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VOLUME 33, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2018

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Schranz Park Splash Pad Back in Service

Prior to the Memorial Day weekend, a lightning strike at the Splash Pad at Schranz Park caused damage to the electronic circuitry, and prevented the Splash Pad from opening as scheduled.

After finding the damaged components, the Village ordered new circuitry and Public Works crews were successful in getting it up and running again. Thank you to the residents who were patient with the Village and the facility while it was down and being repaired.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MONTH

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Smoke Testing To Start in Aug

The Village hopes to finally begin smoke testing sanitary sewers in the area north of West 'H' Street and west of IL Rte. 161...

Page 6 & 7

Proposed Open Burning Ban Tabled at July 16 Meeting

The Board of Trustees voted to table the proposed ordinance banning open burning when it came up on the July 16th agenda, holding it there until it is brought back from the table for further consideration by the Board, or sent back to the Judiciary Committee for reconsideration...

Collaboration Among Agencies Begins With Assistance Panel

Together with Metro (the Bi-State Development Agency) and the St. Clair County Transit District, the Village of Swansea has provided resources to fund a Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) aimed at providing land use recommendations and guidance for future development around the Swansea MetroLink station.

The Urban Land Institute (ULI) provides the TAP as a service offered through its community outreach efforts, with Belleville and O'Fallon both receiving similar programmatic assistance in recent years.

While development around public transportation can be highly valuable to a community, providing improved access to amenities, it often creates unique challenges that require a site-specific approach.

In June, sponsors participated in a kickoff conference call to identify specific land use challenges, and begin assembling key stakeholders to be involved in the process. Todd Antoine, Vice President of Planning and Projects for Great Rivers Greenway, is serving as the Chair of the panel, and is responsible for building out the



rest of the panelists with the necessary expertise to address challenges of development.

The primary working day is currently set for late September, at which time a Briefing Book will be

distributed. These Briefing Books will include maps of the area, site plans, previous planning documents, zoning documents, and additional content that will help educate panelists about the particular study area.

The morning of the work day, interviews will take place in small groups of stakeholders. These stakeholders will be there to represent the needs and expertise of institutional entities, developers, property owners, public sector leaders, elected officials, and more.

The TAP Chair will then have two weeks to draft a presentation of the Panel's findings and recommendations, culminating in a full presentation to the community.



News Briefs

Government Center Closed Monday September 3rd

Refuse Collection Also Delayed

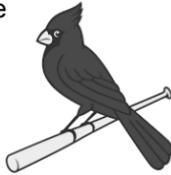
The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Monday, September 3rd for the Labor Day holiday.

September 3rd is also a holiday for Republic Services so the collection of refuse, recyclables and yard waste will all be delayed. As all routes will be delayed by one day, Monday routes will be picked up on Tuesday the 4th, Tuesday routes will be picked up on Wednesday, Wednesday routes will be picked up on Thursday, Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday, and Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday, September 8th.

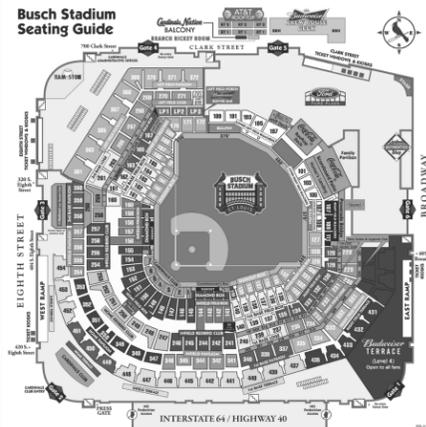
Swansea Night at the Ball Park Aug 13th

Join the Fire Department on Monday, August 13th for Swansea Night at Busch Stadium with the Cards vs the Washington Nationals 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. Seats are in Sections 127, 128, and 129, near the right field foul pole. Tickets are available by calling: Jason Whitaker 618-979-8795 or in person at Swansea Fire Station #2, 144 Huntwood Rd.



Schools Are Going Back Into Session

Watch for Students

Obey Traffic Laws Re: School Buses

Schools will soon be back in session so drivers should be extra alert for students crossing roadways, walking to school, or waiting at bus stops.

Each year the Village also reminds driver's about traffic laws related to school buses.

Flashing red lights on a school bus and an extended stop sign mean that drivers on a two lane road are required to stop when approaching that bus from either direction. It is unlawful to pass that stopped bus.

When a bus is stopped on a multi-lane roadway like IL Rte. 159, drivers traveling in the same direction as the bus are required to stop. In this case, drivers headed in the opposite direction are not.

