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WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MONTH

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Village Board Prepares for the Annual Budgeting Process

As has been typical the last several years, the new budget for Fiscal Year 2019, which begins May 1, 2018, is expected to be adopted by the Board of Trustees at a special meeting on the fourth Monday of April - April 23rd in 2018. But the process towards that final vote is already underway.

The Finance Committee has asked Department Heads to submit initial lists of capital expenditures they anticipate over the next ten years. The intent is to use that data to develop and implement a Capital Improvement Plan that will anticipate expenditures for 'large ticket items' like the replacement of dump trucks, and initiate a process of setting funds aside each year for those expenses. While the Village currently does so to some extent, the Committee is trying to create a more comprehensive approach for capital items.

The Committee and Department Heads will also be reviewing any changes occurring in their operational budgets as well, and looking for ways that the Village might be able to lower operational expenses.

At the same time the Village will be updating and revising job descriptions to help review employee wage rates as those compare to the local labor market - specifically among other municipal employers. This side process will help to finalize the classification of all positions and set wage rates before the budget is finalized.

The Village utilizes a spreadsheet based budget worksheet that provides

electd officials with a very detailed view of actual and projected revenues and expenditures. The relationship between formula's in the spreadsheet also allows the Village to examine numerous "what if" scenarios as the document is developed.

The proposed expenditures and projected revenues are also filtered through a summary spreadsheet that helps elected officials stay on top of funds that are not yet in balance as they work towards that goal in the final document.

There are some key dates in the budget process that occur in April. At their April 2, 2018 meeting the Board will announce when a tentative budget will be available for public inspection. At this writing, that date is expected to be Apr 10, 2018.

A public hearing for the budget is then expected to be held on Monday, April 16, 2018 at 5:45pm, with notice of that hearing to be published in advance as required by law. At that Public Hearing, the Board will take comments and questions from the public and respond as appropriate.

Any changes or modifications made to the tentative budget will be incorporated into a revised budget document for review at the April 16, 2018 Board Meeting.

And then once more accurate actual data is available for the month of April, final tweaks are generally made to some line items before creating the final version that will then be adopted by ordinance on April 23rd.

News Briefs

Government Center Closed Feb 19th for Presidents' Day

No interruption to Refuse & Recycling Collection

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

The Village Board and committee meetings normally held on Monday, February 19th will shift to Tuesday, February 20th. Meeting times and location remain the same.

President's Day is not a holiday observed by Republic Services so collection dates for refuse and recycling will not be affected.

Village Receives Very Favorable Bids on Sewer Lining Project

The Village opened sealed bids on December 12th for the project entitled "2017 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation." The project entails the lining of

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approximately 6,300 linear feet of 8 and 10-inch sewer main along Roger Avenue and various other sewer lines within that area that have been prone to infiltration in years past.

Four companies submitted bids ranging from the lowest, \$136,127 to the highest at \$190,883.37. The engineer's initial estimate for the project was \$251,000, so all bids were favorable and the low bid is especially advantageous for the Village, because the Village can choose to fix additional sanitary sewer lines at the same unit price. Doing so will allow more sewer main issues to be addressed with the same funds the Village originally assumed and budgeted for the project.

Visu-Sewer, Inc., through its local office in East St. Louis, was the low bidder. The company has previously completed many other, similar projects within the Village.

Costs of the project will be partially funded with \$65,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding, previously awarded by the St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department.

St Clair County Continues Large Item Pick Up In District 14 During Feb

The St. Clair County Clean Sweep effort plans to provide large item pickup in County Board District 14 - the southern sections of Swansea - the weeks of February 20, and February 26. District 14 County Board

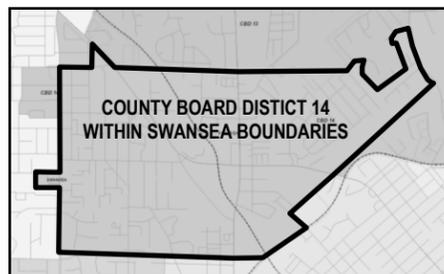
member Bob Trentman prepares flyers with more details and specific dates of collection, distributing those five days in advance on the streets where collections will be made.

Under the Clean Sweep effort, residents are allowed to place large items at the curbside for pickup and disposal on the specified day of collection at no charge and without using refuse stickers. Rather than Republic Services taking those items, the County will through its program.



Basic Clean Sweep costs are funded by landfill surcharges, which go towards the garbage truck used and the three part time employees. The County Board member is responsible for covering the cost of the flyers and lunches, should they choose to use a Sheriff's Department prisoner work detail as part of the effort.

