

# Village Of Swansea

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# THE SWANSEA REPORT

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 7

JULY 2017

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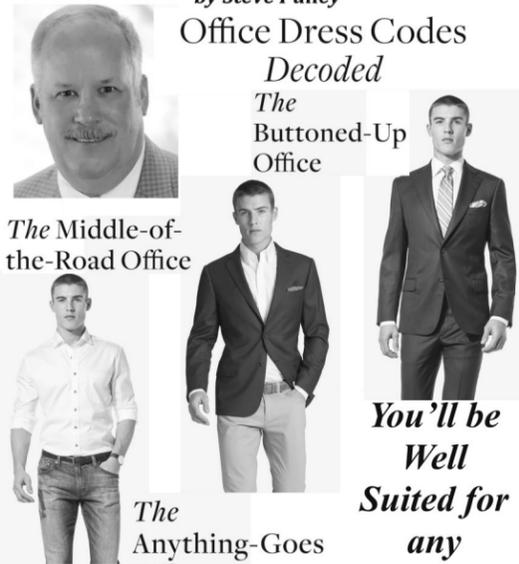
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**Road Paving Projects Underway**

Bids for resurfacing select oil and chip roadways with new asphalt overlay came in \$80,000 under budget so the Village has added a number of streets to the project list.

The contractor started in mid-June with **Smelting Works Rd**, from the edge of the new Smelting Works to McDonald Blvd and then from McDonald Blvd to Chambers. This work was to be completed before the end of June in order to utilize \$25,000 in state grant funds.

Other roadways to be resurfaced immediately afterward include:

- Kinsella Ave** from "H" Street to Morgan
  - Caseyville Ave** from Kinsella to Shae-Fries
  - Duncan Ave** from Morgan to Caseyville
  - Johanna Place** for its entire length
  - Schobert Avenue** for its entire length
  - Marilyn Avenue** from Morgan to Caseyville
  - Philecia Drive** from Marla Kay to Bobbie Drive
  - Castle Drive** from Philecia Drive to Marla Kay
- While any road construction causes some temporary inconvenience for residents and motorists, in the end these streets will be greatly improved through the work.

**State Budget Impasse Potentially Impacts Revenues to Swansea**

On May 24, 2017, the Illinois Senate approved Senate Bill 9, and sent it to the Illinois House. While the House failed to take final action by their normal adjournment of May 31<sup>st</sup>, the final action deadline for the bill was extended until June 30<sup>th</sup>. So action may still be possible before July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Among the bill's provisions is a proposed increase in the state income tax to 4.95% for individuals, estates and trusts, and to 7% for corporations, retroactive to January 1, 2017. Illinois income tax applies to every individual, trust, estate, and corporation - who currently pay 3.75% of net revenue - and to all corporations, who currently pay 5.25%, also of net income. The Illinois Department of Revenue defines "Illinois Income Tax" as "...a tax that is imposed on the privilege of earning or receiving income in, or as a resident of, the State of Illinois".

By law, local governments like Swansea receive a portion of the income tax collected by the State. Since Feb 1, 2015, that share has been 8% of the net collections (*total collections minus money set aside for refunds*) of all income tax received from individuals, trusts, and estates, and 9.14% of the net income tax received from corporations. Note that these percentages are a reduction from the original rate that was supposed to be shared with counties and municipalities.

Some residents might wonder how the State of Illinois can be sharing revenue with local governments when the state is in such dire financial condition. But in 1969 when

Governor Richard Ogilvie was proposed to enact an income tax for Illinois, he needed the help of Chicago's Mayor Daley to get the tax through the General Assembly. Mayor Daley was able to help ensure enough legislators would support passing the tax, but he did so with the inclusion of a key element - an agreement that 10% of the revenue would be shared with local governments. On the flip side, those local governments agreed to not impose their own local income taxes, which would undoubtedly have varied from community to community.

This shared income tax money is deposited into and distributed through the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF). Senate Bill 9 also proposed changes to the statutory language relative to that Local Government Distributive Fund but with the intent of avoiding any reduction to the money distributed to local governments through the LGDF. If enacted into law as presented to the House, SB 9 would maintain the LGDF revenue distributed to municipalities at current levels.

There have been some proposals during the ongoing state budget negotiations to hold back or reduce revenue shared through the LGDF. Swansea's share, and the shares for all other municipalities and counties, are based on the population of the local government in proportion to the total population of the state.

