



THE SWANSEA REPORT

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 3

May 2021

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MONTH

Page 2

Memorial Day

Memorial Day Celebration...

Page 3

Wolf Branch Elementary School

Wolf Branch – Tribute To Veterans...

Page 4

News Briefs

Swansea Hybrid Police Vehicles...

Page 5

Chief's Corner

Officer Of The Year...

Page 6

Retirement Spotlight

Happy Retirement To Steve Rebenstorff...

Page 7

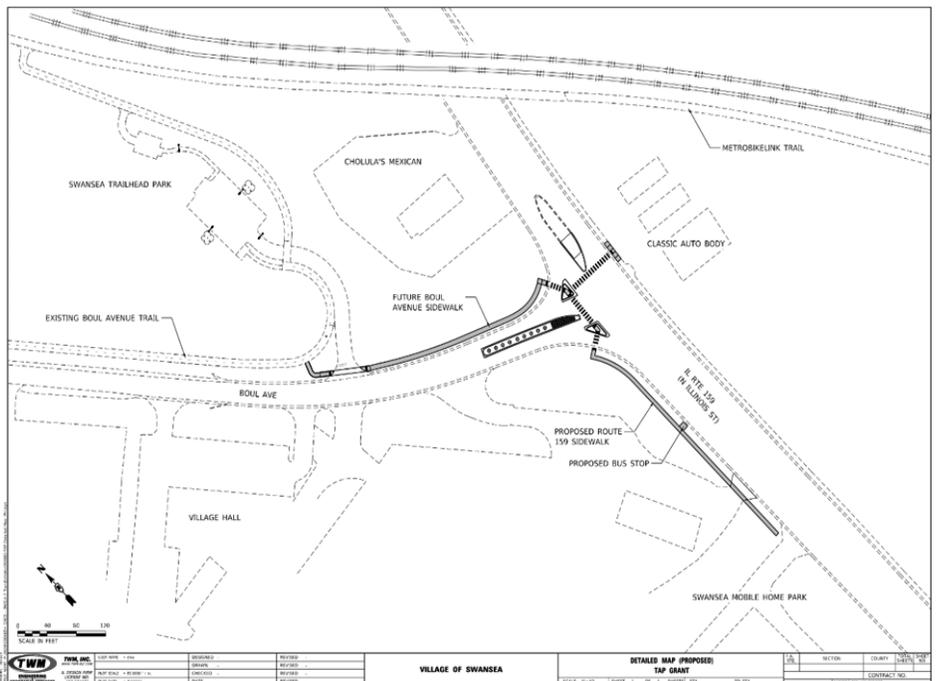
Swansea Fireman 2020 Awards Program

Swansea Fireman 2020 Awards Program...

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

Proposed Boul Ave and IL Rte 159 sidewalk in Swansea selected for Federal TAP Funding.

The Village of Swansea received notice on March 31st that its grant application for the Boul Avenue / IL Rte 159 Sidewalk connector project had been selected for funding under the federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). \$1.7 million in funding was allocated to Illinois and Swansea's project was one of only five in the state selected from a total of twelve applications. The Boul Avenue / IL Rte 159 Sidewalk connector project will create a new sidewalk along the northern edge of Boul Avenue, running from the entrance to the newly constructed Boul Avenue Trailhead Park to IL Rte 159, and will also feature pedestrian crossing on both Boul Avenue and IL Rte 159. The project will also provide a sidewalk along the west side of IL Rte 159 heading south. As part of the implementation phase of the Old Town Swansea Streetscape Masterplan the project will include streetscape lighting, native landscaping, and improvements to the bus stop adjacent to Thompson Gas. Project concepts call for the sidewalk to provide residents with safe crossing of IL Rte 159, and direct access to Melvin Price Memorial Park, the MetroBikeLink Trail, and High Mount School. The project concepts also provide for a connection to a future sidewalk from Boul Avenue to IL Rte 161 on the west side of IL Rte 159. This would serve two purposes: provide a safer route for High Mount students who use this route to walk to and from school, or to and from athletic events and practices at Price Park; and to connect the neighborhoods around Boul Avenue to the regional trail system. Total estimated cost of the project including contingencies, engineering and construction phase services is \$577,536. The TAP grant requested just over 50% of that, or \$292,182. Creating a safer route for students was the initial motivation for looking into a project like this, but connecting people more easily to the regional trail system and providing safe crossing of IL Rte 159 is very important. Construction is not likely to begin until the summer of 2022.



