



# THE SWANSEA REPORT

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 8

August 2017

## Why Your Last Sewer Bill May Have Been Higher

Due to a high volume of calls with the same question, we are repeating information from the June issue of the Swansea Report, which explained that for most residents the July sewer bill was going to be higher than usual.

Swansea's sewer bills are mailed every two months and are based in part upon water usage, using meter readings from Illinois American Water Company. But the water company recently changed the format of the data they provide to Swansea. As a result, Village staff had to manually make changes to each, individual sewer customer's record in our billing software - about 10,000 customers in all.

In the time frame allowed changes could only be made to about 2,000 of those customer records. Those customers saw normal bills in May and July.

However, the other 6,000 or so customers received a May bill that only reflected one month of water usage. So their May bill was lower than normal. Many did not notice.

However, most did take notice when their July bill was higher than normal and questioned why. That was because the July bills for those customers included three months of water usage rather than the two months on a normal bill. Everything should return to normal on the bills which will be mailed in September.

## Roadway Resurfacing Completed In Record Time; Road Oiling August 1&2

The asphalt overlay of a number of previously oil & chip streets in Swansea was completed in less than two weeks as crews took advantage of dry weather and worked quickly to minimize traffic interruptions and inconvenience to residents.

The Village spent about \$335,000 on this year's resurfacing effort. Focused primarily on improving the roadway surface, this approach provides a longer lasting and smoother pavement without adjusting drainage, shoulders, or other aspects of the roadway. It is the Village's attempt to get maximum return on the limited funds available for such projects.

The Village just purchased a special attachment for its equipment that will allow it to easily channel fill material onto shoulders along these repaved roads to help create a better transition from the new pavement into that shoulder. That work should be completed in August.

The Village plans to continue asphalt resurfacing at about the same dollar level each year, alternating to different

locations in Swansea depending upon things like the condition of the existing pavement and the traffic volume on those roadways.

Weather permitting, road oiling is planned to begin August 1st and 2nd. Crews will post signs in advance along streets where that work is planned. Those signs will indicate the exact date of the proposed work but if it rains that day, the work may be postponed. Parking is not allowed along the specified roadways during road oiling so residents in those areas need to make sure their cars are moved and out of the path of the equipment used in the process.

Usage of the roadways during that process will be limited for some time period as the oil is applied to the existing surface, covered with rock chips and then rolled to compress. Even when completed, it is a good idea to drive more slowly for a while over these roads until the new surface has 'set'. Until then rock and oil can be transferred from tires to your vehicle's body, especially at higher speeds.

*This southern section of Smelting Works Road was among those roadways repaved.*



## News Briefs

### Government Center Closed Mon Sept 4

#### Refuse Collection Also Delayed

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Monday, September 4th for the Labor Day holiday.

September 4th is also a holiday for Republic Services so the collection of refuse, recyclables and yard waste will all be delayed. Monday's trash and recyclable routes will be picked up on Tuesday, September 5th instead. Tuesday's routes will be picked up on Wednesday, September 6th. The normal yard waste collection on Wednesdays will shift to Thursday, September 7th. Thursday's trash and recyclable routes will be picked up on Friday, September 8th and the normal Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, September 9th.

### Dollar Tree Coming to Schnucks Plaza

Construction permits have been issued for buildout of a new Dollar Tree store at 2629 N. Illinois Street,

located in the Schnucks Swansea Plaza. The store will occupy 10,000 square feet in the area that formerly housed the Rainbow, and before that Fashion Bug clothing stores.

Work started on July 13th and is expected to be completed for a grand opening sometime in October 2017.

Dollar Tree carries a broad mix of merchandise that includes national and regional brands. Product departments include housewares, glassware, dinnerware, cleaning supplies, candy, snacks, food, health and beauty, toys, gifts, gift bags and wrap, party supplies, stationery, craft supplies, teaching supplies, books, and seasonal décor. Every item is priced at \$1.00 or less.

Dollar Tree is a national company with thousands of stores in all 48 contiguous states, generally located in shopping centers and malls.



### Tickets Still Available For Swansea Night at the Busch Stadium

Join your Swansea Fire Department on Wed Sept 13th for Swansea Night at Busch Stadium, when the St. Louis Cardinals take on the Cincinnati Reds. Scheduled start is 7:15pm. The Swansea Fire Department Color

Guard will be presenting the Colors for the National Anthem before the start of the game.