The Village's share of the income tax is in fact the largest revenue item in

See "Income Tax" on page 4

## News Briefs

### On June 21st Swansea 911 Calls Were Switched To Belleville

On June 21st, 911 calls that had previously been answered by the Swansea dispatch center began to be routed instead to the Belleville dispatch center, where they will now be answered by Belleville telecommunicators, under an intergovernmental agreement. The Swansea Police Department will no longer dispatch its own officers.

The City of Belleville hired four of the Village's telecommunicators who are now employees of the City. The Village's supervisor of dispatchers had previously accepted a position with the City of Edwardsville, and one of the Village's other dispatchers had stepped up into that role and has now transferred over to the position of Civilian Administration Supervisor. As such she will oversee the Civilian Police Aides who will provide administrative support to officers.

In addition to the working supervisor, the Village hired one new full-time and five new part-time Civilian Police Aides.

With the switch from 24/7 dispatching to administrative support from these Civilian Police Aides, the Police Department is having to change from the "around the clock" lobby reception previously provided by dispatchers.

As such, face-to-face lobby reception will no longer be accessible to walk-in traffic during the following times:

Mondays: from 2:00am - 8:00am  
 Tuesdays: from 3:00am - 8:00am  
 Wednesdays: from 3:00am - 8:00am  
 Thursdays: from 3:00am - 8:00am  
 Fridays: from 3:00am - 8:00am  
 Saturdays: from 4:00am - 10:00am  
 Sundays: from 2:00am - 10:00am

A phone has been mounted in the lobby for anyone who comes to the department during the hours noted above. A Belleville telecommunicator will answer the phone and be able to talk to the visitor and see them through the lobby cameras. The telecommunicator answering the phone will clarify the visitor's specific need and relay that to an officer as warranted.

It is recommended that residents with routine Police Department business instead call or visit during the hours that the lobby is open to visitors.

The Department has created a schedule that it believes allows the greatest level of peak time access within the funding constraints that resulted from changes mandated by 911 consolidation. But the cost of maintaining even this level of service might prompt further reductions in hours, if that becomes necessary.

### Government Center Closed Tue July 4th

#### Refuse Collection Also Delayed

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Tuesday, July 4 for the Independence Day holiday.

July 4th is also a holiday for Republic Services so the collection of refuse, recyclables and yard waste will all be delayed. Monday's schedule will not be affected, but Tuesday's routes will be picked up on Wed, July 5th. The normal yard waste collection on Wednesdays will shift to Thu, July 6th. Thursday's trash and recyclables routes will be picked up on Fri, July 7th, and the normal Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, July 8th.

### Swansea Night at the Ball Park

Join the Fire Department on Wed Sept 13th for Swansea Night at Busch Stadium with the Cards vs the Reds for a scheduled start at 7:15pm. The Department's Color Guard will present the Colors for the National Anthem before the start of the game. The cost is \$20 per ticket with part of that price going to support the Department. Call Jason Whitaker at 618-979-8795 or Kody Koudelka at 618-779-5706, or stop by Fire Station #2 at 144 Huntwood Road during normal office hours to buy tickets. A limited number are available so buy early.

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## Swansea Community Calendar - July 2017

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

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**“Income Tax”, continued from page 1**

the General Fund, accounting for 27.5% of the total anticipated revenue to that fund for the current fiscal year. So if the State decided to further reduce the shared percentage, or to delay the distribution schedule, the impact on Swansea would be significant. Obviously, municipalities throughout the state are dependent upon this source of revenue, and it would be very difficult to have to replace it with a locally controlled alternative.

In fact, there is little that is truly under ‘local control’ for a non-home rule community like Swansea. The Village and other communities like it are considered to be “creatures of the state” – created by state law and allowed to only do what that state law specifically allows. So if something is not specifically delineated in the state statutes as an authorized power of local government, then it is not permitted. And if the State chooses to change those statutes, including how state collected money will be shared, then municipalities like Swansea have little recourse.

So the failure of the Governor and General Assembly to come to an

agreement on a State budget could be seen as having a silver lining - at least distributions from the LGDF have not been reduced. However, the lack of a budget agreement or a current stopgap spending bill means that other local government revenues that pass through the State, like Motor Fuel Tax, Use Tax and video gaming revenue, have not yet been appropriated. This last happened in 2015 when those funds were held up until December.

In the fiscal year that began May 1<sup>st</sup>, Swansea has budgeted revenues of about \$340,000 from Use Tax, about \$70,000 from video gaming, and about \$345,000 from Motor Fuel Tax. So failure on the part of the State to

act quickly, would still impact the Village’s finances. Local officials are carefully monitoring the situation and expenditures to ensure the Village spends within its means.

