants are rarely issued because of the problems they can cause. You must get special authority from a judge to use it. Racial bias training is already mandated in Illinois. Duty to intervene is trained in every class we have. It is our written policy and also within our professional law enforcement philosophy. I thank every day for a few partners and supervisors I had when I was a rookie cop 31 years ago. They saved my career by forcing me to slow down, be professional, and to not take things personal. They taught me to treat everyone with dignity and respect, even those who don't deserve it.

Most police departments I know right now are underfunded. I need more cops. I get turned down because that means higher taxes. I get it. I don't want higher taxes either. Funding law enforcement less means less professional training, less professional officers (who wants to work for less money), and less officers to respond when you call 911. When someone is breaking into your home how long can you wait on 911? 2 minutes? 10 minutes? 23 minutes?

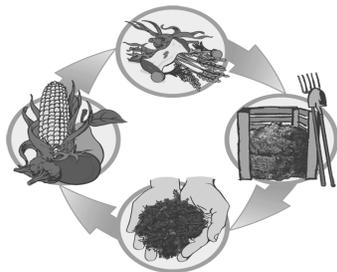
I fully support more social programs, more mental health personnel and better funding of programs that help people. All of these are sorely needed. Throughout the years more and more of these tasks were forced on law enforcement. It is unfair and not realistic to ask that of one profession. I do not support less police officers out patrolling your neighborhoods, schools and businesses.

We have the Swansea Police and Fire Youth Academy, Swansea Citizens Police Academy, Law Enforcement Explorer Program, a robust social media presence, Code Red, foot patrols, bike patrols in the neighborhoods and bike trails, we attend children's birthday parties in Swansea, we talk to families at parks, we commit to answering every phone call and help everyone if we can, we reach out to faith-based organizations and most important we strongly believe in the sanctity of life and serving everyone.

## Composting Could Save You Money

A resident recently suggested that the Swansea Report provide information about how to effectively compost yard waste and some kitchen scraps to help residents understand the process. While such an article might be helpful to some, the many options and approaches to composting as well as the details that need to be presented with each, would take up more space than we could devote in this newsletter.

We therefore suggest that residents who might be interested visit <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/homecompost/intro.cfm> which describes and details different options.



## Consider Installing A Rain Barrel

Rain barrels can help save money on your water bill while decreasing runoff from your home. That's good for rivers and streams, because runoff can carry contaminants into those waterways.

A rain barrel is a container that collects and stores rainwater from roof gutters and downspouts so that you can later use that rainwater for watering plants, trees, the yard and garden. Barrels come in a wide range of sizes, styles, shapes, and materials and are readily available from many hardware, gardening or home improvement stores. Larger ones generally store 40 or 50 gallons.

Because plastic is lightweight and inexpensive, many rain barrels are made of that material. However, those might deteriorate over time if not protected from

UV rays. While wood barrels are heavier, they would probably last longer.

Most are connected to a downspout at the top and include a outflow spigot at the bottom. Since even a 50 gallon barrel can fill up quickly, some means of allowing overflow is necessary. That might be manual or automatic, but once the barrel is full, the rest of the water coming through the downspout needs to be diverted to safely drain away from your property.



Some people connect rain barrels in series to store even more water.

Generally, water is discharged by gravity into a watering can, but small pumps can be used to pump water through a garden hose.

A little research on the Internet can help you to better understand this option and it might be an option for you.

### 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.



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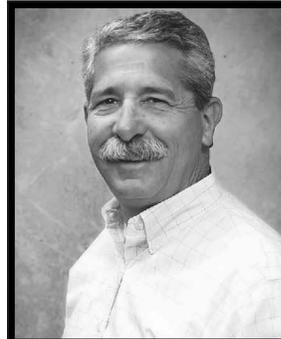
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# Most Fireworks Are Illegal In Illinois

If you are new to the area, please note that it is illegal for anyone in the State of Illinois to shoot off fireworks, or to even have them in their possession. Illegal "fireworks" are specifically defined in the laws but generally include any that explode, including firecrackers, bottle rockets, other rockets and Roman candles.