Group seating is in Section 169 and 170 next to the left field foul pole and the cost is \$20 per ticket. A portion of that ticket price will go to support the Swansea Fire Department. Tickets can be purchased by calling: Jason Whitaker at 618-979-8795 or Kody Koudelka at 618-779-5706, or by stopping by Swansea Fire Station #2, at 144 Huntwood Road during normal office hours. A limited number of tickets are available so buy early.

### Schools Are Going Back Into Session

#### Watch for Students

#### Obey Traffic Laws Re: School Buses

School's will soon be back in session so drivers should be extra alert for students crossing roadways, walking to school, or waiting at bus stops.

Each year the Village also reminds driver's about traffic laws related to school buses.

Flashing red lights on a school bus and an extended stop sign mean that drivers on a two lane road are required to stop when approaching that bus from either direction. It is unlawful to pass that stopped bus.

When a bus is stopped on a multi-lane roadway like IL Rte. 159, drivers traveling in the same direction as the bus are required to stop. In this case, drivers headed in the opposite direction are not.

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## News Briefs

### Swansea Police Dept Non Emergency Phone Number

With the consolidation of 911 dispatching, some might be confused as to what phone number to call to reach a police officer for a non-emergency situation. Of course, any true emergency should be called into 911.

But any other need for an officer should be called into 618-233-8114. This number will still ring in the Belleville Dispatch Center, but the person answering will recognize it as a non-emergency call.

Reasons why a resident might call the department in a non-emergency situation include any routine request to simply talk with an officer, to leave a drug tip, to request a police report, to request a house check while on vacation, or any other reason where an officer would be involved. This same number should be used for after hour calls for things like a sewer backup where other Village staff may need to be called out.

### Century Brass Works Celebrates 100 Yrs

Having been established in 1917, Century Brass Works, a fourth generation family-owned foundry and machining business at 1100 N. Illinois Street in Swansea, is celebrating 100 years in business.

The company got its start casting and machining their own line of sanitary non-refrigerated drinking fountains. Today, they produce a wide variety of brass, bronze and aluminum sand castings, as well as grey and ductile iron castings from their automated iron foundry.

The Village of Swansea extends its congratulations to Century Brass for so many years of success. It is an honor to have you in the Village!



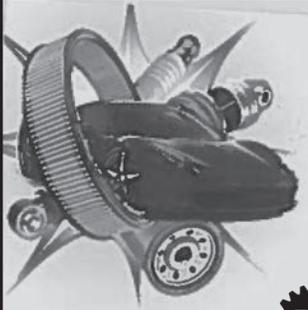
### New Pavilion Built In Schranz Park

A new pavilion in Schranz Park is nearing completion and should be available for public use soon. Located at the southern end of the park property, the pavilion will have a grill and four picnic tables making it a good size for a small gathering of about 24 people.

One hundred percent of the cost of the pavilion and its installation was donated through the Swansea Patriots and to the Village by the Kelso family, in memory and honor of their mother Ruth Kelso.

In addition, at the July 17th meeting, Scott & Debra Givens, and Myles & Nancy O'Reilly together donated \$1,000 to the Village to pay for planting two large shade trees near the pavilion in memory and honor of Delmar "Bud" Riess, a life-long Village resident who passed away on June 7th.





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# News Briefs

## High Water Flows Through Treatment Plant Cause Damage

Torrential rains at the end of May and beginning of June infiltrated the sanitary sewer system and resulted in extremely heavy flows through the Village of Swansea wastewater treatment plant, and the sheer force of that water caused significant damage to the plant's UV light disinfection system.

The Swansea treatment plant was the first municipal plant in the state of Illinois to use this method of disinfection. The system uses very strong UV lights to provide rapid, effective inactivation of micro-organisms through a physical, rather than a chemical process, like adding chlorine to the water which would then have to be removed.

When bacteria, viruses and protozoa are exposed to the germicidal wavelengths of UV light, they are rendered incapable of reproducing and infecting. UV light has also been

shown to be effective against pathogenic organisms, including those responsible for cholera, polio, typhoid, hepatitis and other bacterial, viral and parasitic diseases.

At the Swansea plant, UV light bulbs look similar to a long fluorescent tube. They hang vertically in a clear plastic sleeve from a rectangular box or module. Each of those modules houses about forty bulbs that are independently connected to an elaborate electrical switching system.