To paraphrase an observation by the Illinois Municipal League IML, Illinois municipalities have managed their 8¢ of each income tax dollar responsibly – enacting balanced budgets like Swansea – while the IML notes that the State, which keeps the remaining 92¢ of that same income tax dollar, has no budget, is mired in debt, and is unable to pay its bills in a timely manner. According to the Illinois Comptroller, the state’s backlog of unpaid bills recently reached \$14.5 billion.



**News Briefs**

**Firework Displays in St. Clair County, IL 2017**

Here are just a few places where fireworks can be viewed around the area.

- ◆ Caseyville Picnic & Fireworks - July 1, 2017, starting at dusk at Caseyville Park, 40 West Reynolds, in Caseyville, IL
- ◆ Fair St. Louis - fireworks in Forest Park on July 2nd, 3rd, & 4th. For times and additional details visit the [www.fairsaintlouis.org](http://www.fairsaintlouis.org). Also check out concerts and other events during the fair.
- ◆ Old Fashioned July of 4th Celebration, July 4, 2017, from 4:00pm -10:00pm, at Scheve Park, Harnett and North 6th Streets, in Mascoutah, IL
- ◆ Dupo Picnic in the Park - July 4, 2017, starting at dusk at Dupo Community Park, 900 Bluffview Elementary Dr. in Dupo, IL

Happy 4th of July!!  
Have fun and be safe.  
Village of Swansea



**Public Works Crew Member Dale Flach Retires After 40 Years of Service To Swansea**

For 40 years, Dale Flach worked as a laborer and equipment operator with the Village in the Public Works Department. At the June 5th meeting, Mayor Mike Leopold presented Dale with a Certificate of Appreciation, acknowledging his many years of service to the community.

We will miss you Dale, and wish you all the best in retirement.

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## Photos From 2017 Memorial Day Ceremony



On May 29th, the Village of Swansea once again honored those men and women who have served and sacrificed in the United States armed forces with a 10:00am ceremony at Melvin Price Memorial Park.

Swansea resident Roger Relfe, a retired squadron leader with the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force, once again served as Master of Ceremonies, and the Worship Team from the Westview Baptist Church in Swansea provided music under the direction of Anna Rankin.

The guest speaker was Colonel Phillip Michael Reide, U.S. Air Force (retired). From Aug. 2005-Feb. 2009, Col Reide served as Director of Intelligence Headquarters Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, where he was responsible for daily intelligence activities supporting the AMC commander, staff, Tanker Airlift Control Center & AMC units worldwide, as well as chairing the multi-directorate AMC Threat Working Group. Col Reide is the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters; and Air Force Expeditionary Medal.

## You Can Prevent Peddlers or Solicitors From Knocking On Your Door

It's that time of year again. With the warmer weather, it is more likely to find persons in your neighborhood, knocking on doors and selling products or services.

State statutes are fairly specific in terms of people going door to door as solicitors, vendors, peddlers or transient merchants. While state law allows municipalities to regulate these practices to some extent, they also spell out the rights of the persons going door to door.

In general terms, a 'peddler' is someone who tries to sell you a product at the door - where you exchange money for a product that you receive immediately. A 'solicitor' instead attempts to secure an order from you for a product or service to be provided later, or solicits a donation from you.

Both practices are allowed and regulated by the Swansea business code. Both must register with the Village, apply for and secure a license, pass a background check, and comply with the applicable rules and regulations.

But if they do all that, the Village is obligated to issue a license to them. And they have a right to knock on your door unless you specifically indicate that you do not wish them to do so.

One easy way to accomplish that is to post a sign on your front door similar to the one below. You could in fact cut out the one below and tape it to the inside of your storm door or to a window next to your front door. On seeing the sign, a reputable peddler or solicitor should turn around and leave your property without knocking. And if someone knocks anyway, then refuses to leave immediately when you point

out the sign, they are in violation of the law and probably not reputable.

You of course are not obligated to open your door for someone you do not know. Or if a solicitor or peddler comes to your door you have a right to ask to first see their registration with the Village of Swansea, to ensure that they have complied with that requirement.

Report to the police department anyone who is not able to, or refuses to produce such documentation. We have all heard the news stories of fly-by-night contractors who did shoddy work, or burglars who cased property by posing as a solicitor.

Note that the Village is prevented by state law from requiring a license from specific types of 'solicitors'. These include religious organizations and political organizations or individuals.

