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THE SWANSEA REPORT

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2017

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Ordinances Are Now Recodified and Passed By Board of Trustees

At their meeting on October 16, 2017 the Village Board of Trustees held a public hearing and then passed an ordinance that adopted the newly recodified municipal ordinances of the Village.

Codification is simply the arrangement of laws in a systematic format, so in the case of a municipal code, to organize local legislation say by subject matter and then cross reference or index it. The Village's municipal code was already in such a system but was recodified by an outside vendor who was also tasked with completely reviewing the code, identifying internal inconsistencies, identifying any inconsistencies with state or federal laws, and then addressing those.

The Village's recodification accomplished all of that, incorporated all recently passed legislation, and then rearranged the Village's codes into a new format. When passing the new code book as a single ordinance, it effectively replaces all ordinances that were previously passed as part of the municipal code and regulations.

As is always the case, the Municipal Code is available on the Village's website by clicking on the "Code of Ordinances" button on the left side of the home page.

Comprehensive Master Plan is Ready for Adoption; Public Hearings in Nov.

The Swansea Planning & Zoning Board is wrapping up an impressive effort working with Streiler Planning LLC of St. Louis to create a completely new Comprehensive Master Plan for the Village of Swansea. The last complete plan was fairly simple and produced by in-house staff in 1993, nearly 25 years ago. A lot has changed in Swansea in the meantime.

The Planning and Zoning Board intends to host a public hearing at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at the onset of their normal monthly meeting that evening. The Board of Trustees anticipates holding a second public hearing prior to their meeting on Monday, November 20, 2017. The second meeting is required by state statutes to consider the ordinance that will formally adopt the plan. That ordinance is then expected to come before the Board of Trustees for a vote on December 4, 2017.

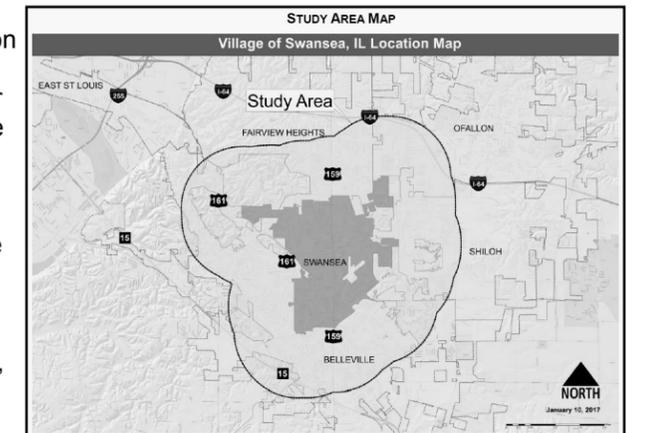
Once adopted by the Planning and Zoning Board and the Village Board of Trustees the Comprehensive Master Plan serves as the legal and conceptual foundation of the Village's zoning code and all other land use regulations. The very general but primary purpose of the Plan is to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the community by preserving and protecting four key interrelated quality of life factors: social, economic, physical, and natural. It does this by serving as

a rational land use guide to help direct future land use and development through zoning, subdivision regulations, and oversight of quality, timing, and intensity of those developments.

The plan also outlines goals, objectives, and implementation strategies for critical issues facing the Village in each of the following general planning elements:

1. Economic Development
2. Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization
3. Quality of Life
4. Transportation
5. Public Services & Facilities
6. Future Growth & Annexation

The complete Plan has been posted in PDF form via a link from the Village's website home page at <http://www.swanseail.org>. An "Executive Summary" is also posted on the webpage for those who want an overview, rather than reading the full plan.



News Briefs

Government Center Holiday Closings

Trash and Recycling Collection Will Be Delayed For Some

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Friday, Nov 10th in observance of Veteran's Day, and on Thursday and Friday, Nov 23rd & 24th for the Thanksgiving holiday. No Village Board or committee meetings will be affected by the closings.

