



# THE SWANSEA REPORT

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 5

July 2025

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On June 9-11, the Swansea Police and Fire Departments held their 10<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Academy for 32 kids age 10-13. The cadets experienced a myriad of activities and experiences to learn about the importance and coordination of emergency services, exposure to valuable life skills and lessons, physical fitness, and team-building exercises. Some of the presentations were:

- St. Clair County Jail Tour
- Firearms Safety
- Fire Department Obstacle Course, Equipment Orientation, and Rescue Demonstration
- Special Response Team (SWAT) display
- Heartlinks Grief Awareness and Coping Training
- Chestnut Health Dangers of Vaping Presentation
- U.S. Secret Service Operation Safe Kids Program
- Air Evac LifeTeam Helicopter Orientation/Display
- Abbott Ambulance EMS Orientation/Display
- Illinois State Police K9 Demonstration
- Illinois State Police Forensics Presentation
- CHAMPS Comfort Dogs Presentation
- U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency One Pill Can Kill Presentation

A very special thank you to our sponsors for their support in making this important program possible for our first responders and community youth to foster trust and build critical relationships. The 2025 sponsors were:

- |                               |                                           |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Schnucks Swansea              | Swansea FD Civic Association              |
| Swansea Trustee Sherman Pohek | Swansea PD FOP Lodge 500                  |
| Peace by Piece                | 1 <sup>st</sup> National Bank of Waterloo |
| Rotary Club of Swansea        | St. Clair County Transit District         |
| FCB Swansea Bank              | The Sweet Side Dessert Truck              |
| Swansea FD Ladies Auxiliary   |                                           |

# Join Our Fire Department

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# Rotary 5K Run/Walk

## Rotary Club of Swansea Hosts Successful 22nd Annual 5K Run/Walk

*More than 100 participants raised money for student scholarships*

By: Natalie Jablonski

**Swansea, Illinois, June 10, 2025** - The Rotary Club of Swansea hosted their 22nd Annual "Service Above Self" 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, May 31, 2025, which began and ended at Wolf Branch Elementary School. More than 100 participants of all ages enjoyed the beautiful weather and helped to support the Chad Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund which benefits college scholarship programs for qualifying graduates of area high schools.

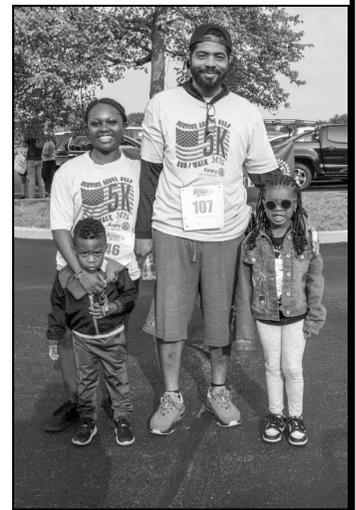
"For our Rotarians, this event is deeply meaningful as it allows us to perpetually honor the memory of Chad, a truly remarkable young man whose absence is still felt keenly in our community," said event organizer and Swansea Rotarian Jim Riess. "My sincerest thanks go out to all the volunteers and participants whose continued support ensures this event's success."

The news of Chad Wood's sudden and unexpected death on Monday morning, May 9, 2005, took the breath away from all of our members. Ray Wood was the Charter President when the Rotary Club of Swansea was formed in 2002. He and his wife, Penny, had been a wonderful friend and supporter of the club. Chad was a fine student, a superb athlete who starred on the Belleville East Lancers football and baseball teams and, most important, was a devoted and loving son to his parents and a wonderful brother to his three siblings: Jennifer, Gretchen and Robert.

At its meeting on May 12, 2005, the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Swansea unanimously voted to donate \$1,000 to the Belleville East High School Athletic Department in Chad's memory and approved a motion to designate our scholarship program, funded by the 5K Run each year, as the Chad Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund. The 2025 recipients of the Chad Wood Memorial Scholarship include: Owen Hodapp (Belleville East), Lyla Keck (Belleville East) and Mohamad Hamzeh (Belleville West).