News Briefs

Govt. Center Closed Monday, May 31st

Refuse Collection Also Delayed

The Swansea Government Center, all non-emergency services of the Village and Republic Services will be closed on Monday, May 31st for Memorial Day. 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.

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

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you would like to sponsor a flag or are interested in becoming a member of Rotary, contact Ed Henrichs at (618) 920-0213.

Memorial Day Celebration

The 2021 Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 31 at 10 am at Mel Price Park, Caseyville Ave.

Our speaker will be Jerry Dallape, a Vietnam Vet.

The Village of Swansea Park Board will be honoring all Veterans who have served for our nation.

Any Swansea Resident who has served can submit their information to "mlineumeyer@att.net" for the booklet which will be printed for all.

We will honor all with a speaker, music and refreshments.

Please join us with your family and friends.

Building and Pavilion Rental Information

The facilities are now being rented in a manner that is following State and CDC COVID guidance. For more information on renting the facilities visit www.swanseail.org under Parks and Recreation or call the Government Center at 618-234-0044



Congratulations To The Newly Elected Board Members

Village of Swansea President of the Board of Trustees: Michael W. Leopold

Village of Swansea Clerk: Tyler M. Thompson

Village of Swansea Treasurer: John M. Walter

Village of Swansea Trustee: Matthew R. Lanter

Village of Swansea Trustee: Richard "Rocky" McDonald

Village of Swansea Trustee: Cary Lewis V

A BIG Thank You To Those Who Have Served Many Years

Village Trustee: Brian Wells

Village of Swansea Clerk: Lauren O'Neill

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WOLF BRANCH SEEKING DONATIONS TO BUILD PERMANENT TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

In November of 2019, almost 150 veterans were welcomed into the Wolf Branch Elementary School gymnasium for the district's annual Veterans Day Salute. Following weeks of preparation, the assembly focused on providing the honored guests with an hour of appreciation. Songs were performed, poems were recited, and speeches were read throughout the venue that had been decorated from floor to ceiling with red, white and blue banners.

As part of the festivities, Scott Harres, the district's superintendent, thanked everyone for their cooperation and flexibility since this year's festivities had to be held in the small elementary gym because the district was waiting on the reconstruction of the Middle School gym following the subsidence occurrence in 2017. He spoke about how he had envisioned the new building containing an outdoor plaza dedicated to all veterans, but that the state funding did not provide for such.

Shortly after the presentation concluded, one of the veterans approached Mr. Harres to find out more about the plaza he had mentioned. He asked if the school might consider allowing a group of veterans to form a donation committee. After receiving the board's approval, and after the district and architect approved a layout, the committee officially started meeting in early 2020.



The committee developed an ambitious plan to solicit pledges by engaging the students, the community, and all veterans. Their goal was to raise all the necessary funding by Veterans Day, 2020. But before they could activate their plan, the pandemic struck. All in-person presentations and each of the community information meetings had to be canceled. But yet, the committee chose to proceed and switched to a remote format.

Unfortunately, due to the impact of the virus, the goal has not been met. As of the beginning of April, the committee is still hoping to raise the remaining 25% of its original \$65,000 goal. According to the committee's president, James Wilson, "The pledge drive has reached a critical moment as the Middle School project is scheduled to finish in July, and the contractor's prices are more reasonable if the Veterans Plaza can be completed while the contractors are still staged at the Middle School."

Therefore, the committee asks everyone to consider making a pledge to this worthwhile cause, and to also encourage their friends, neighbors, and fellow veterans to do the same. To access renderings of the Veterans Plaza, visit the link on the school's website: <https://www.wbsd113.org/article/253027?org=wbsd-113>. A link to the donation form is also located at this website. In addition, interested donors may also call Steven Duff at 618-406-4789 with any questions.