The Thanksgiving holiday will also affect trash and recycling collection for some residents. Those with a normal collection day on Thursdays, will have collection on Friday instead. If normal collection is on Fridays, collection will be on Saturday instead. The Wed collection of yard waste will not change.



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Yard Waste Burning Ends Nov 29th

The last day allowed for the burning of yard waste in Swansea is Wed, Nov 29. After that date, burning will be banned again until next Spring. This option for the disposal of yard waste is limited to only Wednesday's and Saturday's between 11:00am and 4:00pm. Any fire must be completely extinguished by 4:00pm each day, and any burning must occur on your property, and not along the edge of the Village's streets, on the Village's right-of-way, or in any ditch within that right-of-way.

Fires must be attended at all times and the Fire Department strongly encourages residents to refrain from burning on windy days when a small fire can quickly grow to be unmanageable and threaten your home and property. Residents may also want to be considerate of any neighbors with asthma or other conditions that might be aggravated by smoke from such burning. Residents can of course mulch or compost leaves on site rather than burn, and there are other options also available. For example, those who have yard waste collection through Republic Services will continue to have that service available to them through the end of December.

For a fee, residents can also take yard waste to St. Louis Compost, located at 5841 Mine Haul Road. And some local companies, like Wilson's Landscaping & Lawn Service, at 106

Service Street, offer curbside/bulk leaf removal services, perhaps of interest to those who cannot remove the leaves themselves. The company can assist by performing complete leaf removal, or use their leaf vacuum machine to pick up leaves the resident has raked to the edge of the road. Their number 618-416-5393.

Shop Local On Small Business Saturday

November 25th - the Saturday after Thanksgiving - has become "Small Business Saturday" in the U.S. - a day dedicated to supporting small businesses in local communities across the country. The concept originated with American Express in 2010, as an effort to help small businesses compete during the holiday shopping and dining season.

The Village of Swansea encourages residents to look for opportunities to support our locally owned and small businesses. Not only does it help those businesses and the people they employ, some of the sales taxes you pay on purchases made in Swansea come back to the Village. That revenue helps to fund municipal services and offset the need for property taxes. So shop local every day!



Swansea Community Calendar - November 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
				Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - Cheryl Venorsky, Swansea PD School Resource Officer	Metro East Regional Chamber of Commerce Morning Mingle 7:45am - 9:00am Fairview Heights Rec Room	Grand Manor 11th Annual Holiday Expo 10:30am - 2:30pm 58 Frank Scott Pkwy E
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center	Planning and Zoning Board Meeting (if needed) 6:00pm Govt. Center		Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - Col. Lenderman, Scott AFB	 Veteran's Day Holiday Observed Govt Center Closed	Swansea Park Board Meeting 7:00am Norman Lehr Center Swansea Patriots Meeting 8:00am Norman Lehr Center
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			Metro East Regional Business After Hours 5:00pm - 7:00pm Russell Stover Candies Fairview Heights	Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - Students of the Month - High Mount/Wolf Branch		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center			 Thanksgiving Holidays	Govt Center Closed	 Small Business Saturday Shop Swansea
26	27	28	29	30		
				Swansea Rotary Club No Morning Meeting Social at Lucky's Tavern 5:30pm - 7:00pm		

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News Briefs

Farmer's Market Closes 9th Season

The Swansea Farmer's Market's 9th season has come to a close. The market had many of its vendors from the past as well as many new ones, averaging twenty vendors every Thursday. And every Thursday seemed to offer something new. Thank you to all who supported the market. They look forward to seeing you next May. For additional information contact Norm Geolet President, at 618-978-8753, email swanseafarmersmarket@yahoo.com or visit their Facebook page as Swansea Farmers.

Grand Manor Hosts Annual Holiday Expo

Grand Manor, the independent living facility at 58 Frank Scott Parkway East in Swansea, is hosting their 11th Annual Holiday Expo on Saturday Nov 4th from 10:30am until 2:30 pm. The facility is just east of the intersection of Frank Scott Parkway and IL Rte. 159.