Police Department Establishing New Hiring List

The Swansea Police Commissioners have started the testing process for the Village's Police Officer Eligibility list. This is a state mandated list the Department must maintain and update every two years, even if there are no job openings for officers.

Forty-seven people submitted applications for the list. A few of those applications were disqualified from the start, and nine individuals failed to successfully complete the physical agility test. That left twenty-five applicants who went on to take the written tests.

Additional testing and oral interviews will be conducted to narrow and finalize the list, as well as the ranking of individuals on that list.

Swansea Community Calendar - August 2018

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

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Fire Dept. Urges Fire Safety In Summer

With summer months always come outdoor cookouts and barbecues. The Swansea Fire Department has a few tips to make sure you stay safe while enjoying your time with friends and family. With that in mind, here are some additional fire safety tips to keep you safe all year long.

Barbeque Safety Tips

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors to prevent any carbon monoxide build up in an enclosed area.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- When starting a gas grill, open the tank valve to full to light the grill then back off 1/4 turn once lit.
- **Never** leave your grill unattended.



Home Fire Safety

- Have a working smoke detector in every bedroom and at least one on every level of the residence.
- If you need assistance with smoke detectors, please contact the Swansea Fire Department for installation of up to three (3) 10 year smoke detectors at no cost.

- Illinois state law requires a working carbon monoxide detector within fifteen (15) feet of every occupied bedroom.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on a monthly basis to make sure that they are working properly.
- Replace carbon monoxide detectors every five (5) years from the date of manufacturer and replace smoke detectors every ten (10) years from date of manufacture.
- Never leave lit candles unattended.



Summertime Burn Safety

- Wear short sleeves or roll them up when cooking on the grill.
- Use long-handled barbecue tools.
- Keep a 3-foot safe zone around grills, fire pits and campfires.
- Attend public fireworks displays; this leaves the lighting to the professionals.

Campfire Safety Tips

- Always follow the campfire rules for the area where you are camping or living. Some parks and towns prohibit fires, and these rules are there for a reason. Check the local regulations before you build your fire.
- Do not store gasoline, liquid fire starter, or any other type of flammable liquid near the campfire. It's too easy for stray flames to ignite these materials.
- Do not build large campfires, even if they seem impressive. It's much safer to keep fires small so they are easier to control.

Board Authorizes Buying New Protective Gear For Fire Fighters

On July 16th the Board of Trustees accepted the bid of Banner Fire Equipment to provide updated 'turnout gear' (firefighter coats and pants) for the remaining 24 firefighters who are in need of up-to-date gear.

The Village budgeted \$3,000 per set in the current fiscal year. Banner was the lowest of four bidders with a bid price of \$1,849.79 per set with all options, therefore coming in significantly under budget.

The Department also anticipates purchasing new helmets and boots for those fire fighters, also based upon bids received.



Park Board Seeking Volunteers Now for Trunk or Treat in Oct

Maybe it seems too early to be thinking about Halloween, but the Swansea Park Board and the Swansea Patriots are already planning their second annual "Spooktacular" for Saturday October 27th, at Mel Price Park.



The organizations are looking for individuals, families, clubs or businesses who would like to participate in the "Trunk or Treat" and hand out treats to 'little goblins'. If interested, please come to the Government Center at 1444 Boul Ave and fill out an application. All participants must do so to gain entry. The Park will be turned into the "Wicked Forest" with many attractions for kids and families to enjoy.

Village Plans to Begin Smoke Testing In Early August

The Village hopes to finally begin smoke testing sanitary sewers in the first week of August, concentrating in an area north of West 'H' Street and west of IL Rte. 161. The IEPA has recommended that the Village try to locate points of infiltration.

Infiltration occurs when ground water or rain water enters the 'closed' sanitary sewer system. This could occur in a Village owned sewer main, particularly those in older sections of the community, or when homes or businesses have cracked and leaking sewer laterals - the pipe owned by the property owner that connects their building to the public sewer.

In addition, infiltration occurs when people illegally connect sources of storm water, like downspouts, to the sanitary sewer system, even though the two are to remain separate.

Smoke testing helps to identify where storm water or ground water is getting into the system so that each point of infiltration can be eliminated. If the Village was 100% successful in doing so, wastewater flows would no longer vary with rain storms and the cost of operations and treatment would drop.

Smoke testing involves lighting and placing a highly concentrated 'smoke bomb' into a sanitary sewer manhole. A strong fan on a circular base is placed into the top of the manhole and the fan forces the smoke into and through the sewer system.

Smoke will naturally rise from each manhole within the general area, that is connected to the manhole with the 'smoke bomb'. That is OK, since manholes are allowed open access points to the system. Smoke will also rise from roof vents on buildings connected to the sewer main because they are open points in the system, allowing sewer gases from the building to vent safely away.

