



THE SWANSEA REPORT

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 3

May 2023

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Military Spouse Of The Year

Mrs. Alicia Steele is the recipient of the Military Spouse Of The Year Award. In her words, here is the story: I started dating my husband when he was a freshman at the Air Force Academy. We learned and grew into the Air Force together. Our first real duty station was McChord AFB during the peak of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. While my husband spent 300 days a year away from home as a C-17 pilot I spent my time becoming a Key Spouse and making connections with my fellow military spouses. I drove myself to the hospital during the birth of our first son when he came early and my husband was away on a mission. I learned to be resilient and independent from the very beginning. Having a drama filled career means that I have seen so many things and it has enabled me to help others when the need arises. I continued my work as a Key Spouse at both Travis AFB and Scott AFB.



Share an example of your leadership experience within the military community:

I have worked to create the Deck the Holidays program in partnership with Blue Star Families here at Scott AFB. We have provided food and hygiene boxes for over 200 families each year during the holiday season for the past two years. I helped to spread the word about this event to our community and was able to ensure the attendance of the local mayor, the vice wing commander, and the med group commander so they could help our airmen in need.

Describe your involvement in the military community:

I am a passionate supporter and volunteer for Veterans Community Project which provides transitional housing for veterans experiencing homelessness. Two years ago, I created a quilt drive to make sure that all the veterans would have a brand new handmade quilt when they move into their tiny home. It was important to me to give them a piece of the community and ensure they felt not only supported — but loved. Through this initiative, I worked diligently to bring people together and remind the community that serving the military also means remembering those who have already hung up their uniform. I also connected veteran business owners in our area with VCP so that they too could provide support to this incredible project.

Describe how you support your community:

I am highly involved in my community. I started and am the president of a non profit that creates safe and inclusive gatherings for adolescents in our area. We design the events to be inclusive to all regardless of gender, orientation, race, economic status, and ability status. I am also highly involved at the local schools, volunteering to coach the soccer team, subbing and filling in for staff, and hosting drives for school supplies. I also facilitate donations from organizations to pass on to the schools with the most need.

What do you advocate for? Why?

Fighting food insecurity is a passion of mine and I am working in my community to bring blessing boxes to high need populations. I have placed and maintain three blessing boxes in the area around Scott AFB, and one of my current missions is to place a box on base in enlisted housing to ease the cost of food and necessities for our at risk airmen and their families.

Important Information

Govt. Center Closed Monday, May 29th

Refuse Collection Also Delayed

The Swansea Government Center, all non-emergency services of the Village and Republic Services will be closed on Monday, May 29th for Memorial Day. **The collection of refuse, recyclables, and yard waste will shift one day for all routes.**

Farmers Market

The Market is back open for the season beginning **May through October, rain or shine, every Thursday from 10-2.** Every week, fresh local produce, baked goods, and unique handmade crafts will be available for sale. It's located in the Rural King Parking Lot, 2801 N. Illinois St. If you would like to be a vendor stop by for more info.



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Splash Pad

The Splash Pad in Schranz Park is a popular attraction and opens for the Summer starting Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Open daily from 9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m. You can rent the Splash Pad Monday-Friday 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Please call 618-234-0044 for more information.



Memorial Day Celebration and Booklet

The Memorial Day Ceremony will be held Monday May 29th, 2023 at 10:00 at Mel Price Park, 1500 Caseyville Ave. 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 mneumeyer@att.net for the booklet which will be printed for all. Please join us with your family and friends.



Congratulations To The Newly Elected Board Members

Village of Swansea Trustee:
Brian Thouvenot
Village of Swansea Trustee:
Marilyn Neumeyer
Village of Swansea Trustee:
Jeff Parker

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Village Trustee: Brian McGuire
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Chief's Corner

The Swansea Police Department wants to keep you informed of recent crime trends we have been hearing about from around the country. It is important to note that we have not seen these trends locally but vigilance is essential!

Bank Juggling

This occurs when a suspect parks outside a bank typically, but it could also be a store, and watches as customers go inside and out from the branch or ATM. The suspect follows the customer to another location and pulls up next to them, at which time the suspect enters the victim's car and steals money and/or other valuables.