The holiday shopping expo will feature a Vendor and Craft Fair. A spaghetti lunch will also be served from 11:00am until 1:00pm, at a cost of \$5 per person. Additional parking may be utilized next door on the Hokkaido Buffet parking lot.

Police Offer Tips On Locking Vehicles

The Swansea Police Department is reminding residents to lock vehicles left outside overnight. Auto burglary is usually a crime of opportunity, so if you can, park your car in a garage, and check to make sure your garage door is down and secured at night before you go to bed.

But if you must park outside, do so in your driveway or in a well-lit area away from places of concealment, such as an alley or behind bushes. Double check that all windows are closed and your doors are locked. Most burglars simply walk along a street and check all cars for an unlocked door. If yours are locked, most burglars move on to easier prey. But also remember to take your

wallet, cell phone and other valuables with you when you leave your car. When those items are in sight, a burglary may break a window to get to them in a locked vehicle.

Don't leave a spare key in the car (it happens), and don't hide a key in one of those magnetic key boxes. If it is in an easily reachable spot for you, a burglar could find it as well. It is also a good idea to not attach personal info to your keys in case they are lost or stolen. Car alarms remain an effective deterrent to a burglar so consider getting one if you must always park outside.

It is OK to be a nosy neighbor and call Swansea Police Department the second you see something suspicious happening in your neighborhood. Call the police! They don't mind. It is their job.



Swansea Family Christmas Program Helps Those In Need

Every year, the "Swansea Family Christmas" program provides assistance during the holidays to many local Swansea residents in need, by providing a holiday dinner and / or gifts. The program is completely funded by donations from generous residents, local businesses and civic organizations, and administered by volunteers. The Village provides a point of contact to help those volunteers effectively reach residents in need. Last year, more than 72 Swansea families, representing 238 individuals, applied for and received assistance.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP

If you would like to help with this effort please consider making a donation to the program this year. Donations typically come from individuals, families, neighborhood associations, civic organizations, churches and businesses.

While new toys and new clothing are always accepted, a donation of cash allows volunteers to purchase gift certificates which in turn allows families in need to purchase specific gifts for their children or buy food for a holiday meal.

Checks in any amount can be made payable to the "Swansea Family Christmas Fund" and mailed or delivered to the Swansea Government Center, 1444 Boul Ave. Please do so no later than **Friday, Dec 8th**. Any other donations may be dropped off to the same location.

Please call the Village with any questions at 234-0044.

IF YOU NEED HELP

If because of job loss, illness, or some other reason, you may not be able to provide Christmas gifts or a decent meal for your family and could use some assistance, please let the Village know.

There are generous individuals, businesses, and organizations in Swansea who are willing to help individuals and families in these situations. The Village assists that effort by gathering information from residents who need help, and then providing that information to volunteers who distribute gift cards and donations to those families.

In order to be eligible, applicants must be:

- Swansea residents,
- have a genuine need, and

- provide current proof of residency.

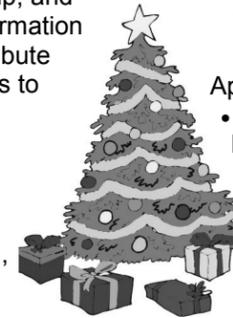
Applications will be accepted in person at the Swansea Government Center, 1444 Boul Avenue, in the Meeting Room between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm, on the following dates:

- Tuesday, November 28th
- Wednesday, November 29th
- Thursday, November 30th
- Friday, December 1st

No late applications will be accepted.

Applicants should bring both:

- A current, valid driver's license or State I.D. card **AND**
- A current public aid card, or current power, water, or sewer bill showing the same name and Swansea address as proof of residency.



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News Briefs

Swansea Park Board Continues to Seek New Member

Would you be willing give some of your time to help guide park and recreation services in the Village of Swansea?