But smoke will also rise from any other opening. So if a public sewer main has joints that have separated, smoke will rise through the ground at the point of each such joint. If a public owned pipe has a crack, smoke will rise in line with the crack.

If that joint separation or crack is in a private sewer lateral, the smoke will rise through the ground on that private property at the point of each such joint or crack.

Employees of RJN Group, the firm providing the testing, will be dressed in uniforms with the company logo, carry ID badges, and operate from vehicles with RJN signage, so that residents will be able to easily identify them. They will document incidents of smoke indicating points of infiltration and take photographs. They will also document smoke rising from gutters and downspouts.

The Village will then notify any affected property owner that these connections are illegal, and require that they be removed and then inspected by the Village.

Because there is a chance that the smoke could come up into a home or business, at least 24 hours prior to testing, RJN will place door hangers on the front door of every building in the area where testing will be conducted. Signs will also be prominent on the streets where smoke testing is in progress. The smoke is non-toxic, odorless and harmless, but some might of course be alarmed if smoke fills their home.

Continued on Page 9

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- ✓ 1/4 page horizontal at 2" high x 7.5" wide is \$120.00 per month or 1.9¢ / mailbox
- ✓ 1/2 page horizontal at 4.1" high x 7.5" wide is \$ 240.00 per month or 3.8¢ / mailbox

Swansea Police & Fire Youth Academy Event Successful

The Swansea Police and Fire Youth Academy has been held for three years now, and though there was doubt surrounding the program due to budget constraints, the Swansea Rotary Club stepped up to the plate and ensured it was a huge success. In addition to helping with planning, preparing, and volunteering at the 2018 Academy, the Swansea Rotary Club also gave a \$4,000.00 grant to the Youth Academy to help cover costs.

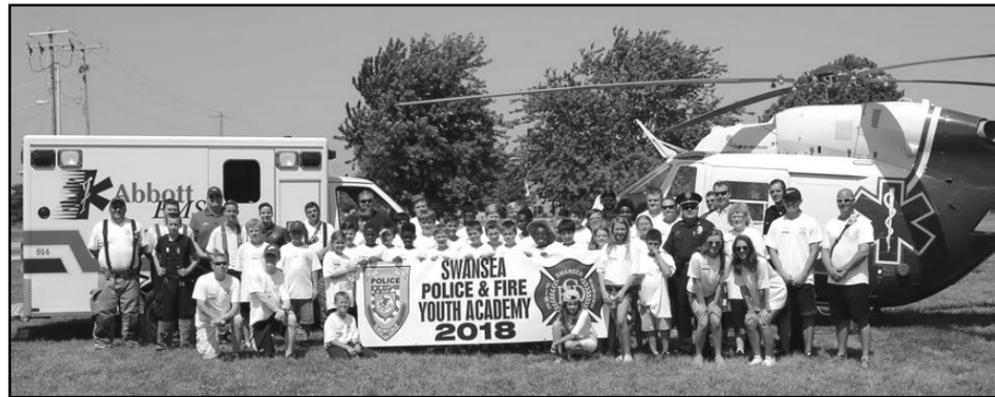
Thirty-four children attended the 2018 Academy and all of them had a great time. Many officers, firefighters, trustees, Rotarians and others volunteered their time. A special thanks goes out to Police Sgt. Scott Lieb and Fire Captain Jason Whitaker.

In the last three years, almost 130 youths aged 9 to 13 have attended the event. The Academy is three days of highly intensity training, team building, civic and government learning and fun. The children participate in programs for crime scene investigation,

police K-9 units, tornado trailer, special response team (SRT) demos, car fire and extrication, helicopter landing, firearm safety, tour of the jail and discussion with an inmate, close interaction with police officers and firefighters from Swansea, disaster and emergency preparedness, civic and government responsibility, team building sports, American flag raising and lowering, proper disposal of an American flag, and community service projects.

Participants also created a self-awareness essay on what they learned.

The Swansea Police and Fire Departments, as well as the Swansea Rotary Club, understand that close interaction with police officers, firefighters and government officials are needed now more than ever. Trust and understanding of government is critical for our society to move forward through what can be difficult times. There is also a significant decrease in younger people volunteering their personal time for the benefit of a community. Through donated hours and positive interactions with the Rotary Club the hope is that students at the Academy will appreciate how important their volunteered time can be.



Village Plans to Begin Smoke Testing In August - Cont. from Page 3

This can occur when the water in a 'P' trap has been allowed to dry up - usually in a floor drain or other seldom used connection. A 'P' trap without water won't prevent smoke from coming up through a drain opening. This may also occur if a sump pump is illegally connected to the sanitary sewer. Smoke could enter the basement via the sump pump and fill the house.

