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WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MONTH

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Swansea Tentative Budget Balanced With Room To Spare

... the Tentative Budget document reviewed at the public hearing included a General Fund budget with \$24,400 to spare - not a lot, but balanced plus excess revenues over expenditures - and certainly not the bare bones budgets of the last two years.

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Village to Strictly Enforce Prohibition On Signs In The Right-of-Way & Remove

... the Village Board is taking steps to implement strict enforcement of these regulations... The Village's Zoning Administrator, or their "designee", has the legal right to immediately remove any sign from the right-of-way, without notice, and at the expense of the owner of the sign, and the Board has recently authorized the Zoning Administrator to designate all Village employees and Elected Officials as deputy Zoning Administrators for the sole purpose of enforcing the prohibition of these signs in the right of way.

Refuse & Recycling Changing To Wed. For 845 Addresses

Some Swansea residents who currently have their refuse and recyclables collected on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays, will have their collection day switched to Wednesdays effective the week of May 7, 2018.

Republic Services is making significant changes to its collection routes to try to balance the addresses serviced each day. Over the years, more growth in some geographic areas has resulted in significantly more collection stops on some routes than on others. The planned route changes should resolve those issues.

The company recently moved yard waste collection from Wednesdays to Thursdays. Now it will shift approximately 845 specific addresses from their previous Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday routes, and combine those into a new Wednesday route for refuse and recyclables.

Aware that taking the trash to the curb on a specific day may be a deeply ingrained habit for some, Republic has developed a comprehensive communication plan to help make sure everyone is informed and remembers.

A communication mailing will be sent to all affected addresses the week of April 23rd. That mailing will be followed by a call blast on Sunday evening, May 6th to the 845 affected homes. The call will remind those residents that their collection will be on Wednesday, May 9th and continue on Wednesdays into the future.

In advance preparation, Republic made sure it has contact information for all affected locations and added that information into their database system, and expressed confidence that their efforts will effectively notify residents.

In addition, the company is prepared to run an extra route on Thursday, May 10th to catch any residential addresses that were previously serviced on Thursdays, but who should have placed items out for collection the day before - Wednesday, May 9th. The company's yellow "educational stickers" will be left behind for those residents as one more communication that their route has changed.

Again, all route changes will be effective the week of Monday, May 7, 2018.

But... Monday, May 28th Is A Holiday For Republic

Not to confuse the issue further, but Republic Services will observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 28th as a holiday.

Therefore, the collection of refuse and recyclables will shift one day for all routes, with Monday's refuse and recyclables picked up on Tuesday, Tuesday's picked up on Wednesday, Wednesday's on Thursday, Thursday's on Friday, and Friday's on Saturday instead.

Yard waste collection will move from Thursday to Friday.

News Briefs

Government Center Closed Mon May 28th

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Monday, May 28 for the Memorial Day holiday.

Annual Refuse Stickers Now Available At Government Center

While most residents buy the regular stickers under the Village's solid waste program to indicate payment for collection of the refuse in one 33 gallon container, some would rather not have to deal with those stickers on a weekly basis. Residents therefore also have the option of buying an annual sticker instead, at a price of \$228.42 for the full year. The annual sticker is permanently affixed to one 33 gallon refuse container, and unlike the weekly stickers, is not removed by the collector. Instead it stays attached during the year and allows the collection and disposal of one container of refuse per week for all 52 weeks of the year.

While maybe more convenient to the resident, there is a slight cost

differential for not having to buy stickers during the year. Fifty-two weekly stickers at 4.15 each have the equivalent annual cost of \$215.80, so the annual sticker adds \$12.62 to your cost of refuse collection.

However, for some that added cost might be worth the time saved in buying stickers regularly. The price of annual stickers is reduced on a pro rata basis each week during the year until the stickers expire on April 30, 2019. That way, someone purchasing an annual sticker after May 1 only pays for that portion of the year they actually have the service.



Farmer's Market Returns May 3rd

The Swansea Farmer's Market starts its tenth season on May 3rd. The market will be open every Thursday, rain or shine, from 10:00 am until 2:00 p.m., on the parking lot of Rural King, 2801 N. Illinois St., in Swansea.