There is an open position on the Swansea Park Board that the Village would like to fill with an interested and dedicated Swansea resident. If that might be you, email info to Swanadm@Swanseail.org.

The Park Board is an advisory Board whose duties include recommending park improvements and measures to ensure the maintenance and management of the Village's parks.

The Board meets on the second Saturday of each month at 7:00 am at the Norm Lehr Center in Melvin Price Park. Appointment is for a one-year term ending April 30th but could be renewed for successive one-year appointments.



Santa Will Arrive In Price Park on Dec 2

Santa plans to arrive at his special house in Melvin Price Memorial Park on Saturday, Dec. 2nd. While he may be busy at other times rechecking his list, he will be at his Swansea home from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm every Saturday and Sunday and from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm each weekday evening, through December 22nd.

The house is near the Lehr Community Center at the south end of the park. The park is in the 1500 block of Caseyville Ave. Photos with Santa will be available for \$5.00, and every child will receive a small gift. The Swansea Santa House is sponsored by the Swansea Park Board.

Santa could always use some extra help. If you might be interested, contact Marilyn Neumeyer at 234-6293 or 363-8694 for details.

Fire & Police Open House A Hit With Children & Adults Alike

The October 15th Fire and Police Departments' Open House drew a good crowd of both children and adults who got a close up look at vehicles, equipment and demonstrations, including of the Fire Department's new burn house, an auto extrication, and the Police Department's K-9 'officer', LEO. A bounce house and free hot dogs and snow cones added to the day's fun.



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News Briefs

New Building / Zoning Official Starts Nov 1st

Randy Tedesco, who worked for the Village of Swansea for over 14 years, left his position as Code Administrator and Zoning Administrator on October 6th to accept a similar position with the City of Collinsville.

His replacement, Dallas Alley, starts with the Village on November 1st, in the position of Building and Zoning Director.

Mr. Alley comes to the Village from St. Clair County, where he was the Administrative Assistant in the Building and Zoning Department. He brings with him experience in plan review, performing building, occupancy and property inspections, enforcement of code compliance, zoning, and is certified in Flood Plain Management.

Upon employment, Alley intends to seek additional certifications from the International Code Council, and the Village has tied his future wage compensation to his achieving specific levels of ICC certification.



Police Officer Paul Brault was recognized at the Oct 2, 2017 meeting of the Personnel Committee for his 15 years of service to the public as an employee of the Village of Swansea.

Employee Recognition

Police Sergeant Keith Howard was recognized at the Oct 16, 2017 meeting of the Personnel Committee for his 10 years of service to the public as an employee of the Village of Swansea.



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News Briefs

Smoke Testing To Be Delayed Until Spring

While the Village of Swansea initially intended to start smoke testing last March, heavy spring rains delayed those plans. The hope was then to start this fall, because the ground needs to be relatively dry for the testing to be effective.

But the Public Works Department has been short staffed for much of the summer and busy with a great deal of roadway maintenance and repairs. So in all reality, any smoke testing they perform will get pushed back until Spring.

Smoke testing is a method of determining where ground water is infiltrating the sanitary sewer system. It also identifies illegal storm water connections to that system, like downspouts from a private residence.

For many years the Village has been experiencing infiltration into its sewer mains and lift stations to the point that they become over burdened during heavy rain storms. That additional rain

water entering the system could cause backups into basements and other problems.

But it is also a problem if the storm water reaches the wastewater treatment plant, because it requires more chemicals and more electricity, which is essentially wasted on treating clean rain water. And that cost has to be paid by the customers of the sewer system.

So it is to the advantage of the Village as well as the rate payers to try to identify and pinpoint the infiltration and get it corrected. Unfortunately other work load and staffing levels will push off that tasks for awhile yet.