Tap and Glue Scheme

Suspects tamper with credit/debit card readers making them unusable typically at gas stations or other locations with outside points of sale. By doing so, customers are forced to use the "tap" feature if the card has an embedded chip. If the customer forgets to complete or otherwise close the transaction, the card information can still be used to make additional transactions.

Sliders

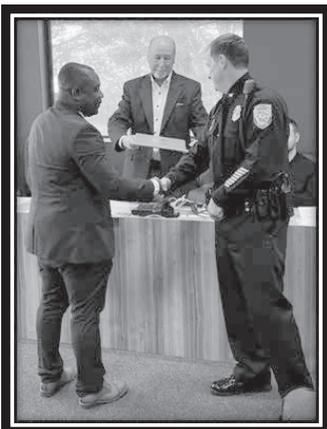
These schemes typically occur at gas stations wherein customers do not pay attention or get distracted, at which time a suspect will access the victim's vehicle from the opposite side and steal whatever valuables can be found quickly. They are called sliders because the suspect "slides" in and out before they are noticed.

Tips to Protect Yourself:

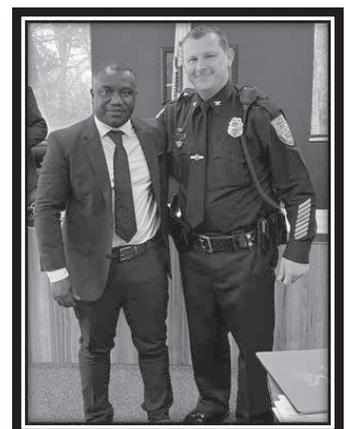
- Most importantly, pay attention to what is happening around you. This is called situational awareness.
- If someone randomly approaches you, ask yourself why they are doing so. Am I doing something so they can divert my attention?
- When leaving a bank or store, take a quick peek around to make sure someone is not targeting you.
- Check over your shoulder occasionally when walking to and from parking lots.
- Do not get overly focused on using your smartphone while in public resulting in failure to maintain situational awareness. This makes you a prime target for a snatch and grab theft.
- If you feel like you are being followed or targeted, make sure you remain in or go to a well-lit, populated area and call 9-1-1 if necessary.

The Swansea Police Department highly encourages you to remain vigilant with your situational awareness to prevent becoming a target for criminal activity.

Congratulations To Our Newest Police Officer



On Monday, March 20th, Derrick Acheampong was sworn in as our newest Swansea police officer by Mayor Leopold at the Village Board meeting. Officer Acheampong comes to the police department with nearly 4 years of experience with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. He previously served in the Army National Guard for 9 years. Officer Acheampong is pursuing his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Studies through Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Officer Acheampong lives with his wife in Belleville. Welcome to the Swansea Police Department Officer Acheampong!



Spread The Good News



Swansea is full of great people doing great things! Have you noticed someone that lives or works in Swansea that is always doing the right thing? (Even when no one is watching?) We would like to start recognizing those individuals in our Swansea Report. If you know someone that is always doing the right thing, helping in the commu-

nity and lives or works in Swansea we would love to hear from you.



Please email swanadmn@swanseail.org and maybe this person will be featured in one of our up-coming Swansea Reports!

Jan Bolding has been selected for Doing The Right Thing!

Once a week, for over a year now, I've been picking up trash along a 4 mile loop in Swansea. For many years, I've enjoyed running in the area but the amount of trash on the main streets began to irritate me. I kept thinking, "why doesn't someone clean this up?" Then, I decided that since I was out here anyway, I may as well be that someone. So now I'm out there weekly, with my bucket and grabber, and trash bags supplied by Rick Tucker from Swansea.

The Jack in the Box on 159 and the Swansea Walgreens lets me leave my full trash bags in their dumpsters, and Tony Irwin from Metrolink makes sure that the trash cans are available on 159 and Fullerton. My safety vest was given to me by a nice stranger who wanted me to be safe on the roadway. I'm constantly getting waves and thank you honks from drivers passing by.

Drivers needed for the Swansea Senior Van that runs Tuesday-Thursday 9a-12p. Drivers are volunteers. If you would like more information please contact Ed 314-495-4619.