Possession is a petty offense if you have less than one pound of illegal fireworks, a class B misdemeanor if you have between 1 and 3 pounds, and a class A misdemeanor if you have more than 3 pounds.

As specified in the law, the term "fireworks" does not include snake or glow worm pellets, smoke devices, party poppers, or sparklers. So if you see "fireworks" for sale in local stores, they should be these legal varieties. And while most vendors who set up temporary stands on parking lots will only sell what is legal, it seems as though every year brings a newspaper story about a vendor who tries to sell fireworks banned by the law. Therefore, you can't always assume that because you bought it in Illinois it is legal in Illinois.

In our area it is also not unusual for Illinois residents to cross over into Missouri, buy fireworks that are legal there, but then bring them back into Illinois where they are illegal.

But Illinois' laws are not waived or suspended for the 4th of July or any other special day. So if you are thinking of bringing illegal fireworks into Swansea and shooting them off for the holiday, please consider the potential consequences

First, suppose your illegal sky rocket goes off course, through your neighbor's window, and burns their house to the ground. Does your homeowner's policy cover your illegal acts? Or

suppose a neighborhood child is seriously injured by a cherry bomb or pack of firecrackers. Are you covered for that injury?

Insurance coverage may be more certain if your neighbor's child is hurt by your "legal" sparkler but you may still be financially liable, and a child would still be injured. A sparkler burns at a temperature of 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. And the scenario doesn't have to be a neighbor's child...it could just as easily be your own child or grandchild who is injured.

A second possibility is that a neighbor complains to the Police Department and a police officer shows up at your home. The consequence could range from having to simply cease your actions and surrender your fireworks, to the potential of being cited. Some residents might be willing to gamble with that - believing that even if a neighbor calls, the police have better things to do than handle "fireworks calls". And they may.

Certainly if two calls come in at the same time, one for an auto accident and the other a neighbor complaining about the noise of your fireworks, the police officer will be dispatched first to the auto accident. But that also puts the Village into a tough position of having to prioritize our response to calls when in fact the simple complaint about the noise of fireworks could escalate to that house fire or child being injured.

So in reality on the 4th of July as well as the days surrounding the holiday, those who illegally shoot off fireworks add to the workload of our Police Department, and maybe our Fire Department. They pull resources away from other needs.

## 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 - July 2020

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



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# Swansea Community Calendar - August 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:00pm Govt. Center	4	5	6 Farmers Market Rural King Parking Lot 10AM to 2PM Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center—	7	8 Swansea Park Board Mtg. 7:00am - Norman Lehr Swansea Patriots Mtg. 8:00am—Norman Lehr
9	10	11 Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6:00pm Govt. Center	12	13 Farmers Market Rural King Parking Lot 10AM to 2PM 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 Farmers Market Rural King Parking Lot 10AM to 2PM Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center—	21	22
23 / 30	24	25	26	27 Farmers Market Rural King Parking Lot 10AM to 2PM Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am -	28	29

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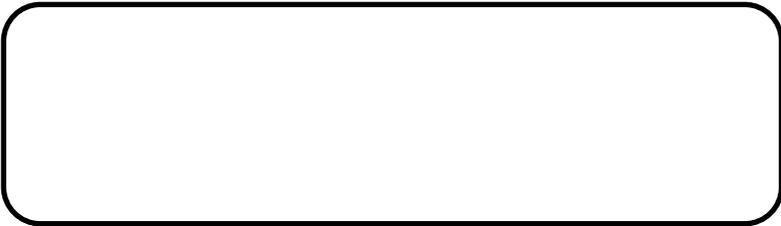
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# Village Of Swansea

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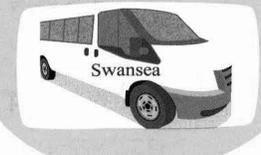
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