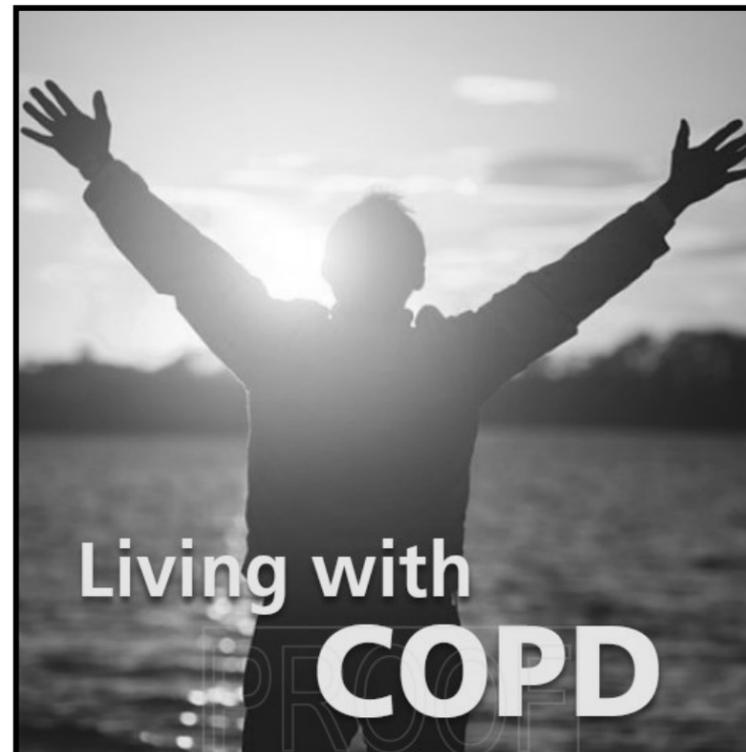
Board of Trustees Passes Ordinance Regulating CBD Oil

On October 16th, the Swansea Board of Trustees passed an ordinance that will effectively regulate the sale of products containing cannabidiol (CBD) oil within the Swansea municipal limits.

CBD is one of at least 113 active cannabinoids found in cannabis plants. The oil is believed to have medical applications, particularly in effectively helping patients with seizure disorders.

The Village had previously been approached by one retail establishment requesting if it would be lawful to sell CDB oil within Swansea. The federal government bans the sale of any derivative of marijuana, but the State of Illinois allows specific vendors to provided patients with medical marijuana. So after extensive research, the Village determined that a local ordinance was needed to clarify the issue.

The ordinance would effectively allow the sale of CDB oil, by license, provided the product contains absolutely no THC - the hallucinogenic ingredient in marijuana. That must be proven by test results from a lab chosen by the Village. Currently there is no known way to produce CDB from cannabis without some trace of THC. However, if scientists should find a way to synthesize CDB oil in a lab, that product could potentially be sold in Swansea by a licensee.



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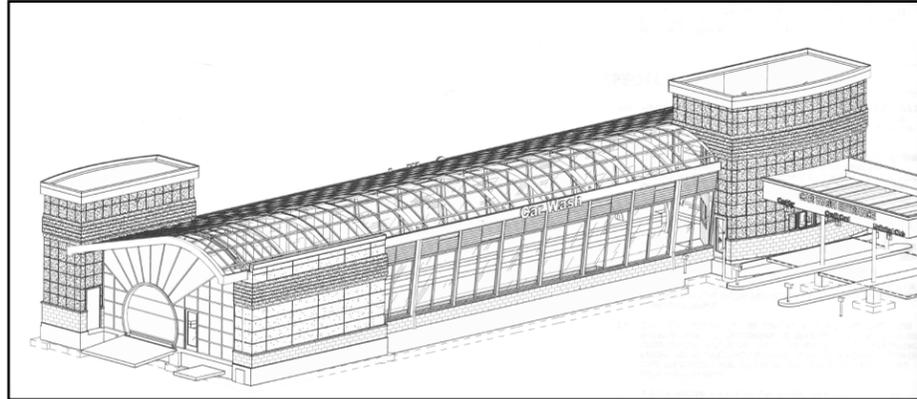
Hucks, Tommy's Car Wash Construction Projects Underway

When traveling on N. Illinois Street it would be difficult to not notice a few changes to the current landscape. So what is happening on that end of Swansea?

