



THE SWANSEA REPORT

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 6

January 2025

Village Board Adopts Property Tax Levy For Fiscal Year 2025

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On December 16, 2024, the Village Board passed an ordinance establishing tax levies for all corporate purposes to be levied against all property subject to taxation within the Village for the purpose of providing funds for the fiscal year commencing May 1, 2025 and ending April 30, 2026. Swansea remains in a strong financial position for the future. Total funds levied come to just under **\$2.5** million. As always, levied funds for Fire and Police Pensions come directly from Village actuarial reports.

The following is a listing of all property taxes to be levied by the Village of Swansea for the fiscal year commencing May 1, 2025 and ending April 30, 2026.

General Corporate Purposes:	\$221,340.00
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund:	\$ 95,513.00
Municipal Fire Protection:	\$204,000.00
Municipal Fire Pension Fund:	\$127,500.00
Municipal Police Protection:	\$215,425.00
Municipal Police Pension Fund:	\$1,509,600.00
Municipal Auditing Tax:	\$15,096.00
Tort Judgments, General and Liability Insurance:	\$44,472.00
Public Parks Tax:	\$59,303.00
Total	\$2,492,249.00

The Village had another strong year of both commercial and residential construction, including annexations to locate new businesses and homes within its boundaries. Further annexation is anticipated in the coming year, bringing new businesses and new revenues to help fund services and help keep property taxes low. Thanks to the continued diligence of elected officials and staff, the active property tax rate in Swansea was lowered for the second year in a row. And because the Village continues investing in streets, sewers, parks and other general infrastructure, the future continues to look bright in Swansea.

News Briefs

The Police Department would like to thank the following officers for their service and commitment to the Village of Swansea and congratulate them on their January work anniversaries:



Ofc. Paul Wuller
20 Years of Service



Ofc. Jason Tutterow
20 Years of Service



Ofc. Andrew Hewitt
12 Years of Service



Ofc. Justin Schutzbach
10 Years of Service

The Swansea Report is published every other month by the Village of Swansea, 1444 Boul Avenue, Swansea, Illinois, as a community service to our residents and businesses.

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to sign up again unless you cancel service the year before.

Info from Republic Services Yard Waste- Plan Ahead

Yard waste goes from April 1 to December 31. One time yard waste is not offered. You must also have trash service to sign up for yard waste. You don't need



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Updates from The Building and Zoning Department

New Program Aims to Address Vacant and Foreclosed Properties in Swansea

The Village of Swansea has launched an important initiative to address the challenges posed by vacant and foreclosed properties in our community. The new **Vacant and Foreclosed Property Registration Program** is designed to ensure these properties are properly maintained, helping to preserve neighborhood aesthetics, prevent public safety issues, and protect property values. Vacant properties can often attract nuisances such as overgrown lawns, vandalism, or unauthorized occupancy. By proactively monitoring these properties, the Village can better address issues before they negatively impact the surrounding neighborhood.

Under this program, owners or responsible parties of vacant and foreclosed properties are required to register them with the Village with a goal of bringing them to occupancy within 2 years. Registration ensures that the Village has accurate contact information for the property owner or responsible party, enabling swift action if maintenance or safety concerns arise.

The program also emphasizes accountability by encouraging owners to maintain their properties or risk potential fines. Together, we can reduce the negative impacts of vacant properties and ensure Swansea remains a vibrant and welcoming community for all residents.

For more information or to register a property, visit the program page on the Village of Swansea website at <https://www.swanseail.org/2368/Vacant-Foreclosed-Property-Registration>

Updated Solicitor Hours in Swansea

The Village of Swansea has updated its regulations regarding solicitor activity to better balance convenience for residents with opportunities for businesses and organizations.

Under **Ordinance 1971**, solicitors may now operate during the following hours:

- **Monday through Saturday:** 9:00 AM to 30 minutes before sunset or 6:00 p.m., whichever is earlier.
- **Sunday:** Solicitation is prohibited.