Multiple modules are lowered into a long concrete trough side by side so that water can flow through the trough and 'meander' through the rows of offset bulbs. The control system turns on more bulbs for higher flows and fewer bulbs for lower flows, thereby adjusting the amount of light available as the flow rate increases. During low flows, only the first few rows of bulbs might be active.

The sophistication of the system is to minimize electrical costs and prolong bulb life. But it also makes repairs very costly.

The flow rate was so strong during these recent rain storms that it broke many of the bulbs and flooded the modules, affecting the electrical connections. The Village Board recently authorized the purchase of two new modules to replace those that were damaged - at a cost of over \$50,000.

This kind of damage from storm water infiltration into the sanitary sewer system emphasizes the importance of identifying sources of that infiltration and removing them from the system. It is illegal to have roof drains or a sump pump connected to the Village's sanitary sewer system.



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**COUNTRY FINANCIAL**

## News Briefs

### Property Maint Code Requires Address Numbers Be Visible

Section 304.3 of the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code, which has been adopted by the Village of Swansea, requires that address numbers be displayed on the front of every building - residential and commercial - and be visible from the street that runs in front of the building.

The code specifies that those numbers be legible, visible, on a contrasting background, and a minimum of 4" high and 1/2" wide.

As a potential matter of life and death, Swansea's emergency responders suggest that you test the visibility of your address numbers by standing 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 those numbers when looking for your home? And if you have not yet installed numbers that meet the code requirement, do so now.

### Fire Training Tower Installed in July

Construction crews were on-site in the middle of July to install and configure five shipping containers into a fire tower training building behind Swansea Engine House #2. That location will allow firefighters to easily and effectively train each Monday evening without having to travel to another site.

Passageways between the containers, interior wall structures, roof decks and stairways will allow firefighters to train

for a variety of scenarios that might be encountered while fighting a fire or rescuing people from a building.

The use of shipping containers for these types of structures is becoming more commonplace. The approach lowers cost, allows most accessories to be installed in factory, and facilitates a very quick on-site installation on pre-poured piers. In Swansea's case the installation was completed in less than four days.

Firefighters are expected to begin using the facility within a few weeks.



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# Speed Trailer Statistics Will Help Officers Target Speeders

The Police Department has been periodically moving the new speed trailer to locations in town where residents have voiced concerns about speeding vehicles. By doing so they hope to remind drivers to pay attention to the posted speed limit, prompt voluntary compliance, and to gather data about typical speeds at that location.

The data and graph to the lower right illustrate the information provided by the trailer.

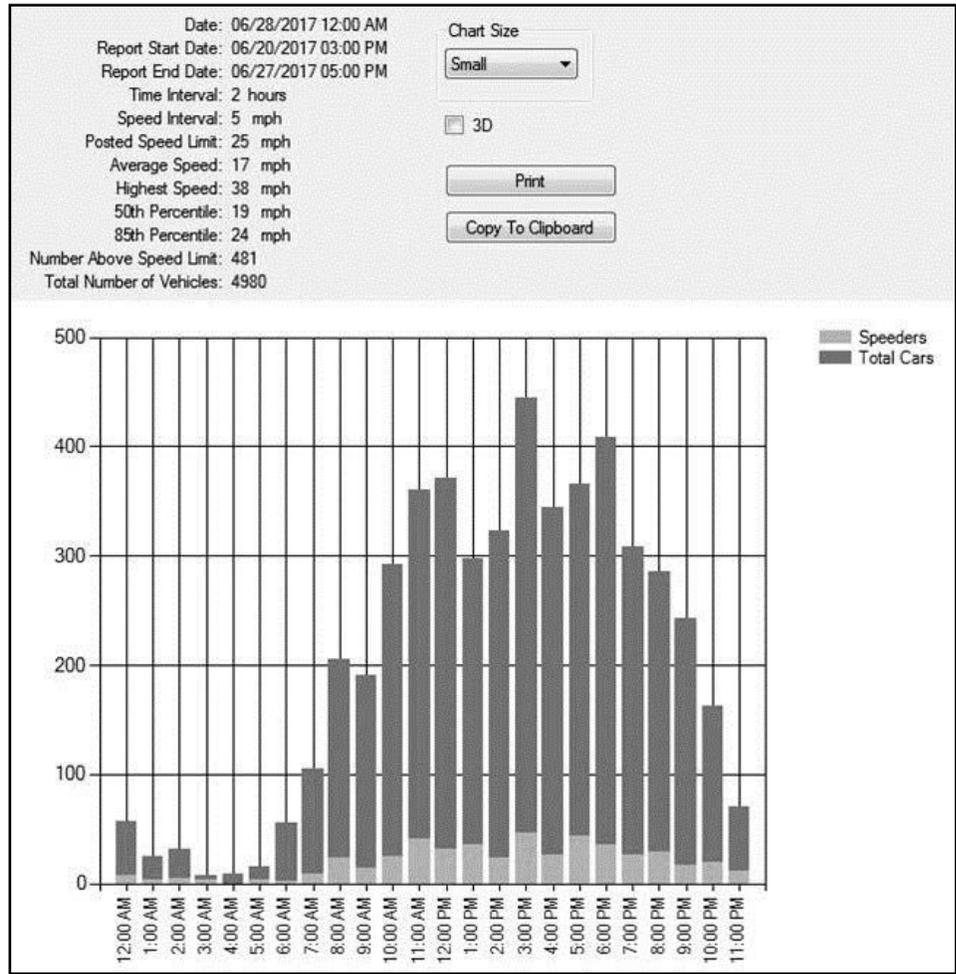
This particular report shows statistics from a one-week period at this location at the end of June. The bar graph illustrates total number of cars during each one hour time period, and the number of those cars that were exceeding the posted speed limit by even 1 mph. In this specific case, the posted limit was 25 mph.