County Board District 14 generally lies south of Fullerton Rd to the southern edge of Melvin Price Park and from 17th Street eastward to Old Collinsville Road.



Swansea Community Calendar - February 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
				Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - Cindy Guthrie "Illinois Center for Autism"		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center			Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - Jon Burgmann "Health Care / Medicare"		Swansea Park Board Meeting 7:00am Norman Lehr Center Swansea Patriots Meeting 8:00am Norman Lehr Center
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6:00pm Govt. Center		Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - Student of the Month "High Mount & Wolf Branch"		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Presidents' Day Govt. Center Closed	Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center		Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - Gloria Tialdo "Dinner Auction"		Swansea Rotary Club Enchanted Dinner, Auction and Wine Discovery, 5:00pm; Regency Conference Center, O'Fallon
25	26	27	28			

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News Briefs

New Hucks / New Car Wash Will Open Soon

Despite recent frigid weather, work has continued on two commercial projects in Swansea.

By sometime in March reconstruction of the Huck's convenience store at the corner of IL Rte. 159 and Frank Scott Parkway East, should be complete and the new store and gas island open. The new store will serve sandwiches, fried chicken and Godfather's pizza. Gas pumps are being increased from 6 to 8, and access and traffic circulation will be greatly improved.

About the same time, Sparkle Car Wash is expected to also open south from Hucks on IL Rte. 159 - at 4222 North Illinois Street. As the steel frame of the car wash went up, the unique style of the building certainly attracted attention. The facility is an automatic wash using a conveyor belt system to move cars through the glass enclosed structure. Vacuum stations to the rear of the building will be in the open and free to all.



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News Briefs

Police Department Renovations Begin

The Village issued a Request For Qualifications in January seeking architectural consulting services in relation to renovations of the Police Department building at 1400 N. Illinois Street. The Administrative staff vacated that building over a year ago when the Government Center was relocated to Boul Avenue. The intent is for the Police Department to occupy the entire building.

That work however, was delayed somewhat as Swansea ceased providing its own dispatching services and took some time to evaluate how that change impacts the use of space. Any renovation will also be limited by the funds available to do the work.

The Department has prepared a draft floor plan in-house and will now use an architectural firm to convert that draft into an at-scale drawing. The firm will also provide specific consulting advice and direction while the Village acts as its own general contractor.

The Village also issued a Request For Proposals from roofing companies for replacement of the EDPM 'rubber' roof on the building. The roof is overdue for replacement so the Village intends to award that work from the outset and have it begin even as interior renovations are being made.

Village Laws Require Dogs To Be On Leash Including In Parks

By Village law, any dog not on its owner's property, must be under the complete control of its owner or keeper at all times.

When the owner or keeper takes that dog into one of Swansea's public parks, or on a public trail, they must specifically keep the dog on a leash that is six feet or less in length. The law defines "leash" as "...any rope, cord, chain or similar item which is capable of restraining a dog."

There is one exception: within the fenced in dog park at Melvin Price Memorial Park. While owners are

still responsible for their dog and its behavior, dogs are allowed to run free within the dog park fence, without being on a leash. Last year the Village lifted the annual fee for use of the dog park so it is open and available to all dog owners.

Because some people are allowing dogs to roam unleashed in parks, the Village Board is discussing the best approach to prompt compliance with the law.

Village Adopts Newly Revised Sexual Harassment Policy

In light of current events nationwide, the State of Illinois recently amended the Officials and Employees Ethics Act, which also pertains to local governmental entities. According to those amendments, before Jan 15, 2018, all governmental units in Illinois were required to adopt an ordinance or resolution establishing a policy that prohibits sexual harassment. While the Village has had such a policy since the early 1990's, the Village

Continued on facing page, Page 5

News Briefs

High Mount School Says "Thanks"

The faculty and staff of High Mount School expressed appreciation to the Swansea Police Department, Swansea Fire Department, Robert Trentman, Swansea Rotary Club, Moose Lodge, Village of Swansea, Holland Construction, Debby Reichert, Sue Rienhardt, High Mount School's Parent Teacher Club, and High Mount School's Student Council, St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department and various staff and parents who adopted HMS families in need this past holiday season. The school also extended special thanks to FCB Bank and West Side Optimist Club for donating winter coats.

"High Mount School greatly appreciates all the support within the community," said Yvette Hicks, Social Worker at the school. "We are honored that the community recognizes the need for the extra support, especially with all the budget cuts and the cost to fund extra programming. It is just outstanding to

know that the community is greatly involved in ensuring our children's basic needs are met."