Destinations include:

- 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 does not travel to Scott Air Force Base
- Tips are appreciated but not required, at rider's discretion. Drivers are all volunteers and not paid
- Pickup and drop off will be at same location



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News Briefs

May 21-27th, 2023 marks the 63rd Annual National Public Works Week sponsored by The American Public Works Association.

The Village of Swansea would like to send a big THANK YOU to the Public Works Department for all they do for the Village.

This type of position requires physical work to help maintain the roads, streets, parks, buildings, etc. These men work hard each day to make the village look great!

If you happen to see any of the guys out this week let them know how much they are appreciated.



Year-Round Yard Waste Solutions

Leaves. They give us shade. They give us oxygen. They give us wonderful colors in Autumn, a perch for birds to show off in winter and lovely flowers in spring. But what to do with them when they have fallen and created a mess? Try using one, two or even all three of the following ways as a dynamic solution to managing your leaves this year. **Compost them.** Gardeners refer to compost as “black gold.” You can find a vast number of resources on home composting via a simple internet search. If you want to compost but don’t like the idea of a compost pile in your yard, check out St. Clair Township Yard Waste Drop Off (free), STL Composting (\$2 for 1 bag up to \$80+ for large loads) and Republic Services (\$37.47/quarter). St. Clair Township and Republic both accept gumballs and twigs up to 4 feet in length with a 3 inch diameter. St. Clair Township is drop-off only. STL composting will accept logs.



St. Clair Co. YW	M-F 7-5, Sat 7-3	3/1-4/30, 10/1-11/30
STL Composting	M-F 6:30-4:30, Sat 7-3	Year Round
Republic	Weekly Pick Up	4/1-12/31



Mulch them. You can use your mower to create a fine leaf mulch you can spread in landscape beds, vegetable beds or even directly back onto your lawn. Mulching leaves can reduce their size greatly with a few passes of the mower. This method works well in combination with composting. Burn them. If done responsibly and respectfully, it is a good option to help keep excess yard waste out of the storm drainage system and clean up your yard.

Small fires spread out over time can prevent an overload in the air we breathe and keep the ratio of fresh air to smoke manageable.

Swansea Spring Burn	Wed & Sat 9-6	3/15-5/15
Swansea Fall Burn	Wed & Sat 9-4	11/1-12/15 (excl. Thanksgiving week)

Rotary Club 5K Run/Walk



"Service Above Self"
Rotary Club of Swansea



On Saturday, June 3rd at 8:00 a.m. Swansea Rotary will sponsor our Twentieth Annual "Service Above Self" 5K Run/Walk. Proceeds from the event will enable us to present three (3) \$2,500 college scholarships in honor of Chad Wood. Learn more about the scholarship application Chad Wood on our website.

You can find details and register for the 5K Run/Walk by going online at www.swansearotary.org. Entry fees are \$25.00 if registered by May 23rd. \$30.00 the day of the Race. The 5K will start and finish at the Wolf Branch Elementary School, 125 Huntwood Road. Race starts promptly at 8:00am. Contact us if you would like a copy of our established 5K route in advance of the race. Or check out our website, Club Pages/Service Above Self.

For additional information on reregistering or if you would like to be a sponsor for the Twentieth Annual 5K "Service Above Self" Run/Walk, contact Jim Riess at 618-920-9698; e-mail jmriess87@gmail.com.

Thank you for being a part of the "Service Above Self 5K" and supporting our scholarship program.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2023 START TIME: 8:00 A.M.
 Beginning and ending at Wolf Branch Elementary School (125 Huntwood Road, Swansea, IL)
RAIN OR SHINE - NO REFUNDS
 Entry Fees: \$25 if postmarked by May 23rd; \$30 on the day of the race.
 T-shirt, number pick-up and late registrations on race day between 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.
 Shirts guaranteed for participants if registered by May 23rd
 Divisions: Age groups for male and female - kids 15 and under, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 and over
 Awards: Overall top Male & Female winner will receive trophies. The top 3 finishers in each age division will receive medals. Medals to all kids 15 and under.

20th Annual
"Service Above Self"
Rotary Club of Swansea

Proceeds will benefit:
 The Chad Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund supporting college scholarships for qualifying graduates of area high schools.