The stats also indicate that 481 out of 4,980 vehicles, or a little less than 10%, were speeding as they passed the speed trailer. The highest speed recorded was 38 mph, or 13 mph over the posted limit in this residential area.

It is also important to note that these drivers continued to speed even though they were undoubtedly aware of the trailer and its indication to them

of their speed at the time. Yet it did not seem to change their behavior.

Based upon this data, the Department will be better able to assign officers to specific areas at specific times to run radar and enforce speed limits. The data helps indicate the best time to catch drivers who choose to not comply with the law and who potentially put residents and pedestrians in danger.



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Center Manager



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# Village Just Outside 'Total' Eclipse Path

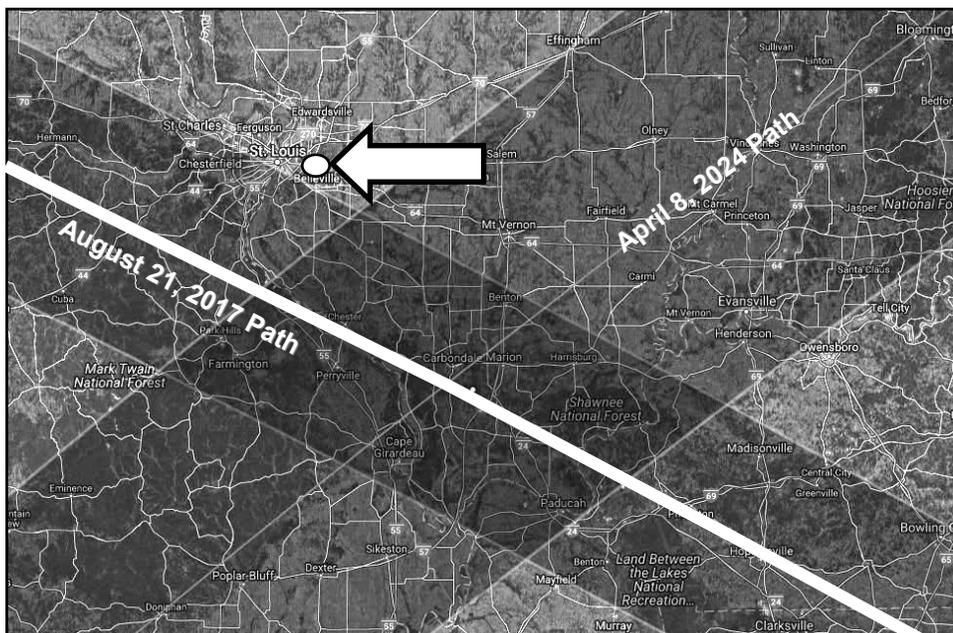
As you can see from the map below, Swansea lies just north and outside of the swath of North America that will be treated to a true "total" eclipse of the sun on Monday, August 21, 2017. Someone near IL 161 and IL 159 would see 99.89% obscuration at around 1:18 pm.