**Calling all Volunteers!
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Swansea Residents only

News Briefs

“Service Above Self”

Rotary Club of Swansea

18th Annual 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, June 5, 2021”

On Saturday, June 5th Swansea Rotary will sponsor our Eighteenth Annual “Service Above Self” 5K Run/Walk. As with many other events in our lives, Covid has pressed us in to doing a “Virtual 5K” this year. But it hasn’t forced us to change our commitment for supporting local college bound high school seniors. Proceeds from the event will enable us to present two (2) \$2,000 college scholarships in honor of Chad Wood.

You can find details and register for the 5K Virtual Run/Walk by going online at www.swansearotary.org. Entry fees are \$25.00. Contact us if you would like a copy of our established 5K route from prior years.

For additional information on registering or sponsoring the Eighteenth Annual 5K “Service Above Self” Run/Walk, contact Jim Riess at 618-920-9698; e-mail jmriess87@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support.

SWANSEA HYBRID POLICE

VEHICLES

The Swansea Police Department now has three HYBRID 2020 Ford Police Interceptor Utility (SUV) vehicles. The new hybrid vehicles are not electric vehicles but, using modern technology, they greatly save on gas consumption and CO2 emissions. The vehicles cost slightly more but that cost is recouped the first year in service and over the life span significant savings of taxpayer dollars is realized.

Some departments using the vehicles report they go from using 8 gallons of gas per shift to only 3 gallons of gas per shift. Police vehicles spend a significant amount of time idling and cannot be turned off while in service. Why? Computers, in car cameras, GPS, Defibrillators, Narcan, etc. all need to be turned on and kept at a certain temperature. Officers cannot respond to an emergency call without their cameras activated, which takes several minutes to boot up to be ready if not already activated.

“Some police departments up north have tested these for a year and have reported excellent results. We are grateful Swansea Mayor Mike Leopold and Village Board support us in this effort to be fiscally responsible and help the environment by expelling less CO2 into the air.”

Steve Johnson

Chief of Police



(Continued on page 9)

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Chief's Corner

Officer Of The Year

The officer of the year award is more than just being a proactive officer. It is an officer that makes a difference in the lives of the people we serve. It is for the well-rounded officer that is both good at creating traffic safety, good at finding wanted criminals and those about to commit a crime, and is great at changing lives. This year there were five nominations and all five were for one officer. I have never seen this happen before. Although we have a great department because of the phenomenal people that make it up, Officer Matt Lindley was the clear choice for Officer of the Year.

One of our officers commented about Officer Lindley, "I honestly became envious and it made me try harder to be the type of officer he is. I made Officer Lindley my competition but he is unrivaled. He has been nothing short of very helpful whenever I have a question or I seek advice. I believe his efforts are making Swansea a better place to live and raise a family. His efforts are probably having an effect on those wanting to come into

town or through town on illegal business".

A seasoned sergeant commented, "Officer Lindley is the clear cut candidate for officer of the year. His eagerness for law enforcement is contagious. Officer Lindley was in the top echelon of arrests for both misdemeanors and felonies throughout the year. Officer Lindley answered his calls for service, and provided top notch police presence to each victim he came into contact with. Officer Lindley also supported his squad mates by providing back up when needed and investigative assistance whenever called upon. Officer Lindley clearly brought back a plethora of knowledge from his previous assignment in the drug unit, and he spent this year putting that knowledge to good use".

I have personally witnessed Officer Lindley be much more than just the proactive officer. I have seen him help people that no one else in society would even look at. He truly cares about human beings of all walks of life. The compassion he shows towards people who have

narcotics addictions, victims of crime, and simply people down on their luck is a stellar representation of what law enforcement in the 21st century should be. The Swansea Police Department is lucky to have Officer Lindley and we are in good hands going into the future with officers like him.

For those reasons, I award Officer Lindley with the 2020 Swansea Police Officer of the Year. It is well deserved and I am honored to present him with the award he earned.

-Chief Steve Johnson



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WOLF BRANCH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEARS COMPLETION



Work continues on the Wolf Branch Middle School that experienced severe mine subsidence damage in 2017. School Officials are expecting to complete the project by August 1.