To help avoid this from happening, all residents in the area of smoke testing should check drains - floor, sink, shower, tub, etc. - to make sure there is water in every 'P' trap. Add about three cups if you think the trap is dry.

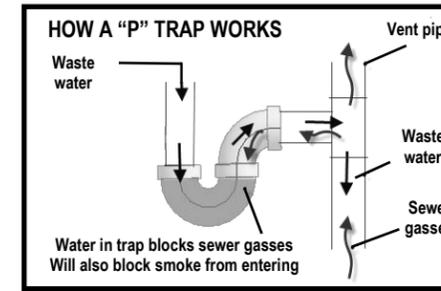
experiences smoke in a building should still call 911 so the Fire Department can respond and verify the source. You may want to also notify any RJN staff if you see them in the area around your home.

Any illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system will be required by the Village to be disconnected and corrected.

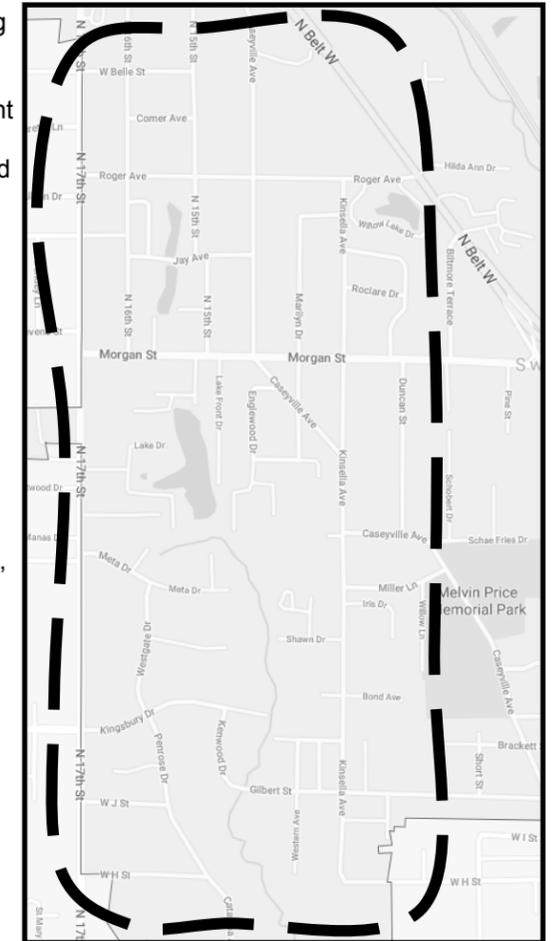
RJN's proposed and planned schedule for testing could be impacted by weather or other unforeseen events. Smoke testing is most effective when the ground is relatively dry, and least effective after a significant, soaking rain.

If appropriate, the Village may also use Code Red to notify residents registered on that system of any changes to the planned schedule.

The map to the right generally depicts the geographic area where smoke testing will be focused in this current effort.



While these efforts might help prevent 'false alarms', anyone who



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News Briefs

July Farmer's Market Information

The Swansea Farmer's Market is a 100% unpaid volunteer organization (501-3C). Unlike most markets in the area, this market is not funded or controlled by the municipality in which it operates. Its purpose is to provide a service to Swansea residents by giving them an outlet to purchase fresh and local produce, and crafts. They sell excellent and unique locally grown fresh crops and great crafts.

You can find the market in the parking lot of Rural King, 2801 N. Illinois Street, Swansea. It operates on Thursdays 11am - 3 pm, rain or shine. Come out and see what the market has to offer and perhaps grab a bite to eat.

For additional information, you may contact Norm Geolat 978-8753, swanseafarmersmarket@yahoo.com or visit our Facebook as Swansea Farmers. Don't miss out!

SENIORS: Last month, many seniors were transported to Age

Smart to pick up Senior Coupons. A special thanks to Doris Rebenstorff, volunteer driver of the Senior Van, for helping with that effort.

Senior Coupons should still be available at AgeSmart Community Resources, 2365 Country Road, Belleville, for those age 60 or older.



THANKS!

To 4J RE Holdings, Inc., owners of the building at 13 Wolf Creek Drive, for the way you landscape and maintain this business property!

News Briefs

Section of Llewellyn Rd Closed Indefinitely

The segment of Llewellyn Road between Old Collinsville Road and Sullivan Drive is closed and will remain so for some time. The drainage structure that carries a small creek under the road's midpoint has failed, collapsed, and is unsafe for traffic. The Village is evaluating the cost vs. benefit of proceeding with repairs.