These changes aim to minimize disruptions during early mornings, evenings, and weekends.

Updated Notice of Public Hearing Requirements

The Village of Swansea has updated its **Notice of Public Hearing Requirements** for all commercial zoning districts to enhance transparency and community engagement.

Under **Ordinances 1972 - 1976**, applicants seeking zoning changes or approvals for Planned Business (all developments) and Highway Business, Conservation, Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial (special use developments) must now provide public notices through an expanded process. These updates include clear timelines for notices, requirements for signage at the proposed site, and direct certified notification to neighboring property owners within 250 feet.

This change ensures residents and businesses near proposed developments are better informed and have opportunities to participate in public hearings. The Village encourages all community members to stay engaged in the planning process, helping shape Swansea's future development while preserving its small-town charm.

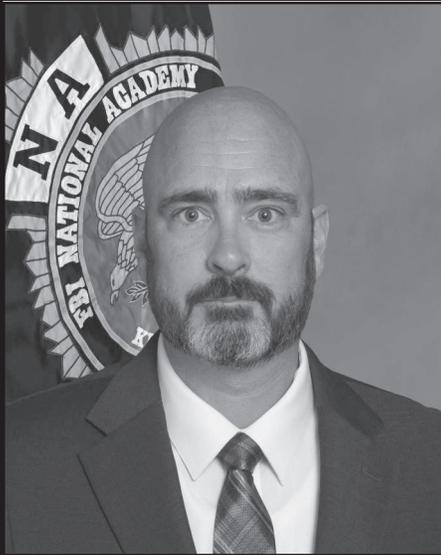
New Regulations for Prohibited Signs

The Village of Swansea has updated its sign regulations with the adoption of **Ordinance 1978**, clarifying and reinforcing the rules regarding strictly prohibited signs.

The amendment aims to maintain the aesthetic appeal and safety of our community by addressing certain types of signs that are not permitted within the Village. Prohibited signs include those that may obstruct traffic visibility and create distractions for drivers. These types of signs include inflatable, balloon, and feather signs.

This update ensures Swansea remains a visually appealing and safe environment for residents, businesses, and visitors alike. Businesses and property owners are encouraged to review the ordinance to ensure compliance when planning signage.

News Briefs



Deputy Chief Keith Howard graduated from the FBI National Academy Session 292 on December 12, 2024. The FBI designed the National Academy to develop leadership and foster collaboration between local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies across the United States as well as our international partners.

Each session at the National Academy consists of approximately 250 law enforcement executives from around the U.S. and the world for 10 weeks of instruction at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA.

DC Howard previously completed Session 515 of the Northwestern School of Police Staff & Command program and also completed his Master's degree from Lindenwood University. DC Howard has served with the Swansea Police Department since 2007 and is a retired U.S. Marine. Congratulations Deputy Chief Howard on another impressive accomplishment!

Christmas Program Helps 60 Families

This year the Swansea Family Christmas Program was able to help 60 Swansea families in need. We were able to give each family gift cards to Swansea grocery chains to help purchase their holiday meals. We have so many thoughtful Swansea residents and business donors. Without any donation large or small, this program could not survive! This event is coordinated and handled through the Village of Swansea Government Office but it could not be completed successfully without the help of our wonderful volunteers. These donations will truly make someone's holiday a little brighter!

With sincerest gratitude, we wish healthy blessings in 2025 to those that donated time, money, and their expertise to keep this program successful.

Cheers to many more years of helping those in need in Swansea!