She continued, "High Mount School is so grateful and honored for all the support. The smiles on the children's faces were priceless. It is our mission to empower our students to achieve their best. Again, we are so grateful for all the community support to help us accomplish our mission."

Swansea Rotary Club Sponsors Dinner and Auction Feb 24th

The Rotary Club of Swansea is sponsoring their **Enchanted Dinner, Auction and Wine Discovery** on Saturday, Feb 24, 2018. The event will be held at the O'Fallon Regency Conference Center, 400 Regency Park, in O'Fallon, IL.

Doors open at 5:00pm with wine tasting & hors d'oeuvres. Dinner will be served at 7:00pm. Both a silent and live auction will also be part of the fundraising event. Proceeds will be used by the club to support

several local charities and projects in local community schools, as well as worldwide projects served by Rotary International. Those projects include the Belize Children's Program and Polio Eradication efforts.

Tickets for the dinner and auction are \$50 per person. Those interested will find more information on the club's website at www.swansearotary.org, and can simply register through the link on the site, or call Lisa at 618-292-3669 with any questions.

Save The Dates

More information will be included in the March Swansea Report, but the Park Board wants residents to note and "save" the following dates:

- On Friday, March 23rd, the Park Board is planning an **Adult Only Easter Egg Hunt** in Schranz Park, from 6:00pm until 10:00pm
- And on Saturday, March 24, from 8:00am until Noon there will be a **Park Clean Up Day**.

Again, more info to follow.

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Swansea Rotary Club Again Offers Chad Wood Scholarship

The Rotary Club of Swansea annually sponsors scholarships in the memory of Chad Wood, who was a student at Belleville East when he died in a May 9, 2005 automobile accident.

In 2018, the club will award three \$2,000 scholarships, with the competition open to all graduating high school students who reside in the Village of Swansea at the time of the March 28, 2018 application deadline, or who have resided in the Village of Swansea for at least three of the past five years immediately prior to the March 28, 2018 application deadline.

Students who expect to graduate from Althoff Catholic High School; Belleville East; Belleville West; Governor French Academy; private or parochial schools in Madison County or St. Clair County, IL; St. Louis City or St. Louis County (MO), and who satisfy the residency requirements as above stated, are eligible, subject to the following qualifications:

- The applicant must be a person of

good moral character who has demonstrated a commitment to the concept of community service and volunteerism.

- Each applicant must submit an essay of 350-500 words on a subject related to Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self."
- The applicant must have attained a GPA of at least 3.0+ at the time of application (if school is on a 4.0 basis) or 4.0+ (if on a 5.0 basis).
- The applicant must submit at least one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, clergy member, or other unrelated adult who knows the applicant's interests, work habits and capabilities.
- The application, essay and letter of recommendation must be submitted by mail no later than March 28, 2018 and the envelope must bear a post-mark date of March 28, 2018 or earlier.

Please visit the Swansea Rotary website at www.swansearotary.org to download a copy of the application form and to review complete rules and regulations.

The completed application form, essay and recommendation letter(s) must be mailed to:

Ruth Ann Erdmann
2238 Deer Springs Trail
Shiloh, Illinois 62221

Selection of recipients will take place in the first few weeks of April and recipients will be notified by the Rotary Club. The selected scholarship recipients and their parents will be invited to attend the Swansea Rotary Club's 7:30am meeting on Thursday, June 7, 2018 and will be presented with their certificates and scholarship checks at that time.



Rotary Club of
Swansea Illinois

Rotary International

News Briefs

Sexual Harassment Policy

continued from page 4

Board adopted a newly revised and updated policy to ensure the Village is in full compliance with the changes in State law.

While not required by law, the Village plans to hold training sessions for all employees and elected officials during which the trainers will review the new policy and procedures, as well as legal definitions, examples, appropriate versus inappropriate behavior, and then clarify any questions.

Village Hiring Code Inspector

With plans to provide occupancy inspections using in-house staff rather than by contracting with St. Clair County, the Village is in the process of hiring a new full-time employee who will provide occupancy, property and zoning inspections, as well as assist the Building and Zoning Director with other tasks and duties.

The Village plans to begin performing occupancy inspections itself starting

March 5, 2018. Doing so should decrease the time gap between the request for an inspection and the performance of that inspection, since the inspector will only be serving Swansea residents and therefore should be able to provide a little more timely response.