# NO PEDDLERS. NO SOLICITORS.

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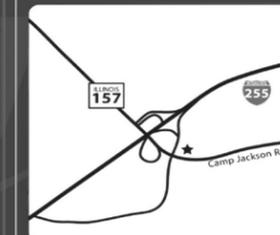
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# Age? Height? Weight? Rules For Car Seat Use Can Be Confusing: What You Need To Know

Infant seats, convertible seats, booster seats and high back booster seats! The choices can be endless and the regulations can be puzzling. Do you know the guidelines based on the type of car seat along with the child's age, height and weight?

The American Academy of Pediatrics endorses parents keeping their children in a car safety seat for as long as feasible.

Many parents think they have installed their child safety seat correctly, however, according to the CDC, 72% of child restraint systems installed have at least one critical misapplication that could lead to a child's risk of injury during a crash.

**Child Safety Seat Guidelines**  
Always read and follow the child safety seat and vehicle manufacturer's instructions for installation and height/weight guidelines.

## Newborn-12 months

- ◆ Children under age 1 and weighing less than 20 pounds should always ride in a rear-facing infant seat or a convertible seat used rear-

facing.

- ◆ The child's head must be at least 1 inch below the top of the safety seat when rear-facing.

## Ages 1-4

- ◆ Children should remain in a rear-facing safety seat until age 2, or until they are at the upper height or weight limit of the seat.
- ◆ After age 2, or when a child out-grows a rear-facing safety seat, they may transition to a forward-facing seat with a harness system, and use that internal harness system until the upper height or weight limit is reached.
- ◆ The top of the child's ears should not be above the top of the car seat when forward-facing.

## Ages 4-8

- ◆ When a child reaches the upper height or weight limit allowed by the car seat manufacturer for a forward-facing safety seat with an internal harness system, they may transition to a belt-positioning booster seat.
- ◆ Booster seats must be used with the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt, never just a lap belt.



- ◆ The lap belt should lie low across the upper thighs, and not the stomach. The shoulder belt should rest snugly across the shoulder and chest, not across the neck or face.
- ◆ If the booster seat has a back, the top of the child's ears should not be above the top of that back. If the booster seat is backless, the vehicle's head restraint must be positioned properly.

## Ages 8-12

- ◆ Children should remain in a belt-positioning booster seat until they are tall enough without it to properly fit in an adult lap/shoulder belt. Without the booster seat, the vehicle lap belt must lie low across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should rest snugly across the shoulder and chest, not across the neck or face.
- ◆ The child's back and hips should be against the back of the vehicle seat, without slouching.
- ◆ Knees should bend easily over the front edge of the vehicle seat with the feet flat on the floor.

## General Guidelines

- ◆ Never install a rear-facing safety seat in front of an active airbag.
- ◆ Rear-facing safety seats should recline 30-45 degrees.
- ◆ When rear-facing, use the

harness straps/slots at or below shoulder level.

- ◆ When forward-facing, use the harness straps/slots at or above shoulder level.
- ◆ Harness straps must be snug on the child; the harness clip should be at armpit level.
- ◆ Any booster seat should be secured with the vehicle's seat belt when not in use. They can become projectiles during a crash or sudden stop.
- ◆ Children should ride in the back seat at least through age 12.
- ◆ No safety seat should be used if more than six years old or if past the expiration date stamped on the seat.
- ◆ A used safety seat may not be safe unless you know the history of the seat and all labels, parts and instructions are present.

You can schedule an appointment to have a car seat installed with one of our Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST) by calling the Swansea Fire Department at (618) 234-3291.

# Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Illinois's first sponsored hazardous waste collection event in years swamped the neighborhoods around Price Park with traffic. As early as 8:30am a line of cars on Brackett St. began to back up onto IL Rte. 159. Gilbert St. eventually did the same. The wait in line all day was typically between one and two hours.

In the end, the St. Clair County Health Department tallied a total of about 900 vehicles that brought waste from a 1,134 households. While the event was supposed to end at 3:00pm, organizers kept it open until 4:00 to try to accommodate those in line, but eventually they had to turn about 450 vehicles away.

While Swansea's involvement was simply to allow the use of Price Park, the pent-up demand for collections like this was significant. The Police Department was prepared to assist with traffic control, but there wasn't much they could effectively do. Drivers just needed to be patient and courteous, and take turns merging into the line at intersections. Most were simply thankful for a chance to get rid of hazardous waste they had been storing for years.



## 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**  
[mayor@swanseail.org](mailto:mayor@swanseail.org)
- Village Clerk Lauren O'Neill**  
[lozell@swanseail.org](mailto:lozell@swanseail.org)
- Treasurer John Walter**  
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