"It's an honor to invest in the diverse aspirations of Swansea students," said Club President Tricia Tialdo. "From college scholarships to our CAVE raffle for trade-focused students, we're dedicated to helping them achieve their goals. We extend our sincere appreciation to all the wonderful event sponsors – your partnership is crucial to the success of these community-focused programs."

The "Service Above Self" 5K Run/Walk is held each year on the first Saturday after Memorial Day, so mark your calendars now for next year's event on Saturday, May 30, 2026! Donations can be made to the Chad Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund by mailing a check to PO Box 23746, Belleville, Illinois 62223, or visiting [www.swansearotary.org](http://www.swansearotary.org) for online options. Please note "Chad Wood Memorial Scholarship Donation" on the payment.



# News Briefs

## Congratulations to the Newly Elected Officials in the 2025 Consolidated Election

**President: Jeff Parker**

mayor@swanseail.org

**Village Clerk Gloria Collier**

gcollier@swanseail.org

**Treasurer John Walter**

jwalter@swanseail.org

**Trustee Matt Lanter**

mlanter@swanseail.org

**Trustee Natalie Jablonski**

njablonski@swanseail.org

**Trustee Cary Lewis V**

clewis@swanseail.org

## Congratulations to the Newly Appointed Elected Officials

**Trustee Brian McGuire**

bmcguire@swanseail.org

**Trustee Sherman Pochek**

spochek@swanseail.org

Exciting News from the Village of Swansea! Now streaming Board Meetings!

Starting

**June 2nd, the Village of Swansea began livestreaming all Village Committee and Board Meetings** to make it easier for our residents to stay informed and engaged — from wherever you are!

**Tune in live at:** <https://www.youtube.com/@VillageofSwansea>

Be sure to **follow the Village of Swansea on YouTube** to get notified when meetings go live!

We're committed to transparency and keeping our community connected. Thank you for being an active part of our community!



### BELLEVEGAS BINGO

517 South Illinois

Belleville, IL 62220

(618)234-0388/ bellevegasbingo.com

### NEW WEEKLY BINGO!

*Proceeds Benefit*

Swansea Fire Department

Every Wednesday

Doors open at 4:30, Bingo Starts at 7:00 p.m.

Using Our Regular Weekly Program

Come and Play Bingo with us Weekly on Wednesday and

Support the

**Swansea First Responders!**



4200 N. Illinois • Swansea • 234-8004  
2 miles south of St. Clair Mall  
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- Chemicals and supplies
- Service for pools/hot tubs



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# Congratulations, Deputy Chief Howard

## Deputy Chief Keith Howard Certified by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police

The Swansea Police Department is proud to announce Deputy Chief Keith Howard has been honored by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) as a Certified Eligible Police Chief through the Association's Police Chief Certification Program. This designation signifies that Deputy Chief Howard has met the highest standards of competency and conduct for his profession. Congratulations DC Howard on another outstanding accomplishment!



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# Swansea Rotary Presents Eight CAVE Educational Awards

*A total of \$8,000 was awarded to help further the students trade careers and training.*

By: Natalie Jablonski

The Rotary Club of Swansea presented financial educational awards to four Center for Academic & Vocational Excellence (CAVE) District 201 graduating seniors on May 8, 2025. A total of \$8,000 was awarded to help further the students in their future trade careers and continued training. Funds were raised by the Club through a [ticket raffle held in Fall 2024](#). The following are the award recipients (featured left to right in photo):

- Kennedi Allen
- Daniya Holmes
- Aliayah Anderson
- Lillian Averbeck
- Eric Morgan-Cox
- Adela Gagen
- Noah Mesiti (Darice Bohnenstiehl Endowment Award)
- Serenity Graham



The School District 201 Center for Academic & Vocational Excellence (CAVE) Program, located at 7645 Magna Drive in Belleville, is an educational program designed to address the physical, emotional, social and intellectual needs of at-risk students in order to successfully transition back to Belleville East or West High School or on to college or career. It offers vocational programs in culinary arts, welding, carpentry and construction, automotive, machining and metal, early childhood education, aviation, healthcare, advanced business applications, and automation, manufacturing, and robotics.