The Village Board has been developing a new occupancy code ordinance that while similar to the one currently used by St. Clair County and adopted by the Village, will have some slight changes to make it more specific to Swansea.

Owners of ZX Station Submit Documents For Expansion

Midwest Petroleum, the owners of the ZX convenience store and gas station at 2400 N. Illinois Street, submitted documents in January to the Swansea Planning and Zoning Board as a step towards expanding use of the property within its Planned Business Zoning District. The station currently has two gas pumps on a fairly tight corner parcel.

The company also recently purchased the adjoining property to the north and had it rezoned to match the zoning of their existing parcel.

Plans submitted to the Planning & Zoning Board illustrate construction of four new gas pumps and a new fuel island with canopy on that northern parcel. The existing pumps and canopy will then be removed and parking spaces subsequently created directly in front of the store.

In addition, the interior of the store will be completely remodeled and updated. No changes are planned to the exterior of the convenience store building itself.

However, the combination of the two adjacent parcels into one, with the changes proposed to the layout of the site, the addition of parking spaces, and the flow of vehicular traffic through the site, should greatly improve its accessibility and ingress and egress from adjoining streets.

The Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval.



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Metro Landing Senior Apt Complex Now Under Construction

The January 8th groundbreaking for Metro Landing, the new, \$10.5 million senior apartment living facility adjacent to Swansea's MetroLink Station, brought a slew of dignitaries to Swansea.

In addition to Mayor Mike Leopold, pictured below, the overflow crowd was addressed by (pictured below and to the right in clockwise order), US Senator Dick Durbin; IL State Representative Jay Hoffmann of Swansea; Bi-State President and CEO, John Nations; and Southwestern Illinois Development Authority (SWIDA) Board Chairman Jim Nations.

Also speaking were IL Senator James Clayborne, Mary Kane, Board member with the Illinois Housing Development Authority, and Mike Lundy, Executive Director of SWIDA.

The project is a joint effort of SWIDA, Bywater Development Group, and Bi-State Development. The transit-oriented development (TOD) will feature a three-story building with 62 one- and two-bedroom apartments for older adults seeking an independent lifestyle.



Village Working on Comprehensive Plan For Use of TIF & Business District Funds

The Community and Economic Development Committee set a special meeting for January 29th in order to focus exclusively on the task of crafting a comprehensive vision for how TIF #1 and IL Rt 159 / Boul Ave Business District funds might best be utilized to prompt development.

TIF #1 is the older of the Village's two TIF districts. It is set to expire on May 18, 2020. The Village Board has indicated its intent to not renew the District, which means that after the May 18, 2020 expiration, the total equalized value of property in the District will rise. This happens because any incremental increase in property value since the creation of the District, will now be added to the total value of property in the Village, County, Township, schools, and any other affected taxing bodies.

If any of those taxing bodies requested the same dollar amount in their annual tax levy, their tax rate would decrease, and property owners would pay less. Districts might also choose to increase their respective levy requests by an amount that would shift the funds going into TIF #1 now, so they instead would go to each District. That could be done in such a way that property owners would pay the same property taxes, but each entity (other than TIF #1 obviously), would see more revenue.

In a very basic sense, this is in fact why TIF's were created: to use TIF funds temporarily as a catalyst for development, but to then allow each taxing district to eventually benefit

from those developments, and the increased property values they bring.

With current obligations considered, a rough guess estimates that there should be a fund balance of about \$2,000,000 in TIF #1 available for commitment to other specific projects prior to the May 2020 expiration.

It is this money that the Community and Economic Development Committee will consider as they identify, plan and prioritize possible projects and areas of developmental focus. One prime possibility is the area in the northwest quadrant of the IL Rte. 159 & IL Rte. 161 intersection, where the Village already owns a number of parcels.

Another is the adjacent area around the Swansea MetroLink Station where the new senior apartments are under construction. Both areas may be ripe for transit oriented development which could be prompted with some incentives.

Another possibility is the south IL Rte. 159 corridor, where the Village has previously discussed using TIF or Business District funds for streetscape redevelopment.

The 159 / Boul Avenue Business District, which overlaps TIF #1 in many areas, could provide additional funds that if combined with TIF #1 funds, might help to further leverage commercial development. The Village is specifically interested in attracting retail sales tax generating businesses.

VILLAGE OF SWANSEA CONTACT INFO

Swansea Government Center
1444 Boul Avenue
Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm, M-F
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Village of Swansea Officials

President: Mike Leopold
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Village Clerk Lauren O'Neill
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