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# THE SWANSEA REPORT

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2018

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## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MONTH

Page 2

### Police Collecting Medications on April 28

The Swansea Police Department will coordinate efforts with the Drug Enforcement Agency to focus on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from medicine cabinets in Swansea as well as across the country...

Page 4

### New FY Budget Progressing Towards Apr 23rd Passage

At their meeting on March 19th, the Finance Committee of the Village Board got their first chance to review the developing budget for the Village's new fiscal year that begins May 1, 2018...

Page 8

### Municipal Electric Aggregation Rate To Drop Slightly

The March 7th bids for electricity supplied through the Municipal Electric Aggregation program resulted in a low bid from Homefield Energy, the Village's current supplier, at \$.05053 per kWh...

Page 9

### Yard Waste Collection Moves To Thursdays Starting Apr 5th

On March 19th the Village Board approved a request from Republic Services to shift the collection of yard waste from Wednesdays to Thursdays...

## Peace By Piece Relocating Its Store To Swansea By Mid-June

Peace by Piece, a retail store currently located in downtown Belleville, recently purchased the Sleep Center building at 2427 N. Illinois Street. They intend to relocate to Swansea by mid-June.

Owners Christina and Jason Keck are residents of Swansea and have been looking for a site in the Village for their store. They had previously submitted a proposal to potentially relocate to the Village owned property on Boul Avenue that has been offered for redevelopment. But when the former Sleep Center building became available, they decided instead to purchase that location and relocate on IL Rte. 159.

Peace by Piece sells American made women's apparel, accessories and gifts. The company also operates Evolution of ppx, a sister store/fashion truck that takes its products mobile.

The Keck's are excited to be bringing their store to their home town.

### ATV Dealer Coming To Swansea As Well: In 'Window' Building

Wholesale ATV, who bill themselves as the "Nations Largest Retail Distributor of ATVs, UTVs, Go Karts, Dune Buggies, Scooters, Dirt Bikes and Motorcycles", has purchased the former Window building at 1604 N. Illinois Street and plans to open at that location in the near future. Despite their name, the company sells to the general public as well as to dealers.



## News Briefs

### Swansea Police To Collect Medications April 28

The Swansea Police Department will coordinate efforts with the Drug Enforcement Agency to focus on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from medicine cabinets in Swansea as well as across the country. A "national take back day" provides a unified opportunity for the public to get rid of unwanted, expired, or otherwise unused pharmaceutically controlled substances and other medications.

The collection site will be at the Swansea Walgreens store at 2532 N. Illinois St., between the hours of 10:00am and 2:00pm. Residents can drop off both prescription and over-the-counter medications, including pills, ointments and creams. Medications may be left in their original container, however participants are encouraged to remove all identifying information from any prescription label. The program is not able to accept liquids, inhalers, intra-venous solutions, or syringes/needles.

Those participating may do so anonymously if they prefer.

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### Village Continues Taking Applications For PT Summer Jobs

The Village is still taking applications for part-time summer employment working outdoors and performing manual labor like cutting grass and assisting with roadway maintenance.

Applicants must be physically able to lift up to 50 pounds. Because they may operate a Village vehicle on public streets they must be at least 21 years old and have a valid driver's license. An excellent work ethic is necessary. Preference is for those with experience operating commercial lawn mowers.

The Village might be willing to fill some positions as early as April, and could keep some employed into October or so. The weekly schedule is 32 hours per week, with 2 hours of that on Sat and Sun every other week, to help cover weekend park maintenance.

Entry level is \$10 per hour. Apply online at the Village's website - [www.swanseail.org](http://www.swanseail.org) - or pick up an application at the Government Center, 1444 Boul Avenue. Positions may be filled as candidates apply.

### Village Also Advertises For Successor To Village Administrator

With Village Administrator Lyndon Joost's planned retirement at the end of September, the Village Board has already begun the process of

identifying and hiring his successor. Ads were placed in mid-March on the Village's website as well as on Illinois and Missouri websites targeted towards public administration.

The Village's timeline calls for all applications to be received no later than April 6th. The Village then hopes to interview and make a selection by the end of April. Doing so will allow the selected candidate to give a 60 day notice to a current employer - typical in the field - and start in July, which would allow up to three months for the current and new administrator to work side by side and transition smoothly into October.