For additional information contact Brad Reibold: (618) 971-8740 or Jim Riess: (618) 920-9698

Rotary Club of Swansea 5K Run/Walk Registration Form

Name: _____ Male _____ Female _____
 Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____ Date of Birth: Mo _____ Day _____ Year _____
 T-Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL Email Address: _____

Waiver & Release
 I hereby release and discharge Rotary Club of Swansea, Illinois, Rotary International, Village of Swansea, Illinois, and County of St. Clair, Illinois, and any of their respective members, agents or employees, from any and all liability for injury or damages sustained by me, my minor child and/or ward in connection with or arising out of our participation in the 5K Run/Walk sponsored by the Rotary Club of Swansea, Illinois. I assume all risks associated with our participation in the event, including the risk of injury caused by the condition of public or private property, streets or walkways. I represent and affirm that we are in good physical condition and able to safely compete in this event. I further grant Rotary Club of Swansea, Illinois, Rotary International, Village of Swansea, Illinois, and County of St. Clair, Illinois the right to photograph, videotape, and/or interview me, my minor child and/or ward and further to display, use and/or otherwise exploit my, my child's and/or ward's name, face, likeness, voice, and appearance forever and throughout the world, in all media, whether now known or hereafter devised (including, without limitation, in online web casts, social media, television, motion pictures, films, newspapers and magazines) and in all forms including, without limitation, digitized images, whether for advertising, publicity, or promotional purposes, without compensation, reservation or limitation.

By checking this box you have acknowledged that you are under 18 years of age and have parental consent to enter this race.

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____ Parent or Guardian (if under 18) _____

Online registration is available on our website at www.swansearotary.org



Sign entry form and waiver - make checks payable to Rotary Club of Swansea and mail to:
 Cory Dehler, c/o Swansea Rotary
 P.O. Box 23746, Belleville, IL 62223

Proceeds will benefit:
 The Chad Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund supporting college scholarships for qualifying graduates of area high schools.

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New Offerings and Management for Soulcial Kitchen

This unique campus in Swansea is home to a one-of-a-kind food truck program, the first of its kind in America, that trains aspiring chefs and entrepreneurs on how to launch and operate their own food trucks.

Graduates of the program are given the opportunity to operate their own food truck businesses, creating jobs and delicious dishes that reflect their individual personalities and styles.

The Space Shuttle Cafe, the only airplane that once flew missions in World War II and was subsequently converted to a food truck, is another unique feature of the campus. It serves as a much desired late-night diner that stays open until 1 am on weekends. With both in-person and online ordering available, the Space Shuttle Café is powered by Chef D Rodgers, a culinary genius with over 30 years' of experience.

For those who were looking for good old fashioned outdoor fun, the campus also has a food truck park, bar and stage area that is managed by Big Daddy's alumni. The bar offers a unique selection of cocktails, beer, and wine, and features live music on weekends throughout the spring, summer and fall.

But the Soulcial Kitchen Campus isn't just about food and drinks. Everyone involved in the campus participates in the mission of delivering dignified dining to community members in need. Over the past year, they had provided over 4,500 free, hot, nutritious, restaurant-quality meals to a wide array of individuals and groups experiencing some form of hardship.

The latest development at the campus is the imminent launch of Holy Crepes, a crepe, cake, and ice cream parlor that prioritizes employing individuals with disabilities.

The Village of Swansea, ever committed to promoting a culture of creativity, innovation, and community spirit, was integral to making this magical place called Soulcial Kitchen a reality—a place where people come together to share their passion for food, and to make a positive impact on the world around them. It's a beautiful example of our commitment to building intentional communities and a place we believe will continue to inspire and delight people for years to come.

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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We will no longer accept Swansea trash stickers after May 31, 2023.

If you have any please return them to the Swansea Government Center at 1444 Boul Avenue for credit.