For Wolf Branch students and staff, the 2017-2018 school year started off just like every other school year. However, that description only lasted a couple of weeks as small, interior movements of the building started becoming noticeable in early September. As a precaution, the district called in engineers from the Illinois Department of Resources to analyze the situation. Their assessment came to a sudden halt on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 when they determined that over half of the building had shifted significantly, so much that the building was declared unsafe for occupation.

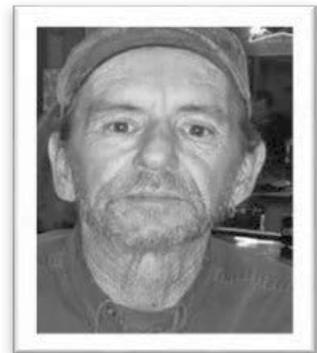
Thanks to the help of the staff and numerous volunteers from the community, the next two days were spent moving the Middle School supplies and equipment to the Elementary School where rooms were reconfigured to squeeze in the now-displaced Middle School students and staff. Following a brief message that was dispatched for assistance, the response was overwhelming. Wolf Branch parents, community members, teachers from other schools, volunteers from the Swansea Police, Fire and Street Departments, and even people from other communities that just felt the need to help arrived. One family even went out on their own and rented a large moving truck.

While this was happening, contingency plans had to be quickly developed in order to continue to provide the students of Wolf Branch with a "normal" education. Bussing needed to be rerouted, the elementary cafeteria and gymnasium had to be revamped to accommodate many more students, and temporary facilities had to be arranged for food storage, extra-curricular activities, and office space. Once again, the community came through. For example, area schools offered up their facilities so that the athletic programs could continue. Holland Construction offered a construction trailer, Swansea Mayor Leopold offered equipment and manpower, Twin Lake Trucking provided a refrigerated truck for food storage, and area churches offered to store equipment and/or house students. Only because of the extreme generosity of so many and the coordination of Dr. Nicole Sanderson, school reopened on Monday, September 18, 2017 at the Elementary Building for all K-8 students. **(Continued on page 8)**

Retirement Spotlight

The Village of Swansea would like to wish a Happy Retirement to our longtime Public Works Employee, Steve Rebenstorff. Steve retired in February of 2021 after nearly 40 years of Service to the Village. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions we have not be able to celebrate this accomplishment! During his tenure with the Village, Steve worked under numerous Mayors, Boards of Trustees and held positions in the Public Works and Sewer Departments. Steve's father also worked for the Village. Steve Rebenstorff is a longtime resident of Swansea and resides here with his wife, Doris. They were proud to raise their two grown boys Michael (Brighton, IL) and Dustin (San Diego CA) in Swansea also. In his free time, you will find him fishing, hunting, camping and bowling.

On behalf of the Mayor, Board of Trustees and Village Staff we want to recognize this outstanding achievement and wish him the very best during his retirement!



Swansea Fireman 2020 Awards Program

The Swansea Fireman Civic Association held their annual Awards Program on March 4th, 2021 at Engine House #2. This program was delayed due to the COVID-19 regulations.

During this program, the Swansea Fireman Civic Association recognizes those with Years of Service Awards, Most Trainings Attended, Most Calls Answered, Rookie of the Year, Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year.

This year the following individuals were recognized:

5 Years of Service - Brian Robinson

15 Years of Service - Thomas Dahm, Christopher Flynn and Matthew Koesterer

25 Years of Service - Matthew Lanter

30 Years of Service - David Schaefer

50 Years of Service - Dennis Tribut Sr.



Most Trainings Attended- Jason Hark

Most Calls Answered- Matthew Lanter

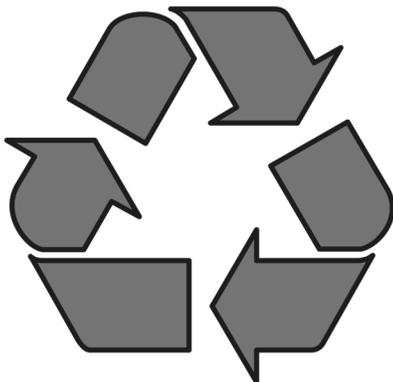
Rookie of the Year- Andre Wilson

Officer of the Year- David Schaefer

Firefighter of the Year- Eric Heinzl

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:



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(Continued from page 6) WOLF BRANCH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEARS COMPLETION

The next step involved the IDNR engineers developing a Phase I plan to validate their initial determination that the movement was caused by mine subsidence. They were able to secure an emergency grant through the federal Department of Interior - Office of Surface Mining that allowed them to hire a drilling company to verify the existence of mine voids under the school. Once finished, they delivered their findings to the district. As they suspected, the movement was caused by a long-abandoned, underground mine void.