### Another Volunteer Driver Needed For Swansea Senior Van

The Village is seeking another driver for the senior van starting in May. The van operates on Tuesday's and Thursday's each week from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon providing scheduled transportation for Swansea's senior residents who might need a ride to a doctor's appointment or to a store for shopping. Travel is limited to the Village and areas nearby. Each driver is an unpaid volunteer and typically covers one week each month.

Those interested must be at least 21 years of age, have a valid driver's license with a clean driving record, and pass a police background check.

If interested, please call the Swansea Government Center as soon as possible at (618) 234-0044.

## Swansea Community Calendar - April 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 EASTER	2 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center	3	4	5 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center— Barb Holt "County Health Department"	6	7
8	9	10 Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6:00pm Govt. Center	11 Holocaust Remembrance Day	12 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - Marilyn Rossi & Dennis Bertelsman "5K Planning Session"	13	14 Swansea Park Board Meeting 7:00am Norman Lehr Center  Swansea Patriots Meeting 8:00am Norman Lehr Center
15	16 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center	17	18	19 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - Student of the Month, "High Mount & Wolf Branch"	20	21 Wolf Branch Color Run
22 Earth Day	23	24	25 Administrative Professional Day	26 Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - Mike Nowobilski "Malawi Trip"	27	28
29	30	Thank you to everyone who donated to or participated in Swansea's first adult Easter Egg Hunt. While when you plan a date far in advance, the weather is never known, we hope everyone had a good time.				

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News Briefs



Officer Nick VanWaes Named 2017 Police Officer of the Year

At the Personnel Committee meeting on March 19th, Police Chief Steve Johnson presented Swansea K9 Officer Nick VanWaes with the 2017 Officer of the Year Award.

Help The Friends of Swansea Parks To Clear Brush April 7th

On April 7th, from 9:00am until noon, volunteers with the Friends of Swansea Parks will work on removing bush honeysuckle and brush that are choking out trees in Melvin Price Park...

The group is looking for other volunteers from the community that might be interested in helping with this effort. They will meet in the front parking lot of the Government Center at 1444 Boul Avenue...

Look for more information and photos on Facebook under "Friends of Swansea Parks, Swansea, Illinois", or email bwells@swanseail.org.

Village Seeking Names Of Vets For Memorial Day Ceremony Booklet

As it does each year, the Village of Swansea will again honor those who have served and sacrificed in service to the United States at the annual Memorial Day Ceremony.

Any Swansea resident who is a veteran of the Armed Services, either retired or currently serving, is asked to email mlineumeyer@att.net or call 618-363-8694...

Those individuals and any other veterans, as well as all residents and the general public, are invited and encouraged to attend this annual event.

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## New Fiscal Year Budget Progressing Towards April 23rd Passage

At their meeting on March 19th, the Finance Committee of the Village Board got their first chance to review the developing budget for the Village's new fiscal year that begins May 1, 2018. A number of changes during the year have required some reformatting to the budget spreadsheets for the new fiscal year.

The Committee will get a second look at their April 2nd meeting after which a Tentative Budget will be prepared and 'published' in accordance with law. A copy of the tentative budget will be available for public inspection on April 10th at 8:30am, at the Swansea Government Center.

That budget will also be reviewed at a Public Hearing on April 16th at 5:45pm. Any final changes made to the document will then be presented before a special Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, April 23rd and passed by ordinance that evening, allowing it to take effect for the start of the new fiscal year on May 1st.

Overall, the Village budget encompasses nearly \$14 million in 13 different funds. While each fund has a specific purpose and goal, some of

those funds are interrelated, and some are dedicated to very specific purposes, like paying off General Obligation Bonds.

While the law only requires budgeting by line item with a comparison to the last year actual revenues and expenditures as well as an estimate of the year-end revenues and expenditures in the current year, the Village's budget document goes beyond that. It provides detail under many line items as to the specific revenues or expenses anticipated during the year.

So for example, under a line item that might be entitled Equipment Purchase, the Village's budget will detail all equipment that is planned for purchase during the year, as well as the individual cost of each. These expenses are also allocated to the month they are expected to occur, so that the Village has a better idea of cash flow needs each month. Some equipment purchases, therefore, might be delayed until later in the year, to ensure that expected revenues are in hand before the purchase is made.

At this writing, the Village expects to reach the end of the current fiscal year on April 30th in strong financial shape, with most funds anticipated to be in the black for the year.

Department heads and managers in Swansea tend to be conservative in their spending and the Village also successfully lowered some significant expense line items during the year. The Village Board is always looking to maintain the balance between meeting the collective needs and wants of our community, while keeping the tax burden for those desired services at a reasonable and justifiable level.