First, Huck's has demolished their car wash to the east end of their lot at the corner of Frank Scott Parkway East and N. Illinois Street (Rte. 159). The ground has been leveled and the construction of a new convenience store in that space is now underway.

The new fuel pumps and overhead canopy will then be constructed in the area of the existing building, just west of the new storefront, with fueling lanes running east and west and facing the store. Parking spaces will also be provided directly in front of the new store for those visiting the store but not purchasing fuel. The car wash will be eliminated on the site and not reconstructed.

Hucks hopes to complete construction and be fully functional for business before Spring.



And while resident's will be losing the option of getting a car wash at Huck's, those services will become available at the new Tommy's Car Wash just south on IL Rte. 159 at 4222 N. Illinois Street.

There the developer's of Tommy's have removed several small structures and foundations of former buildings to grade the site for the new car wash building. A number of previously individual lots have been combined for construction of the new business.

The building will be oriented north to south. Traffic will enter the site on the north end of the property and exit either at that same point or through an 'exit only' drive at the south end of the site. The building will provide a very different, open feel for car wash customer.

Tommy's too, would like to be open for business as soon as possible. With the issuance of building permits for both projects, weather will dictate to some degree how quickly each project will be finished.



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News Briefs

Village Receives \$300,000 Trail Grant For Boul Ave Project

The Village received notice in mid-October that its application submitted to the Metro East Parks and Recreation District (MEPRD) for the Boul Avenue Trail Project has been selected for funding in the amount of \$300,000. Previously, the Village was awarded \$275,000 in Federal funding for the project under the Transportation Alternatives Program. The two funding sources will cover a significant percentage of the total project cost.

The project proposes to create a new park behind Cholula's Mexican Restaurant with direct access to MetroBikeLink. It will then link that park with High Mount School and with the trail in Melvin Price Park by constructing a new trail along the northern side of Boul Avenue.

Village Also Receives \$50,000 Park Grant

The Village also received notice from the St. Clair County Parks Grant Commission that it has been awarded \$50,000 in funding towards the replacement of the Tot Lot at the Swansea Kingdom Playground in Schranz Park. The existing scratch built playground equipment has deteriorated over time and will be replaced by more conventional playground equipment specifically designed for ages 2 through 5.

Oct Brings a Flurry of Filings For Municipal Financial Reports

The end of October, falling 180 days after the end of the Village's fiscal year on April 30th, is the filing deadline for a number of financial documents and reports.

The Village's external accounting firm presented their annual audit before the Board of Trustees on Oct. 16th, reviewing their findings from the audit process. That document, which represents the Financial Statements of the Village, is available for inspection at the Government Center, and is also on file with the state comptroller's office.

Annual TIF Reports also have to be filed by the end of October, but by the middle of the month the accountants were waiting on the state to release the appropriate forms. Information on activities within both TIF District #1 and #2 will be included in those reports as they are also filed electronically with the Comptroller's office.

An annual Treasurer's Report must also be prepared and filed before the end of October in a newspaper having general circulation within the Village. The Village's Treasurer's report was printed in the Belleville News Democrat to meet the requirements of the state statutes.

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: 618-355-0280
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 Lauren O'Neill**
loNeill@swanseail.org
- Treasurer John Walter**
jwalter@swanseail.org
- Trustee Matt Lanter**
mlanter@swanseail.org
- Trustee Rocky McDonald**
rmcdonald@swanseail.org
- Trustee Brian McGuire**
bmcguire@swanseail.org
- Trustee Marilyn Neumeyer**
mneumeyer@swanseail.org
- Trustee Stephen Pulley**
spulley@swanseail.org
- Trustee Brian Wells**
bwells@swanseail.org

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

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