“The Rotary Club of Swansea extends our congratulations to all the students and wish them success in their future careers,” said Swansea Rotary CAVE Committee Chairperson Dennis Bertelsman. “In addition, the Club would like to thank all of the friends, family, and Swansea residents who purchased raffle tickets which funded this award program. We look forward to your continued support this fall for our 4th Annual Swansea Rotary Raffle benefiting CAVE Education Awards.”

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

## Chief's Corner

### Officers render emergency aid; save stabbing victim!

On May 16th, Sgt. Huff and Officer Schackmann responded to a critical incident involving a stabbing victim from a domestic situation originating in another jurisdiction. Sgt. Huff immediately administered lifesaving medical care, working swiftly and effectively to stabilize the victim for transport. Due to the severity of the injuries and the urgency of the situation, Sgt. Huff and Officer Schackmann continued providing care in the back of a squad car while a Belleville Police Department officer drove them to the hospital.

We commend Sgt. Huff and Officer Schackmann for their professionalism, medical proficiency, and extraordinary composure under intense pressure. Their actions exemplify the highest standards of public service and dedication to saving lives. They received Lifesaving Awards at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Village Board meeting. We also wish to thank our colleagues from the Belleville Police Department who assisted with this incident that led to this successful outcome!



### Detective Jason Frank promoted to Detective Sergeant

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Police Department promoted Jason Frank to Detective Sergeant. Sgt. Frank has 20 years of service with the Swansea Police Department. He has served in patrol and investigations during his career. His initiative, dedication, and hard work were instrumental in our agency being at the forefront of digital forensic investigations. He serves on the United States Secret Service Cybercrimes Task Force, the Major Case Squad, the Internet Crimes and Children Task Force, and the Child Death Investigation Task Force. Sgt. Frank has been the driving force in navigating our Investigations Unit through the modern technology-based landscape. We are so proud of his accomplishments and look forward to his leadership going forward!



Congratulations Det. Sgt. Frank!

### Congratulations to Sgt. Peter Wszalek Jr. on his retirement!

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Wszalek retired after 20+ years of service with the Swansea Police Department. During his career, his assignments included Patrol, Investigations, K9, and Patrol Supervisor. Thank you Sgt. Wszalek for your dedication to public service and we wish you the very best in the next chapter of your journey!



### Congratulations

Police Officer Eric Rohn on his 25<sup>th</sup> work anniversary on June 7<sup>th</sup>! Thank you for your commitment and dedication to our community! We look forward to your continued service to the Village.



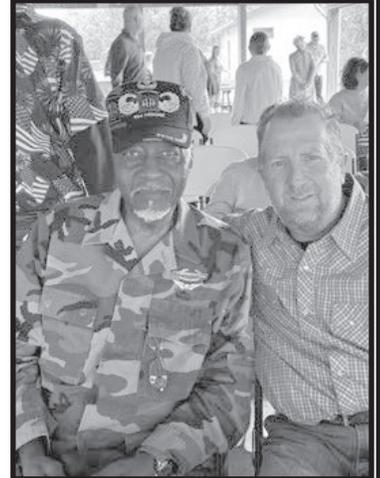
# Memorial Day Event

## Swansea Honors Our Heroes at 37th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

On May 26, the Village of Swansea gathered at Melvin Price Memorial Park for the 37th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony. Hosted by the Swansea Park Board, the event honored those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

The program opened with welcoming remarks, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.

The POW/MIA Table Ceremony, presented by retired U.S. Air Force Colonel and former Village Trustee Steve Pulley, offered a powerful reminder of those still missing and unaccounted for.



Mayor Jeff Parker offered words of reflection, and keynote speaker Chief Master Sergeant Kafka shared heartfelt insights drawn from her 30-year Air Force career.

The ceremony concluded with a medley of Armed Forces service songs and a benediction by Walter Biekert. Attendees then stayed to enjoy hot dogs, chips, cookies, and the company of neighbors and veterans alike.