The Village has also been working on developing a long range capital budget for funding "large-item" purchases. Doing so should help the Village to better anticipate and plan for those significant costs on the horizon while considering how best to fund them.

Once it is final the budget will be posted on the Village's website and a hard copy will available for review at the Government Center during normal business hours.

## Village Aggressively Cracking Down on Code Violations

In an effort to ensure that Swansea remains a clean and vibrant community, the Village is increasing its enforcement of its property maintenance codes, with Code Enforcement staff doing proactive area sweeps each month. If a resident receives a violation notice but has questions, staff are more than willing to explain the details. Village residents are encouraged to report violations. The Village Property Maintenance Code is available on the Village website at: <http://www.swanseail.org/DocumentCenter/View/1454>.

### Derelict Vehicles

Village codes prohibit any vehicle from being parked on a surface that is not an "improved surface". The definition of improved surface



basically means that vehicles cannot be parked on a grass or dirt area. The code also prohibits the storage or abandonment of inoperable vehicles. Vehicles found in either state will be tagged and towed after 7 days. The Village also has the option to issue citations to the owner of the vehicle being towed.

When an inoperable vehicle is on private property it must be fully enclosed within a garage. Placing a tarp or car cover over a vehicle is not an acceptable alternative.

### Grass and Weeds

In Swansea, grass and weeds that exceed 8 inches in height are a nuisance by ordinance. So not keeping your lawn adequately maintained can result in a fine as a violation of that ordinance. Let it go too long, and the Village may step in and cut your grass for you.

However, when the Village does so, it charges standard time and material hourly rates for each worker and the equipment used. The Village then files a lien against the property to

ensure it can collect payment for having to cut the grass. The Village will now also consider taking violators to court, and / or filing for foreclosure to collect on unresolved liens. That's because the Village has more pressing things to do with its staff than cutting the lawns of some residents. Ideally, every resident will simply take care of their own property and collectively help the community.

### Grass Clippings

And while on the topic of cutting grass, note that it is also a violation to deposit or otherwise discharge grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste onto the public right-of-way or into public drainage ditches or storm sewers. Drainage ways need to be kept clear of materials that might cause rain water to backup onto property, or into the street where it could cause an accident to occur. If not mulching or bagging your grass clippings, the discharge from your mower should be directed into your yard, not onto the street. And do not bag and then dump clippings into drainage ways.

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# Spring Rains Always Bring The Potential For Flooding

Spring in Swansea means the grass is growing, flowers are blooming, and rain is falling. While heavy rain and flooding occur during any season of the year, most of the major floods in our area have occurred during the spring and fall rains. And while only about 60 acres in the Village of Swansea are within the regulated floodplain, many other areas outside the designated floodplain are also susceptible to flooding.

So the Village wants to remind its residents of a few safety tips relating to flooding:

- Do not walk through flood waters. Currents are deceptive. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you must walk, use a stick to test that ground remains under the water ahead of you.
- Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else.
- Do not drive around barriers, as the road or bridge may be washed out.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The number two

flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Report downed power lines to the power company or 911.

- Turn off all electrical circuits and gas lines that may come in contact with flood water.

Residents of Swansea can help minimize flooding and the resulting damage by checking with the Building and Zoning Department prior to building on, altering, grading, or placing fill on your property. A permit may be required to ensure that a project is compliant with all codes. Report any suspected illegal building, filling, or dumping to the Village at 618-234-0044.

If your house has flooded in the past or you fear that it may flood in the future, talk to the Village about protecting your house or business. There may be ways to modify your building to minimize flood damage.

Where flooding tends to be shallow, measures such as small floodwalls, regrading the yard, and floodproofing the walls or utilities can be relatively inexpensive. Where flooding is deep,

a building may need to be elevated. Again, be sure to check if permits are required before performing any work.

Even if you're not in the mapped floodplain, your property may be subject to flooding from local drainage. In either case, flood insurance may be a good investment because most homeowners insurance policies do not cover damage caused by surface water flooding. Contact your property insurance agent to see if a flood insurance policy would help you.

If you have questions about your flood hazard you can contact the Building and Zoning Department.

## Keep Pollutants Out Of Storm Water

As a reminder don't pour oil, grease, pesticides, or other pollutants down storm drains or into drainage ditches or streams. Streams and wetlands help moderate flooding and are habitat for fish, frogs, and other species that provide recreation or food. Let's protect them and their homes.