TRASH

Swansea Police and Fire Youth Academy

SAVE THE DATE

2023 Swansea Police and Fire Youth Academy



When: June 5th- June 7th, 2023

Time: 8a-4p each day

Where: Fire Department Engine House #2

Who is invited: Children ages 9-13

What: We will be learning about Police, Fire and EMS in fun, creative ways

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
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 Tyler Thompson
tthompson@swanseil.org

Treasurer John Walter
jwalter@swanseail.org

Trustee Matt Lanter
mlanter@swanseail.org

Trustee Rocky McDonald
rmcdonald@swanseail.org

Trustee Brian Thouvenot
bthouvenot@swanseail.org

Trustee Marilyn Neumeyer
mneumeyer@swanseail.org

Trustee Jeff Parker
jparker@swanseail.org

Trustee Cary Lewis V
clewis@swanseail.org

The Swansea Report is also posted on the website at:

www.swanseail.org

News Briefs



Monthly Recycling Drive In Collinsville

When: 2nd Saturday of every month

Time: 9-12 p.m.

Where: Public Parking Lot

227 W. Main Street

For questions: 618-344-7232

Items accepted: Screen 32" and smaller \$20, Screen 32" and larger \$30, Office Equipment, Electronics, Batteries, Vehicles, Appliances, Machinery, CRT TV/Monitors \$20-\$40 based on size

Items Not Accepted: Paper, Glass, Plastic, Wood, Cardboard, and Tires

Scrap Metal & Electronics Recycling Drive In Swansea

When: 3rd Saturday of every month

Time: 9-12 p.m.

Where: St. Clair Township 107 Service Street

For questions: 618-344-7232



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NEW WEEKLY BINGO!

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Every Wednesday**

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Using Our Regular Weekly Program

Come and Play Bingo with us Weekly on

Wednesday and Support the

Swansea Fire Department!



Permit Required For Non-Highway Vehicles Non-Highway Vehicles

The Village has adopted a program for permitting non-highway vehicles on local streets. Similar to the policies for Belleville and other St. Clair County communities, non-highway vehicles are permitted to be driven on streets with a speed limit of 35 miles-per-hour or less. Vehicles can cross streets with a higher speed limit, but not drive along them. Persons wanting to operate a non-highway vehicle within Swansea must obtain a permit and have their vehicle inspected. Permit application forms are available at the Swansea Government Center (1444 Boul Ave.) and on the Village website (www.swanseail.org).



The annual permit is \$50 for a Village resident and \$75 for a non-resident, and the inspection is \$50.

May and June 2023 Calendars

May

1st Committee Meetings 6 p.m. Government Center and Village Board Meeting 6 p.m. Government Center

6th Swansea Park Board Meeting 7 a.m. Norman Lehr and Swansea Patriots Meeting 8 a.m. Norman Lehr

9th Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6 p.m. Government Center

11th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Center

15th Last day for Spring Burn Season

15th Committee Meetings: 6 p.m. Government Center & Village Board Meeting 6 p.m. Government Center

18th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Center

25th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Center

29th Memorial Day- Government Center Closed



Holiday Event: Memorial Day Ceremony- May 29th at 10 a.m. Mel Price Park (see page 2 for more details)

June

5th Committee Meetings 6 p.m. Government Center and Village Board Meeting 6 p.m. Government Center

6th Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6 p.m. Government Center

8th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 Thompson Center

10th Swansea Park Board Meeting 7 a.m. Norman Lehr

15th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Center

19th Government Center Closed For Juneteenth

20th Committee Meetings 6 p.m. Government Center and Village Board Meeting 6 p.m. Government Center

22nd Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Center

Special Event: Rotary Club of Swansea– 20th Annual 5K Run/Walk Saturday, June 3, 2023 (see page 7 for more details)



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- Grass cutting season is upon us and we would like to remind everyone that when you are cutting your lawn please do not discharge lawn clippings or gumballs into the streets. This is dangerous for motorcyclists and will cause storm drains to clog and cause flooding
- Refuse container(s) shall be removed as soon as possible, but no later than 7:00 pm on the day of collection
- Please call Republic Services: 618-656-6883 for refuse and recycling questions
- Pay your refuse bill to Republic Services
- If you are having work done at your property please call the Government Center 618-234-0044 to see if the work requires a building permit



PAPER SHREDDING EVENT Provided by St Clair Township

Located at: 107 Service Street
Swansea, IL 62226

When: Saturday, June 17th

Time: 9am-Noon

Limit 4 bags
or boxes per
car.

For more information
call 618-233-3437.



Swansea Senior Van

Pick up
Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday
By reservation only
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Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday
before 2:00 pm
for next day pick up

For pick up after appointment

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