Traveling just south of Belleville however would put you at a spot of 100% obscuration, at least for a brief instant. Those who travel to a point as close as Chester, might witness total eclipse for a period of about 2 minutes and 39 seconds. The eclipse will start at about 11:51 am in Chester and end at about 2:44 pm, with the 2 minutes and 39 seconds of total eclipse starting about 1:19 pm. The "ideal" location will be just south of Carbondale near Giant City State Park - the point of the longest eclipse time in the world at 2 min 41.6 secs.

Since on average, a total solar eclipse can be seen from the same location only once every 375 years, many are calling this a 'once in lifetime opportunity'. But for many residents that may not be true! Just seven years from now - on April 24, 2024 - Southern Illinois will once again be in the path of a total solar eclipse. Both paths are illustrated on the map below.

NASA has created a website with a lot of links to eclipse information at <https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/solar.html>.

The link below will help you check any location on the map for time and information related to the 2017 eclipse. [http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site\\_pages/solar\\_eclipses/TSE\\_2017\\_2024\\_GoogleMapFull.html](http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site_pages/solar_eclipses/TSE_2017_2024_GoogleMapFull.html)



## 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  
[swanadm@swanseail.org](mailto:swanadm@swanseail.org)

**Building, Zoning, Permits**  
Phone: 618-355-0280  
[swanbnz@swanseail.org](mailto:swanbnz@swanseail.org)

**Swansea Police Department  
Emergency: 911**  
Non-emergency: 618-234-4110  
[swanseap@swanseail.org](mailto:swanseap@swanseail.org)

**Swansea Fire Department  
Emergency: 911**  
Engine House: 618-234-3291

### Village of Swansea Officials

**President: Mike Leopold**  
[mayor@swanseail.org](mailto:mayor@swanseail.org)

**Village Clerk Lauren O'Neill**  
[loneill@swanseail.org](mailto:loneill@swanseail.org)

**Treasurer John Walter**  
[jwalter@swanseail.org](mailto:jwalter@swanseail.org)

**Trustee Matt Lanter**  
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**Trustee Rocky McDonald**  
[rmcdonald@swanseail.org](mailto:rmcdonald@swanseail.org)

**Trustee Brian McGuire**  
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**Trustee Marilyn Neumeyer**  
[mneumeyer@swanseail.org](mailto:mneumeyer@swanseail.org)

**Trustee Stephen Pulley**  
[spulley@swanseail.org](mailto:spulley@swanseail.org)

**Trustee Brian Wells**  
[bwells@swanseail.org](mailto:bwells@swanseail.org)

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



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# Swansea Police and Fire Youth Academy Successful

On Wednesday, June 28th, 35 youth between the ages of 9 and 13 graduated from the 3rd Annual Swansea Police and Fire Youth Academy.

Hosted at Engine House #2 on Huntwood Road, the three day event helps young residents experience law enforcement training, observe K-9, fire department, and other demonstrations, develop leadership skills, and much more, through both classroom and hands on instruction.

The youth attend from 8:00am until 4:00pm each day. Lunch is provided

and each participant received a Youth Academy T-shirt. Because of generous donations from the public there was no fee for participating and all costs were covered.

This annual event occurs only through those donations and the many hours of time given freely by volunteers.

Thank you to those volunteers and to all who support the program in any way. The fire and police departments hope to continue this tradition year after year, affording the opportunity to many of the youth in our community to attend in the future.



## What does it cost to Advertise in the SWANSEA REPORT?

- ✓ 1/8 page (Business Card) at 2" high x 3.7" wide is \$70.00 per month or 1.1¢ / mailbox
- ✓ 1/4 page vertical at 4.1" high x 3.7" wide is \$120.00 per month or 1.9¢ / mailbox
- ✓ 1/4 page horizontal at 2" high x 7.5" wide is \$120.00 per month or 1.9¢ / mailbox
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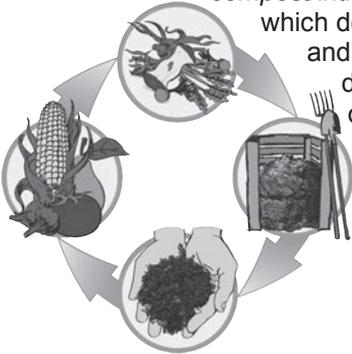
## News Briefs

### Composting Could Save You Money

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

We therefore suggest that residents who might be interested visit [https://web.extension.illinois.edu/home\\_compost/intro.cfm](https://web.extension.illinois.edu/home_compost/intro.cfm)

which describes and details different options.