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Winners– 3rd Annual Rotary Raffle

The Rotary Club of Swansea held their third CAVE Educational Awards Raffle this year to benefit selected graduating students. The raffle was a tremendous success, and we exceeded our expectations. The winners of the 2024 raffle were:

1st Place - Alysia Bernardini 2nd Place - Wanda Jacobs 3rd Place - Dennis Bertelsman

Thanks to the support of many patrons that purchased tickets, we will be able to distribute Educational Awards to spring graduates of the School District 201 Center for Academic & Vocational Excellence (CAVE) Program located at 7645 Magna Drive in Belleville, CAVE offers vocational programs in welding, carpentry, culinary arts, automotive and machining. The program is also designed to address the physical, emotional, social and intellectual needs of at-risk students in order to successfully transition back to East or West High School, on to college or a career.

District 201 CAVE administrators will coordinate the Educational Award application process and students election with the Rotary Club Committee.

Applications for graduating seniors will be available at CAVE in January 2025 and the Rotary Awards will be presented in May 2025.

For more information on how you can become involved in Rotary visit www.swansearotary.org and be sure to follow facebook.com/SwanseaRotary to learn more about the exciting things happening in our community!



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Designated Snow Routes For The Village Of Swansea

What You Need To Know About Snow Plowing

A reminder as to how the Village approaches snow plowing might be helpful towards understanding the process, and will hopefully prompt residents to maintain reasonable expectations.

First, snow plows move snow from the middle of the road to the sides. So by design, plows will inevitably deposit some snow at the ends of driveways and sidewalks that may have already been cleared. The reality is that you may have to shovel that area again. Consider helping neighbors who are elderly or physically unable to do so.

Knowing that, if you pile snow at the end of your drive, do so on the right side as you face the street. Why? Because a snow pile on the left might get pushed across the drive as the plow moves past.

Check to ensure that your mailbox doesn't hang out into the roadway. The closer it is to the road, the more likely it could be damaged by the snow pushed aside by the plow. Wet snow is heavy and it doesn't take much to knock over a mailbox.

If possible, don't park on any street until plowing has ended. Crews often clear drive lanes first and then return later, maybe even the next day, to "plow back" snow at the edge of the streets or around the perimeter of cul-de-sacs. before it returns to yours to finish the other side of the street.

Designated snow routes are listed on page 7. The 'route' a snow plow travels may not make sense to some. In some neighborhoods it might seem as though they plow half of your street and then disappear for awhile. But the routes are designed to minimize backing up and turning around and doing so may mean that the truck travels over other streets.

When it snows, it's a good idea to move all vehicles off Village streets before snow plows come through. Not doing so will hamper the Village's ability to effectively clear the streets. However, there are streets in the Village specifically designated as snow routes. Section 72.40 (A) of the Swansea Municipal Codes states: "Within the village, whenever there is an accumulation of three inches or more of snow, no person, firm, or corporation shall park or allow any motor vehicle to remain parked, on any designated snow route ...for a period of 24 hours following said accumulation, or until said route has been sufficiently cleared of snow."

There is a very logical reason for this regulation. Designated snow routes are those primary arterials for moving traffic in or out of residential areas and as such they are cleared first to make it easier for you to get to or from your home. The Village needs to do so as quickly as possible - without having to navigate around parked vehicles to move on to residential streets that don't carry as much traffic. **(continued on page 7)**



Designated Snow Routes For The Village Of Swansea

Beau-Gon: for its full length within Village limits

Bettina Dr.: Lakeland Blvd. to Big Bend Blvd.

Big Bend Blvd.: Bettina Dr. to Leawood Dr.

Bobbie Dr.: Castle Dr. to Brian Dr.

Brian Dr.: Bobbie Dr. to Mary Jo Dr.

Bristol Hills Dr

Caseyville Ave.: Gilbert St. to North Belt West

Castle Ct.: Route 161 to Castle Dr.

Castle Dr.: Castle Ct. to Bobbie Dr.

Creekside Ct.: Creekside Dr. to Old Collinsville Rd.

Fawn Meadows: Lake Lorraine Dr. to Old Collinsville Rd.

Fournie Dr.: Mary Jo Dr. to Josephine Dr.

Fullerton Road: Rte 161 to Rte 159

Gilbert St.: North Illinois St. to Kenwood Dr.