Once they had substantiated their initial assumption, the IDNR needed the school district's board of education to decide if they wanted to abandon the Middle School or demolish the impacted areas and rebuild/refurbish. IDNR stated that they had successfully remediated all movement on similar projects by grouting the mine voids with a concrete slurry. After a great deal of discussion, the board determined that rebuilding after remediating the movement was the best plan.

Upon receiving the go-ahead for Phase II, the IDNR once again was able to fund the grouting and demolition portions of the project with an emergency grant from the Interior Department. Starting in Mid-March of 2018 and continuing through the end of July, almost 13,000 cubic yards of grout consisting of fly ash, cement, sand, and water was pumped into the abandoned voids below and around the school building. This underground remediation was then followed by the complete demolition of the gymnasium, cafeteria, locker rooms, and music rooms, as well as the interior demolition of the library and office complex.

Throughout Phase II's grouting and demolition, the IDNR continued to survey the building and points around it for any movement. As early as August 5, 2018, the IDNR reported that no further movement was detected. Almost immedi-

ately following the school's closure, State Representative Jay Hoffman was in regular contact with the school district to see in what ways he could facilitate assistance from the state. Since the emergency IDNR grant only covered remediation and demolition, District Superintendent Scott Harres met with Representative Hoffman to discuss the possibility of the state utilizing emergency Capital Board of Development funds to assist in the rebuild. After a number of meetings between Representative Hoffman, CDB officials, and other state officials, on Christmas Eve of 2018, the district received preliminary information that it would qualify for the maximum allowed 41% of the cost of rebuilding the impacted areas pending the approval of the Illinois State Board of Education. In addition, the district received the maximum allowable payout from its mine subsidence insurance policy (\$750,000) as well as another \$250,000 from its property insurance policy. Ittner Architects and Holland Construction were selected to develop and oversee the project. Upon official notification from the state board of education in June 2019, conceptual designs were developed. According to CDB requirements, the rebuild had to be equal or less in square footage to the original building. The final plans called for the rebuilt portion of the building to be 10 square feet less than the original building.

Other changes included the repositioning of some of the facilities, including switching the locations of the media center with the music rooms and separating the cafeteria and gymnasium. In addition, a privately-funded Veteran's Plaza was designed to honor all previous and present service members, an athletic plaza was designed for those attending outdoor activities, a separate entrance was designed for nighttime activities, and the locker rooms' and the health classroom's walls and roof were strengthened to double as a storm shelter in the event of a tornado. The school board wanted to include all of the amenities that the original Middle School,

completed in 2003, offered, but build them to current standards. They conducted multiple interviews with personnel to find out which parts of the original building had been beneficial and which parts needed to be constructed in a different fashion.

Even though construction began on March 23, 2021, no fanfare took place because of the ensuing Coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately, the state classified school construction workers as essential, and no stoppage in work had to occur. Live camera updates, as well as time-lapse photos of the entire project are available on the district's website - www.wbsd113.org. The district is anticipating a reoccupation in July so that the building will be completely functional for the Middle School students returning for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.



Architectural rendering of the reconstructed areas of the Wolf Branch Middle School.

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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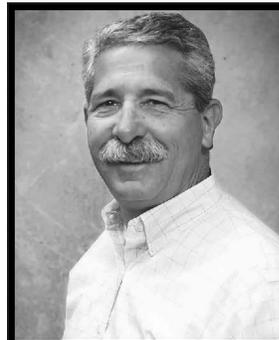
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News Briefs

(Continued on page 4)

In total, comparing the two, the 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility potentially saves:

- An estimated **343** gallons of fuel per year while driving.
- (+)** An estimated **933** gallons per year saved while vehicle is at idle.
- (=)** An estimated **1,276** total gallons saved per year.