## 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



062015-05522AC

## PICKLEBALL COURT RULES

- Please limit singles to 1 hour and 1.5 hours for doubles.
- Courts are open during regular park hours:
- 6:00 A.M. until 10:00 P.M. from April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> and 7:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. from November 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Children under the age of 12 must be supervised by an adult.
- Do not abuse nets or equipment. Misuse is fineable.



## NOT ALLOWED ON COURT

- Smoking/Vaping
- Intoxicating Beverages
- Glass Bottles
- Pets
- Bicycles, Skateboards, Scooters, Rollerblades
- Hard or Black sole shoes

Report issues to: [swanadm@swanseail.org](mailto:swanadm@swanseail.org) or 618-234-0044

Swansea Police Non-Emergency 618-233-8114



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# Reminders

## Govt. Center Closed Friday, July 4th & September 1st and Refuse Delayed

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Friday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. **The collection of refuse, recyclables, and yard waste will shift one day for all routes.**

We will also be closed Monday, September 1st in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Republic Services observes Labor Day as well. **The collection of refuse, recyclables and yard waste will be delayed one day all week.** Monday will be picked up on Tuesday, Tuesday on Wednesday, etc.

## Splash Pad Now Open

Hours of operation are 9:30-8. You may rent the splash pad Monday-Friday 11:30-1:30.

The fees are: Resident: \$50 fee with a \$100 deposit and Non-resident: \$75 fee with \$200 deposit.

Any business or organization wishing to reserve the Splash Pad for its exclusive use must do so by applying for a permit. Advance reservation is mandatory for any business or organization bringing 10 or more individuals to the Splash Pad. This reservation application must be submitted to the Government Center at least 30 days prior to the requested reservation date to allow for review and approval.

There's seating around the splash pad area so parents can enjoy watching their children play.

## Fireworks Safety

1. Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water/hose nearby in case of accidents.
2. Designate a safety perimeter. If you have ground-based fireworks like a fountain, spectating from at least 35 feet away is best. For aerial fireworks, you'll want everyone to move back to a distance of around 150 feet.
3. Ditch faulty fireworks. Sometimes fireworks don't go off, but duds always pose a risk.
4. Supervise children when they are handling sparklers. Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit—hot enough to melt some metals.
5. Don't forget about your pets! Fireworks can be extremely stressful for pets, but there are ways to help reduce their fear and anxiety. Keep your pets indoors.
6. Soak both used and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.
7. Never place a part of your body directly over a firework or hold a firework in your hand when lighting.
8. Only light one firework at a time.
9. Avoid alcohol consumption when handling or using fireworks.
10. Consider safe alternatives to fireworks such as party poppers, bubbles, silly string, or glow sticks.

Have a safe and Happy 4th!

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## 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: 618-234-0044

[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: Jeff Parker

[mayor@swanseail.org](mailto:mayor@swanseail.org)

Village Clerk Gloria Collier

[gcollier@swanseail.org](mailto:gcollier@swanseail.org)

Treasurer John Walter

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Trustee Natalie Jablonski

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Trustee Brian McGuire

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Trustee Cary Lewis V

[clewis@swanseail.org](mailto:clewis@swanseail.org)

Trustee Sherman Pochek

[spochek@swanseail.org](mailto:spochek@swanseail.org)



The Swansea Report  
is also posted on the  
website at:

[www.swanseail.org](http://www.swanseail.org)

## Ponies for Polio

Rotary District 6510 is proud to present



# Saturday, August 23, 2025

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

**Doors Open at 6:30 p.m. | Races Start at 7:15 p.m.**

Buffet & Open Bar (6:30 - 8 p.m.) - Silent Auction

# TICKETS

## \$50 PER PERSON (OPEN SEATING)

OR

## ON SALE SOON AT

## \$500 TABLE SPONSORSHIP

[WWW.SWANSEAROTARY.ORG](http://WWW.SWANSEAROTARY.ORG)

INCLUDES EIGHT (8) TICKETS & RESERVED TABLE

**POLIO BUCKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE DOOR**

## PROCEEDS BENEFIT POLIOPLUS

DONATIONS WILL BE MATCHED 2-TO-1 BY THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

Poliomyelitis, or polio, is a paralyzing and potentially fatal disease that still threatens children in some parts of the world. Rotary and our partners have driven the effort to eradicate polio worldwide by vaccinating children on a massive scale, with focus on advocacy, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, and awareness-building.