In the month of May, you can expect to find asparagus, varieties of lettuce difficult to find elsewhere, strawberries and other spring crops. Come on out and enjoy your market and meet the volunteers running it. We are open rain or shine. If you would like to be a vendor contact swanseafarmersmarket@yahoo.com

or call Norm Geolat at 978-8753. Vendor fees are:

- Produce/Meats \$10 Weekly
 - Baked Goods \$10 Weekly
 - Crafts/Flowers \$3 Weekly
 - Food Vendor \$5 Weekly
- See what FRESH is all about.

HELP WANTED 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, as well as the ability to safely operate commercial lawn mowers.

The Village will fill positions as early as possible, and could keep some employed into October. The weekly schedule is 32 hours per week.

Entry level is \$10 per hour. Apply on-line at the Village's website - www.swanseail.org - or pick up an application at the Government Center, 1444 Boul Avenue.

Swansea Community Calendar - May 2018

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|---|--|-----|--|-----|--|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 Farmer's Market 10:00am - 2:00pm Rural King Parking Lot Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center— | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center | 8 Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6:00pm Govt. Center | 9 | 10 Farmer's Market 10:00am - 2:00pm Rural King Parking Lot Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center— | 11 | 12 Swansea Park Board Meeting 7:00am Norman Lehr Center Swansea Patriots Meeting 8:00am Norman Lehr Center |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Farmer's Market 10:00am - 2:00pm Rural King Parking Lot Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center— | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center | 22 | 23 | 24 Farmer's Market 10:00am - 2:00pm Rural King Parking Lot Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center— | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 Memorial Day Ceremony 10:00am Price Memorial Park Holiday Govt Center Closed | 29 | 30 | 31 Farmer's Market 10:00am - 2:00pm Rural King Parking Lot Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center— | | |

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Kindergarten Registration For the 2018/2019 School Year

Students **MUST** be 5 years old
by September 1, 2018

You can register your Student in the Office
Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Parents need to bring ALL of the following:

- Child's certified birth certificate
(The one from the hospital cannot be accepted.)
- A Photo id WITH CURRENT ADDRESS
- ONE current utility bill
(Credit card bills, bank statements, etc. CANNOT BE ACCEPTED)
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News Briefs

Memorial Day Ceremony To Be Held May 28 At Price Park

While you are planning your BBQ or the official opening of the backyard pool, consider making some time on the morning of May 28th for the Village of Swansea's annual Memorial Day Ceremony.

The Village will once again honor men and women who have served and sacrificed in service to the United States at the ceremony. The event starts at 10:00 am and is held at Melvin Price Memorial Park, 1500 Caseyville Avenue.



Trustee Steve Pulley will be the Master of Ceremonies. The guest speaker this year will be Commander Tom McCaw for the Imjin 95th Korean War Veterans. This year a POW/MIA ceremony will also be included within the observances. The Swansea Fire Department will serve as the color guard.

The event program includes the submitted names of any Swansea resident who is a veteran of the Armed Services, either retired or currently serving.

All veterans as well as all residents and the general public are invited and encouraged to attend.

Time Is Running Out To Get Names Of Vets In Memorial Day Booklet

As it does each year, when the Village gathers on Memorial Day to honor those who have served and sacrificed in service to the United States, the event will include a booklet with the names of any

Swansea resident who is a veteran of the Armed Services, either retired or currently serving.

To have the name of any such person included, please call Marilyn Neumeyer at 618-363-8694 or email mneumeyer@att.net as soon as possible.

Wolf Branch Accepting Registration For Kindergarten

Wolf Branch Elementary School is now accepting registration for students who will enter kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year. Parents can register in the elementary school office any school day between 9:00am - 2:00pm. You may want to call the school office in advance at 277-2100 to be sure of what documentation you will need to provide. See the ad on page 10.



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Village To Strictly Enforce Prohibition On Signs In Right-of-Way & Remove

The land that lies between the edge of a street or the back of a street curb, and the property line of each parcel of property, is referred to as "right-of-way". It is technically part of the street, and therefore public property. This is where public sidewalks, street signage, and sometimes public utilities are located.