Green Haven Dr.: for its full length

Huntwood Road: for its full length

Josephine Dr.: Fournie Dr. to Rte 161

Kenwood Dr.: Gilbert St. to Kingsbury Dr.

Kingsbury Dr.: Kenwood Dr. to North 17th St

Kinsella Ave.: West "H" St. to Caseyville Ave

Lakeland Blvd.: Rte 159 to Bettina Dr.

Lake Lorraine Dr.: for its full length

Leawood Dr.: Big Bend Blvd to Twin Lake Dr.

Lyonshall Blvd.: w/in Village limits

Mary Jo Dr.: Brian Dr. to Fournie Dr.

Morgan St.: 17th St. to Rte 161

Polo Run: for its full length

Rand Lane: for its full length

Roger St.: 17th St. to Rte 161

Smelting Works Rd.: North Illinois St. to Frank Scott Pkwy. Rd. for those portions w/in the Swansea limits

Steinberg Farm Rd.: Rand Lane to William Lane

Twin Lake Dr.: Leawood Dr. to Huntwood Rd.

William Lane: Old Collinsville Rd to Steinberg Farm Rd.

Make Sure Your Address Numbers Are Visible

Reminder: The address of your home, business, or apartment building must, by law, be clearly-visible from the street.



To test the visibility of your address numbers, stand at the street at night. Do so with your porch light on, and then with it off. Then ask yourself: How well will Police, Fire or EMS personnel be able to see them when looking for your home? This is not just a code requirement - treat it as if your life depends on it, because it may.

2 Options for Christmas Tree Collection

Republic Services: Any resident can participate in Christmas tree removal. Christmas Trees will be removed January 2nd through the 17th, curbside same day as your trash pick up. All lights, decorations and stands must be removed before removal. Tree must be cut into 4ft lengths.

Must cut in half if bigger. Please contact Republic Services with any questions 618-656-6883.

Melvin Price Park Drop Off: Christmas trees can be dropped off at Melvin Price Park and Schranz Park starting December 25th until January 21st.

The Village staff will collect them until then. This is a convenience provided to Swansea residents only. **Christmas trees only; no tree bags, no yard waste.**

Santa House 2024

Thank you to the Swansea community for coming together to make this year's Santa House season a huge success, bringing smiles to the many children who visited! Special gratitude to our own jolly elf, Mike Buehlhorn, for leading the effort.

Thanks to the Park Board and all our wonderful volunteers for their time planning, setting up, and running the event. Your hard work ensured everything ran smoothly and made the Santa House an unforgettable experience! We appreciate all the families that came to visit Santa in Swansea. We'll see you again next year!

You Are Missed

In Memoriam 



David Yarber
Public Works Laborer

In loving memory of those that made an impact in the Village that we lost too soon. Our hearts and prayers are with your loved ones.



Mike Koeneman
Long-time Park Board President

It's never too early
No matter what stage of life you're in, it's never too early to start planning for retirement. Let us help you balance your need to protect what you have with your desire to build for the future.



Corey Stelling
2310 N Illinois Street
Swansea, IL 62226
618-416-7820
robert.stelling@countryfinancial.com



062016-05522AC

The TWM Building And Bathrooms at the Parks

The TWM Building and the bathrooms at the Schranz Park will be closed for the season beginning in **November thru March**. In addition, the bathrooms at the Melvin Price Park and Clinton Hill will also be closed for the season.

There will be portable restrooms at the parks including Boul Avenue Trailhead Park.