## Limited Sponsorships Available

# July and August Calendars 2025

## July

4th Happy 4th of July- Government Center Closed

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

8th Planning and Zoning Meeting 6 p.m.

10th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Center— Regular meeting and Guests Welcome!

11th Heartland Conservancy Event- (Exploration Garden Meadow Walk & Volunteer Stewardship Day: 8 a.m.- Join us for a guided walk to discover what's in bloom, spot native wildlife, and learn about local plant species. Afterward, stick around to help us with some hands-on conservation work. RSVP on our website: <https://heartlandsconservancy.org/events-calendar/>.)

12th Swansea Park Board Meeting 8 a.m. Thompson Center

15th Swansea Patriots Meeting 7 p.m. Thompson Center

17th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Center— Regular meeting and Guests Welcome!

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

24th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Center — Regular meeting and Guests Welcome!

31st Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Center — Regular meeting and Guests Welcome!

## August

4th Committee Meeting 6 p.m. and Board Meeting 7 p.m. Government Center

8th Heartland Conservancy Event- Exploration Garden Volunteer Stewardship Day: 8 a.m. (We'll focus on weeding the rock swale, removing invasive species like honeysuckle, and maintaining the demonstration garden beds. RSVP on our website: <https://heartlandsconservancy.org/events-calendar/>.)

9th Swansea Park Board Meeting 7 a.m. Norman Lehr

14th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Center— Regular meeting and Guests Welcome!

19th Planning and Zoning Meeting 6 p.m. and Patriot's Meeting 7 p.m. Thompson Center

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

21st Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Center— Regular meeting and Guests Welcome!

23rd Ponies for Polio Fundraiser 6:30 p.m. (Belleville/Swansea Moose Lodge 1221)

-Open to the public

-Reservations required— tickets and & information available at

[www.Swansearotaryil.org](http://www.Swansearotaryil.org)

-Proceeds benefit PolioPlus to eradicate polio throughout the world

28th Swansea Rotary Club 7:30 a.m. Thompson Center — Regular meeting and Guests Welcome!

# Village Of Swansea

1444 BOUL AVENUE  
SWANSEA, IL 62226

Phone: (618) 234-0044  
www.swanseail.org

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit #394  
Belleville, IL

Take advantage of this beautiful weather by utilizing the new bike trail on Old Collinsville Road. Please be considerate of others by not parking in neighborhoods or businesses and please do not litter. A nice place to park and enjoy the trail is Fletcher's.

## Reminder Grass Clippings

Per the Litter Control Act, 415 ILCS 105, we would like to remind the residents to keep grass clippings out of the road ways, as it is a hazard to traffic and can cause injury to motorists. When cutting the grass, be sure clippings are blown away from the road.

## Swansea Senior Van



Swansea Residents only

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**

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**Al Saponar**

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## Building Permits Are Required In The Village Of Swansea!

If you are having work done at your property in Swansea please call the Government Center at (618) 234-0044 to see if the work requires a permit.

If you are having a contractor do work at your home and or property make sure they have a permit before starting the work.

Inspections are also required for any permit that is issued.

Plumbing permit requires a licensed plumber.

All inspections require 48 hour notice Electrical, Mechanical and Building inspections require 48 hour notice.

You can submit the Building Application and plans on our website [www.swanseail.org](http://www.swanseail.org)

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, the Board of Trustees approved an ordinance #1988 amending a section of code relating to grass, weeds, vegetation, and trees. The new section of code establishes additional regulations for these items and addresses many things that code did not previously address. The new ordinance can be found here <https://www.swanseail.org/2367/Ordinances-Pending-Codification>. Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Building and Zoning Department at 618-234-0044.