Yet drive down IL Rte. 159, IL Rte. 161, and many other busy streets, and you will probably see temporary signs in that right-of-way. These might include signs put there by the businesses fronting that right-of-way, but it also includes political signs, or signs like "We Buy Houses", or for a "Going Out Of Business Sale" at some business in another community. All of these represent someone placing a sign on property owned by the public, not by a private entity. Unless addressed, they tend to proliferate, create a less than desirable image of our community, and create safety hazards in terms of visibility for motor vehicles.

For that reason, the Village Board is taking steps to implement strict enforcement of these regulations. The Village's Zoning Administrator, or

their "designee", has the legal right to immediately remove any sign from the right-of-way, without notice, and at the expense of the owner of the sign, and the Board has recently authorized the Zoning Administrator to designate all Village employees and Elected Officials as deputy Zoning Administrators for the sole purpose of enforcing the prohibition of these signs in the right of way. As a result, signs that tend to pop up when Village offices are closed, can now be removed by any employee or official who happens to see it.

The Zoning Administrator is notifying businesses individually who currently have such signage in the public right-of-way so they have an opportunity to first remove it themselves. The Village anticipates doing so will bring all such businesses into compliance with the law at the same time, and without the Village having to remove those signs or cite any business for a violation of the code.

Any signage that remains in the right-of-way or is later placed in the right-of-way, will subsequently be removed. The employee or official who does so, will take the signage to the Public

Works Department, where it will be held for at least 30 days, giving the owner time to retrieve it. However, any subsequent placement of that same or similar signs in the right-of-way may result in those signs being collected and immediately destroyed.

Enforcement by the Village of this prohibition will be equitable, regardless of the business or the message on the sign. Because the right-of-way is owned by the public, the "public" as a whole should not be perceived as supporting any individual business or message. And no one should expect a right to use that public property for personal gain.

At the same time this enforcement effort is being implemented, the Zoning Administrator may also notify specific businesses about other non-complying signage. While the Village is, and intends to continue to be business friendly, it wants all businesses to consider the community as a whole, and what is beneficial to the community as a whole, and to hold all businesses to the same, fair enforcement of the codes meant to generally benefit the community.

News Briefs

Swansea Rotary Club 15th Annual 5K Run & Walk Set For June 2nd

The Rotary Club of Swansea will host its 15th Annual 5K Run / Walk on Sat, June 2, 2018 starting at 8:00am. The event begins and ends at Wolf Branch Middle School, 410 Huntwood Road, in Swansea.

The entry fee is \$20 if postmarked by May 26th, or \$25 the day of the race. Late registrations on race day will occur between 6:30am and 7:30am, when participants can also check in and pick up their number and T-shirt. Shirts are only guaranteed for runners registered by May 25th. The run/walk takes place rain or shine with no refund of entry fees.

The event was created to honor and promote The Chad Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund which provides college scholarships for qualifying graduates of area high schools. Visit www.swansearotary.org, or contact Jim Riess at 618-920-9698, Dennis Bertelsman at 618-779-4878, or Marilyn Rossi at 618-698-5897.

Friends of Swansea Parks Clear Invasive Plants and Brush

On the morning of April 7th, fifteen volunteers braved "spring-time" temperatures in the low twenties to remove bush honeysuckle between the new Government Center and Melvin Price Park. The rear lot of the Government Center abuts the park property and the hillside between has become overgrown with the invasive plants.

While the temperature was cold, hearts were warm and it only took a couple of minutes of work to get the blood pumping and bodies warm as well. The volunteers worked hard but also had a good time while working to improve the Village. Their reward was some pizza at lunch and seeing the significant improvement they were able to make in a short time. Thank you to all who volunteered!

For more information and photos look on Facebook under "Friends of Swansea Parks, Swansea, Illinois",



or email bwells@swanseail.org. The group may continue efforts on the hillside in the future.