That's **\$3,509** in potential savings per vehicle, per year. (Assuming an example gas price of \$2.75 per gallon.)

And a potential **25,560 lbs.** of CO₂ output⁹ reduced per vehicle, per year.

Even greater potential savings come into play when we contrast the two vehicles while stopped at idle.

While on duty, even at idle, police vehicles must constantly keep their engines running to power lighting packages, radios, computers and other electrical equipment. Ford data shows that police vehicles spend approximately 61 percent of each shift at engine idle,³ roughly 4.9 hours for every 8-hour shift.

The 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility reduces gas engine idle time by powering its electrical load using the lithium-ion hybrid battery. This allows the engine to run less, now intermittently called upon to top off the battery.

2018 Police Interceptor Utility 3.7L AWD	2021 Police Interceptor Utility Standard HEV AWD
4.9 hours idling per 8-hour shift	4.9 hours idling per 8-hour shift
X .465 gallons of fuel consumed per hour ⁴	X .204 gallons of fuel consumed per hour ⁴
X 2 shifts per day	X 2 shifts per day
X 365 days per year	X 365 days per year
= 1,663 gallons of fuel consumed per year	= 730 gallons of fuel consumed per year

At idle, the 2021 Police Interceptor Utility potentially saves **933** gallons of fuel per year.



2018 Police Interceptor Utility 3.7L AWD	2021 Police Interceptor Utility Standard HEV AWD
20,000 miles driven per year	20,000 miles driven per year
÷ 17 mpg ² (EPA-estimated Combined rating)	÷ 24 mpg ¹ (projected EPA-estimated Combined rating)
= 1,176 Gallons of fuel consumed per year	= 833 Gallons of fuel consumed per year

While driving, the 2021 Police Interceptor Utility potentially saves **343** gallons of fuel per year.

VILLAGE OF SWANSEA CONTACT INFO

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

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

Building, Zoning, Permits
Phone: 618-234-0044
swanbnz@swanseail.org

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

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

Village of Swansea Officials

- President: Mike Leopold**
mayor@swanseail.org
- Village Clerk Tyler Thompson**
tthompson@swanseail.org
- Treasurer John Walter**
jwalter@swanseail.org
- Trustee Matt Lanter**
mlanter@swanseail.org
- Trustee Rocky McDonald**
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- Trustee Brian McGuire**
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- Trustee Marilyn Neumeyer**
mneumeyer@swanseail.org
- Trustee Jeff Parker**
jparker@swanseail.org
- Trustee Cary Lewis V**
clewis@swanseail.org

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



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

Swansea Community Calendar - May 2021

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 Swansea Rotary Club 6:00 p.m. Moose Lodge	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 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am Virtual - contact Edward.henrichs@raymondjames.com to attend	14	15
16	17 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:00pm Govt. Center	18	19	20 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am Virtual - contact Edward.henrichs@raymondjames.com to attend	21	22
23	24 Memorial Day- Gov't Center Closed	25	26	27 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am Virtual - contact Edward.henrichs@raymondjames.com to attend	28	29
30	31					

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Swansea Community Calendar - June 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 Swansea Rotary Club 6:00 p.m. Moose Lodge	4	5
6	7 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:00pm Govt. Center	8 Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6:00pm Govt. Center	9	10 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am Virtual - contact Edward.henrichs@raym ondjames.com to attend	11	12 Swansea Park Board Mtg. 7:00am - Norman Lehr Swansea Patriots Mtg. 8:00am—Norman Lehr
13	14	15	16	17 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am Virtual - contact Edward.henrichs@raym ondjames.com to attend	18	19
20	21 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:00pm Govt. Center	22	23	24 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am Virtual - contact Edward.henrichs@raym ondjames.com to attend	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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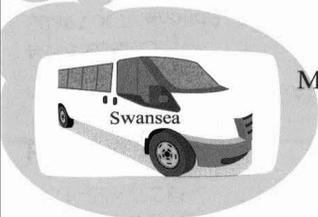
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