## News Briefs

### Chamber \$1,000 Scholarship Deadline is April 30th

The Metro-East Regional Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for the Dr. Bruce Adams annual scholarship. The Chamber will offer a \$1,000.00 scholarship to a graduating student of Belleville East High School, Belleville West High School, Althoff Catholic High School, or Governor French Academy. To be considered, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a resident of the Village of Swansea or the City of Fairview Heights, and have been for at least 12 months prior to their application.
- Must be graduating this year from high school and planning to enter an accredited college, university, junior college or vocational school in the fall.
- Must submit a completed application including a written statement between 300-500 words

explaining why they are applying for the scholarship. The statement should include the applicant's goals, the school they have selected to attend, and how they plan to use the money.

- Must provide three letters of recommendation with at least one being from a staff member of the high school they now attend.
- Must include with the completed application a current copy of the applicant's high school transcript.

Applications are available at [www.MetroEastChamber.org](http://www.MetroEastChamber.org), at each school's guidance office, or by emailing the Metro-East Regional Chamber of Commerce office at [chamber@MetroEastChamber.org](mailto:chamber@MetroEastChamber.org). Applicants may also call 618-233-3938 to request an application or clarification.

Completed applications should be returned or mailed to the Metro-East Regional Chamber, 4387 N. Illinois St, Ste 200, Swansea, IL 62226 on or before **April 30th, 2018**.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

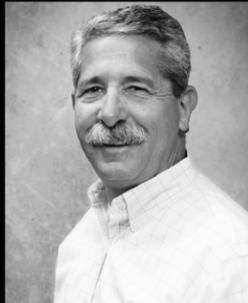
### Wolf Branch Color Run To Be Held Saturday April 21st

The Wolf Branch PTC will once again be hosting a Color Run this Spring. The event will take place on Saturday, April 21st and start at the Wolf Branch Middle School, 410 Huntwood Road.

Packets may be picked up from the Wolf Branch Elementary School Lobby on Fri, Apr 20th, between 5:00pm and 8:00pm, or on the morning of the run, between 7:00am and 7:50am, which is check-in time. The run itself begins at 8:00am.

This is an exciting program that creates awareness for healthy living, fun fitness, brings the community together and is sure to be a blast. There is no time limit and you can run, jog, or walk at your own pace.

The run is open to the public and anyone can participate in the fun. For additional details visit [wolfbranchptc.schoolauction.net/colorrn2018](http://wolfbranchptc.schoolauction.net/colorrn2018).



**For every "oh no," there's an "oh yeah."**

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## Municipal Electric Aggregation Bid Drops Slightly From Current Rate

On March 7th the Village of Swansea and 40 other municipal entities pooled their resources and took bids for electricity supplied through each of their Municipal Electric Aggregation programs.

The low bid was submitted by Homefield Energy, the Village's current supplier under the program. It was accepted by the group, setting the price in Swansea at \$.05053 per kWh for the first 12 month period that begins with energy used after each customer's June bill. Comparable prices from three other bidders were as follows: Constellation Energy at \$.05095, Direct Energy at \$.05237, and Public Power at \$.05689. In months 13 through 36, Swansea's rate will drop slightly to \$.05044.

While Ameren Illinois distributes all electricity in the Village, property owners are allowed to buy the electricity they use from a supplier other than Ameren. Several years ago Swansea established a municipal aggregation program that makes a competitive price available to all residents and eligible small businesses in the municipality, those who generally use less than 15,000 kWhs per year.

Swansea has an "opt-out" program which means that unless residents state that they do not want to participate they will automatically come under the program sometime in the middle of June. All those affected will receive a notice from Homefield Energy in the near future providing instructions and the actions they need to take to opt-out and be excluded.

Most residents probably wonder if it will benefit them to be in the program, or if they should opt-out.

If you have not been in the program before, you would need to take your Ameren bills for a one year period, add the rates listed under the BGS-1 electric supply section for each month (see the illustration below), which will vary somewhat during the year, and multiply that total rate times the kWhs you used each month. Then add all those up. That is the cost of one year of electricity from Ameren's supplier.

For those who use more than 800 kWh in any month, you will generally have a discounted rate from Ameren for the kWhs over 800. So you would need to calculate the cost for the first 800 kWhs and the cost for the kWhs over 800 and add those two together for each month.