Bush honeysuckle is perhaps the worst of the exotic plants that have become a serious problem in our area. It is shade tolerant so it can become very prevalent in wooded areas, making foot travel difficult. But, it also becomes so thick that native trees, flowers, and other plants, like oak, hickory, walnut, cottonwood, and maple, can't reproduce. This endangers the forest and if those native plants disappear we may also lose many animals who rely on the natural trees as a food source.

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Police Officers and Firefighters Recognized at Recent Meetings

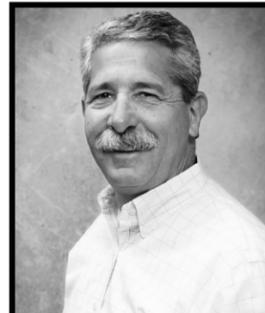


LEFT: Fire Chief John McGuire was presented with a certificate from Mayor Mike Leopold recognizing McGuire's 30 years as a Village employee.

RIGHT: Firefighter Cole Kaemmerer received his certificate from Deputy Fire Chief Chris Tell recognizing his 5 years of service to the Village.

LOWER LEFT: Brett Korves was presented a certificate by Mayor Leopold and Chief McGuire recognizing his 10 years of service to the Village as a firefighter.

LOWER RIGHT: Police Officers Daniel Voelker (left) and Andrew Hewett (center) received recognition from the Alliance Against Intoxicated Drivers, for their efforts related to DUI arrests, presented by Deputy Police Chief Craig Coughlin.



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

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News Briefs

Police & Fire Youth Academy June 18th through June 20th

The Village is currently accepting applications for its 4th Annual Swansea Police and Fire Youth Academy. The 3-day event allows youth ages 9-13 to experience law enforcement training, fire department demonstrations, leadership preparation, and much, much more.

This year's dates are June 18th, 19th, & 20th. Participants meet from 8:00am until 4:00pm each day, with graduation at 4:00pm on the 20th. Donations cover all costs so there is no fee to participants, who also receive a Youth Academy shirt and lunch each day.

Only 30 spots are available with preferential spots for Swansea



residents and new recruits. If interested email Sgt. Scott Lieb for an application packet at youthacademy@swanseail.org.

Every Business and Non-Residential Use of Property Must Be Registered By May 1st

Under the requirements of the Swansea Zoning Code, every business, service occupation and home occupation - collectively known as non-residential uses - must register annually with the Village. This regulation helps ensure that all such uses are properly lawful in the zoning districts within which they operate.

The process also identifies those businesses that are required to pay sales tax, so that the Village has a database of such businesses against which it can verify tax payer information provided by the state.

Since Swansea shares zip codes with other communities, in the past revenue that belongs to Swansea was erroneously paid by the State to neighboring communities - one reason that the Village strongly recommends that businesses clearly list their location as being in the Village of Swansea.

All businesses and organizations who have completed the form in the past, have been sent a new one in the mail to the address on record, and should have filed that new form and paid the \$25 fee prior to April 13th.

However, any new business enterprise or organization that initiated operations within the Village in the last year, or which has not previously registered with the Village, must either contact the Swansea Government Center to secure and submit an application, or download the form from the Village website at www.swanseail.org, and complete and return it to the Government Center with the required fee.

The annual fee was only \$25.00 for this registration, but late registration increases that fee to \$100.00.

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Swansea's Tentative Budget Is Balanced - And With Room To Spare

In accordance with State Statutes, the Village of Swansea printed a copy of its Fiscal Year 2019 Tentative Budget and made it available for public inspection on April 10th, then held a public hearing on that budget on April 16th. The final budget was scheduled to be passed at a special Village Board meeting on April 23rd.

During the past year, the Village has worked diligently to lower operational expenses, closely monitor capital expenditures, and ensure that it is getting the revenue it is due. For example, the Village recently rebid its contract for uniforms for Public Works employees. Dropping some of the services that were provided and more clearly defining the scope of work under that contract resulted in an expected cost of \$4,020 for the new fiscal year, down from the \$13,300 the Village paid last year.

While some might suggest the Village would save more by not providing uniforms at all, these employees work with chemicals and at times in sewage, so that their clothing cannot be laundered at home. With that requirement, the Village's best option is to get the lowest price possible. Similar and even more significant savings have been realized in other operational expenses.