### Consider Installing A Rain Barrel

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

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

Because plastic is lightweight and inexpensive, many rain barrels are made of that material. However, those might deteriorate over time if not protected from UV rays. While wood barrels are heavier, they would probably last longer.

Most are connected to a downspout at the top and include a outflow spigot at the bottom. Since even a 50 gallon

barrel can fill up quickly, some means of allowing overflow is necessary. That might be manual or automatic, but once the barrel is full, the rest of the water coming through the downspout needs to be diverted to safely drain away from your property. Some people connect rain barrels in series to store even more water.

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

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



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## News Briefs

### Swansea Farmer's Market Every Thur

The Swansea Farmer's Market is an unpaid volunteer organization (501-3C) that unlike markets in some other areas, is not funded or controlled by the municipality in which it resides. While the Village of Swansea provides information on the Market in the Swansea Report and on the Village website no tax dollars go towards this event.

The purpose of the Market is to provide a service to Swansea residents and a place to purchase fresh, local produce and crafts. With some very good and unique, locally grown and fresh crops, the organization thinks it has accomplished its purpose again this year.



#### SENIORS:

The Market still has a limited number of Senior Coupons available for those 60 and older. These are provided to our area by the Federal Government. You can find the Swansea Farmers Market in the parking lot of Rural King, 2801 N. Illinois Street, Swansea, every Thursdays from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, rain or shine.

For additional information, you may contact Norm Geolat 978-8753, swanseafarmersmarket@yahoo.com or visit Facebook as Swansea Farmers.

### Park Board & Swansea Patriots Plan Halloween Event for Oct 28th

Yes, in the middle of the dog days of Summer the Swansea Park Board and Swansea Patriots want you to be thinking about Halloween. The organizations are planning to host a Swansea Spook-Tacular! in Melvin Price Memorial Park on Sat., Oct. 28th, and they want residents to mark their calendars early.

But they are also looking for businesses, organizations and individuals who might want to be a sponsor, provide donations, or volunteer to help with the event in some way. Contact Marilyn Neumeyer at [mneumeyer@att.net](mailto:mneumeyer@att.net) or Mike Koeneman at [mikek@koernerdistributor.com](mailto:mikek@koernerdistributor.com) for more information.

**Swansea Spook-Tacular!**  
**WHEN: SATURDAY OCTOBER 28, 2017**  
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*Hiddie Parade  
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# Swansea Community Calendar - August 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 Farmer's Market 11:00am - 3:00pm Rural King Parking Lot Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - New members & visitors welcome	4	5
6	7 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center	8 Planning and Zoning Board Meeting (if needed) 6:00pm Govt. Center	9	10 Farmer's Market 11:00am - 3:00pm Rural King Parking Lot Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - New members & visitors welcome	11 Chamber of Commerce Morning Mingle 7:45am - 9:00am Recreation Center Fairview Heights Rec Center, 10025 Bunkum	12 Swansea Park Board Meeting 7:00am Norman Lehr Center  Swansea Patriots Meeting 8:00am Norman Lehr Center
13	14	15	16 Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours 5:00-7:00 pm	17 Farmer's Market 11:00am - 3:00pm Rural King Parking Lot Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - New members & visitors welcome	18	19
20	21 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center	22	23	24 Farmer's Market 11:00am - 3:00pm Rural King Parking Lot Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - New members & visitors welcome	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Farmer's Market 11:00am - 3:00pm Rural King Parking Lot Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - New members & visitors welcome		

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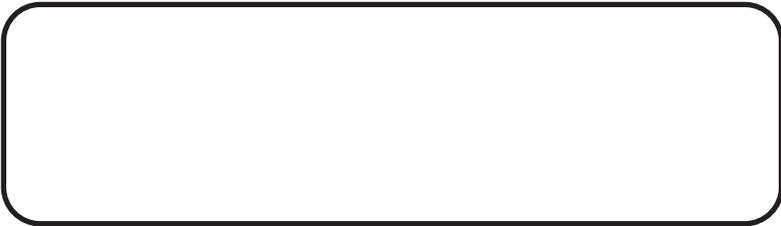
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