Now take the total kWhs used in the same year and multiply it by \$.05053. That represents the cost for the same time period if the new aggregation rate had been in place. The difference is your potential savings or additional cost.

We did that calculation with real Ameren bills for a customer using on average about

750 kWhs per month. That customer would have saved \$34.37 over a 12 month period if the new aggregation rate had been in place last year. But a customer who used significantly more than 800 kWhs each month, benefits from the Ameren discount for the usage over that threshold, and therefore would have paid less with Ameren's rates. So, for example, those who use electric heat probably would want to opt out of aggregation.

Each resident needs to look at their own usage of electricity, determine what Ameren's rate will be in June, compare costs, and make the choice that they believe is most beneficial to them. The Village simply helps provide a second option through the program.

Category	Description	Usage	Rate	Charge
Electric Supply	Purchased Elec Non-Summer 0-800 kWh	501.00 kWh	@ \$ 0.05140000	\$25.75
Ameren Illinois	Purchased Electricity Adjustment	501.00 kWh	@ \$-0.00104063	-\$0.52
BGS-1 Basic Generation Service	Supply Cost Adjustment	501.00 kWh	@ \$ 0.00109000	\$0.55
	Transmission Service Charge	501.00 kWh	@ \$ 0.00913000	\$4.57
	<b>Electric Supply</b>			<b>\$30.35</b>

## Yard Waste Collection Moves To Thursdays

On March 19th the Village Board approved a request from Republic Services to shift the collection of yard waste from Wednesdays to Thursdays. The change will take effect with the new season, with the first collection on Thursday, April 5th.

In Swansea, yard waste collection is an optional service that residents order and pay for directly with Republic Services. Interested residents must call Republic Services at (618) 656-6883 and order the service in advance. The price for the 2018 season is \$11.10 per month. Residents must commit at sign up to use the service for at least a three month period.

Republic bills customers directly for this service, which starts the first Thursday of April - April 5th this year. Service can be purchased until the last Thursday of December - the 27th - or for any portion of the time between those dates, provided the customer commits to at least 3 months.

## Burning of Landscape Waste Allowed Until June 13th

Swansea ordinances restrict the burning of landscape waste to specific time frames in Spring and Fall. For 2018 the Spring 'burn' season begins April 4th and ends June 13th. Residents who choose to do so may burn landscape waste only on Wednesdays and Saturdays between the hours of 11:00am and 4:00pm. Fires should be manned at

all times and burning should be avoided on windy days. All the conditions for doing so are contained in the ordinance on the Village's website at [www.Swanseail.org](http://www.Swanseail.org).

## Trash Sticker Price Increases May 1st

The price of Swansea trash stickers will increase as of May 1st, 2018. On that date weekly trash stickers will increase in price by 80 cents per sheet of five stickers; from the current \$19.95 per sheet to \$20.75 per sheet.

Similar to "forever postage" any weekly stickers purchased at the current price can still be used after May 1st. Therefore, residents could buy stickers at the pre-May 1st price and use them afterwards, saving some money. For example, buying 10 sheets of stickers (roughly 50 weeks worth at one sticker per week) at current prices would be \$199.50 versus \$207.50 after May 1. The savings is minimal - about \$8.00 over the year - but that would almost pay for two additional stickers/weeks.

The price of yearly trash stickers is also increasing, from \$219.63 to \$228.42. Those stickers are only sold at the Swansea Government Center, and will become available for purchase on Monday, April 23rd. Yearly stickers are attached to one 30-gallon trash container and remain on the container for the year, different from the weekly stickers that are removed and collected by the driver each week. Annual stickers may not be applied to the trash container until May 1st or after.

## 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: 618-233-8114  
[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**  
[loaneill@swanseail.org](mailto:loaneill@swanseail.org)  
**Treasurer John Walter**  
[jwalter@swanseail.org](mailto:jwalter@swanseail.org)  
**Trustee Matt Lanter**  
[mlanter@swanseail.org](mailto:mlanter@swanseail.org)  
**Trustee Rocky McDonald**  
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[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.*

**YOUR SWANSEA AREA BANKING TEAM:**



**Marilyn Rossi**  
Center Manager



**Justin Chapman**  
Commercial Lending



**Dave Demond**  
Mortgage Lending



**Lisa Hock**  
Wealth Management

**TheBANK** of Edwardsville  
SWANSEA CENTER • 3685 SULLIVAN DRIVE  
**618-222-1019**

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# Reflections

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