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FCB O'Fallon Bank 622-9090
FCB Belleville Bank 235-9090

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News Briefs

Fire Department Lighted Christmas Parade 2024

The Swansea Fireman's Civic Association would like to thank everyone who participated and came out to support the Swansea Fire Department Lighted Christmas Parade. This year we had 28 participants who helped us make this another successful event. The Swansea Fireman's Civic Association looks forward to this event every year as a way of giving back to our Community. The Fireman's Civic Association as well as donations from residents and local businesses host this event. We cannot thank everyone enough for all of your support to make this a success! We look forward to seeing everyone again next year and we wish you all a Happy New Year! Congratulations to the winners of the 1st Swansea Lighted Parade Light Contest

Best Lighted Apparatus went to Villa Hills Fire Department



Best Lighted Group went to Brett's First Responders



Best Lighted Business went to Medstar Ambulance Service



VILLAGE OF SWANSEA CONTACT INFO

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

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

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

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



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

2025 Calendars

January

1st Government Office Closed — New Year's Day

6th Committee Meeting 6 p.m. Board Meeting 7 p.m. Government Center

9th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Civic Center

11th Swansea Park Board Meeting 8 a.m. Norman Lehr and Patriot's Meeting 9 a.m. Norman Lehr

14th Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6 p.m. Government Center

16th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Civic Center

20th Government Office Closed — Martin Luther King Jr. Day

21st Committee Meeting 6 p.m. Board Meeting 7 p.m. Government Center

Last day for Christmas Tree Collection at the parks

23rd Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Civic Center

30th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thomson Civic Center

February

3rd Committee Meeting 6 p.m. Board Meeting 7 p.m. Government Center

11th Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6 p.m. Government Center

13th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Civic Center

8th Swansea Park Board Meeting 8 a.m. Norman Lehr and Swansea Patriot's Meeting 9 a.m. Norman Lehr

17th Government Office Closed — President's Day

18th Committee Meeting 6 p.m. Board Meeting 7 p.m. Government Center

20th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Civic Center

22nd Rotary Round Up Annual Auction Dinner at 5 p.m. (Belleville/Swansea Moose Lodge #1221)

27th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Civic Center

Leaf Burning dates: March 15 — May 15, Wed & Sat, 9am — 6pm

Rotary Round Up

The Rotary Club of Swansea is proud to present



Annual Dinner Auction

Saturday, February 22, 2025

Belleville/Swansea Moose Lodge 1221
2425 North Illinois Street | Swansea, IL 62226

Doors Open at 5 p.m.

Open Bar Until 7:30 p.m. | Buffet Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

Silent & Live Auction

Rotary
Club of Swansea



Tickets are \$60 per person
Includes a \$10 entry chance for Reverse Raffle
(must be present to win)
Tables of 8 available

All proceeds benefit selected local charities

Tickets can be purchased online at www.swanscarotary.org
or for ticket information/questions contact:
Cory - (618) 623-8208 | Tricia - (618) 593-2983



2025

Holiday Schedule Residential Routes

NEW YEAR'S DAY – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025

Monday routes will not be affected
Tuesday routes will not be affected
Wednesday routes will be picked up on Thursday, January 2
Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday, January 3
Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, January 4

MEMORIAL DAY – MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025

Monday routes will be picked up on Tuesday, May 27
Tuesday routes will be picked up on Wednesday, May 28
Wednesday routes will be picked up on Thursday, May 29
Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday, May 30
Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, May 31

INDEPENDENCE DAY – FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025

Monday routes will not be affected
Tuesday routes will not be affected
Wednesday routes will not be affected
Thursday routes will not be affected
Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, July 5

LABOR DAY – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

Monday routes will be picked up on Tuesday, September 2
Tuesday routes will be picked up on Wednesday, September 3
Wednesday routes will be picked up on Thursday, September 4
Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday, September 5
Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, September 6

THANKSGIVING DAY - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025

Monday routes will not be affected
Tuesday routes will not be affected
Wednesday routes will not be affected
Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday, November 28
Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, November 29

CHRISTMAS DAY – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025

Monday routes will not be affected
Tuesday routes will not be affected
Wednesday routes will not be affected
Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday, December 26
Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, December 27

NEW YEAR'S DAY – THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026

Monday routes will not be affected
Tuesday routes will not be affected
Wednesday routes will not be affected
Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday, January 2
Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, January 3



Sustainability in Action