Because of these efforts, the Tentative Budget document reviewed at the public hearing included a General Fund budget with \$24,400 to spare – not a lot, but balanced plus excess revenues over expenditures – and certainly not the bare bones budgets of the last two years.

And that was after setting aside a small contingency for unanticipated operational expenses, and after transferring \$415,000 to the Capital Improvement Fund to pay for capital expenditures during the year.

In addition, the Capital Improvement Fund will start the year with almost \$174,000 in the fund. This represents money transferred in the previous budget year but then not spent, which may result from getting better pricing on purchases and projects than initially anticipated, or from conservative spending habits where planned expenditures that can be delayed without negative affects, are held up.

The Tentative Budget calls for current year capital purchases to be balanced to the \$415,000 transfer from the General Fund, so that the Capital Improvement Fund should again carry about \$175,000 into the next year. This will tie into the 10 year rolling Capital Improvement Plan currently being formulated by the Village - setting aside monies each year and accumulating funds for larger cost capital items.

Still, this year's budget includes funding for some major capital needs. Those include:

- The purchase of both a 2-ton and 1-ton dump truck to replace exiting trucks that are well beyond their expected useful life.
- The replacement of three existing Police Vehicles with new SUVs to maintain the plan of updating their fleet and keeping it up-to-date.

- The replacement of file servers for both Administration and the Police Department, and the addition of software and hardware to help minimize spamming attacks, and to ensure good, stable backup of data.
- The purchase of a new backup generator for the Police Department and Engine House #1, replacing one that is literally on its last leg and, if it failed, would leave the buildings without power during an outage.
- The ability to potentially place an order during the year for a replacement pumper truck for the Fire Department, with delivery next year.
- The purchase of additional turnout gear for the Village's on-call fire fighters, ensuring that every one of them is protected by pants, coats, boots and helmets that meet the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association.

The Village also plans to spend about \$420,000 on street improvements in the new fiscal year, including milling and resurfacing a number of residential asphalt streets. That list includes Bourdelais Dr., Calais Court, Goldenrod, Jardin Court, Marche Court, Papillon Dr. and St. Sabre Dr.

Some adjustments were expected to the Tentative Budget prior to its final passage as current year estimates of revenue and expenditures are fine tuned and the cash balances carried forward to the new year are more precisely determined.

News Briefs

Severe Weather Alerts Added To CodeRED Starting May 1st

The Village Board agreed to add a weather warning module to the existing CodeRED system starting May 1st. The Village already uses CodeRED to deliver Village wide or targeted alerts on specific issues. The weather warning module adds new alert capabilities to the system.

Starting May 1, those who have signed up for CodeRED can also choose to be notified about severe weather, tornado warnings, flash flooding and/or winter storms. When the National Weather Service issues any such warning, the system will automatically pick up and interpret the bulletin, determine the severity

and if Swansea is affected, and then deliver that bulletin via cell and/or landline telephone to residents who have signed up for the alerts.

Those who have not previously signed up for Code Red may do so at any time. The Police Department often uses the system to provide targeted info to neighborhoods about criminal activity, suspects and other situations where timely notification of residents could be important towards solving a crime or protecting people.

To sign up click on the red CodeRED button on the Village's home page at <http://www.swanseail.org/>. More info can be found on the home page.

Code Red Signup 



The Swansea Rotary recently presented donations to various organizations/services in our community. Pictured left to right are some of those organizations: Lynn Hatfield of LINC - to help people live independently; Carolyn Hubler of the St. Clair County Child Advocacy Center - to purchase plush dogs representing "Homer", a support dog for children who have suffered abuse; Swansea Police Chief Steve Johnson & School Resource Officer Cheryl Venorsky - \$9,000 for the SRO program to fund awards and "treats" for student accomplishments; Carol Meyer, Beacon Ministry to help break the chains of poverty, and Deana Meiners, Swansea Rotary President.

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
mleopard@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.

YOUR SWANSEA AREA BANKING TEAM:



Marilyn Rossi
Center Manager



Justin Chapman
Commercial Lending



Dave Demond
Mortgage Lending



Lisa Hock
Wealth Management

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