Resurfacing of Smelting Works Road & Other Streets Completed

Christ Brothers Asphalt worked very quickly in July to mill and resurface a number of streets in this year's repaving program. Asphalt overlay was completed on parts of: Bourdelais Drive, Calais Court, Goldenrod Lane, Jardin Court, Marche Court, Papillon Drive, St. Sabre Drive, and that section of Smelting Works Road starting at Chambers Blvd. and continuing north to Grimmig Road.



Village Seeks Additional Advertisers To Support Swansea Report

While the Village knows the Swansea Report can be a valuable resource for residents and an effective way to keep citizens informed, ultimately, the Village would like it to become self sufficient, with advertising revenue fully covering the cost of printing and mailing. That is possible, but only if all ad spaces are taken at existing rates.

The Swansea Report is in its 34th year. It has gone through some changes and evolutions over time. Yet it is still published every month and is still mailed to every resident and business in Swansea. Currently, that involves the monthly distribution of 6,300 copies by saturation mail - meaning that each issue is labeled with a specific address individually printed on each newsletter.

For advertisers that means they get their message into the mailboxes of all 6,300 Swansea businesses and homes for only pennies each. The cost of a business card sized ad is the equivalent of 1.2¢ per address, and the cost of a 1/2 page ad, is the equivalent of 3.8¢ per address.

From the Village's perspective, "ideal" advertisers may be the ones who see this not just in terms of their return on investment, but as a way to support

the community and the Swansea Report in general. There is value in being a 'sponsor' of efforts such as this and to be part of the group of people who helps to ensure that the information in this publication is made available every month to residents and business owners.

Please think about what you can do to help. Ad sizes and prices are listed below. For more info email swanadm@swanseail.org.

THE COST OF AN AD

Specific ad dimensions and prices are as follows:

- 1/8 page "Business Card Size" = 2" high x 3.7" wide: \$ 70.00 / month
- 1/4 page vertical = 4.1" high x 3.7" wide: \$ 120.00 / month
- 1/4 page horizontal = 2" high x 7.5" wide: \$ 120.00 / month
- 1/2 page horizontal = 4.1" high x 7.5" wide: \$ 240.00 / month

Cambridge House Swansea

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Thrown Cakes with "Attitude"

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Friday June 8th

4:00pm—6:00pm



Cambridge House Assisted Living;
3900 Sullivan Drive; Swansea IL 234-8910



Board of Trustees Tables Proposed Ban on Open Burning To Consider Input From July 16th Meeting

While a proposed ordinance that would further regulate open burning, including a ban on the burning of yard waste, was on the July 16th agenda for Board of Trustees consideration, the issue was tabled at that meeting to allow elected officials an opportunity to consider input provided by the public. Elected officials have received emails and phone calls from residents since they noted through the Swansea Report that the proposed ordinance was being considered.

In addition, a number of residents attended the July 16th meeting and addressed the Board during the public comment period. In total, 60 people took the opportunity to state their opinions on the issue.

Of those, 54 stated opposition to the ordinance or requested that Swansea's current restrictions on open burning be retained as is. Most noted that they have large numbers of trees on the property that produce a lot of leaves, twigs and fallen branches, and expressed that burning was the only economically feasible option for them to dispose of those items.

Five people spoke in favor of the proposed ban, most of which noted health concerns. One person stated that they were neutral on the issue.

While those in attendance at the meeting were predominantly in opposition to the ban, elected officials realize that is not necessarily representative of the opinions of all Swansea residents. People who have already chosen not to burn yard

waste would not be impacted by an ordinance restricting that practice, and therefore may see no reason to attend a meeting and express their opinion.

A similar caveat may be appropriate with the survey conducted through the last issue of the Swansea Report. While both the survey and public comments provide insights into the way some residents think, neither can be effectively extrapolated to assume a representative sample of the percent of all residents in favor or opposed to a ban on open burning.

As to that Swansea Report survey, by the deadline date of July 11th, the Village received 267 responses. Of that total, 108 (40.45%) stated they were in favor of the proposed ban, and 159 (59.55%) stated they were opposed.

If looking at those same numbers by geographic quadrants, the results were as follows:

WEST OF 159 & SOUTH OF FULLERTON ROAD -
106 responses with 23 (21.70%) in favor of the ban and 83 (78.30%) opposed

WEST OF 159 & NORTH OF FULLERTON ROAD
81 responses with 45 (55.56%) in favor of the ban and 36 (44.44%) opposed

EAST OF 159 & LAKE LORRAINE SUBDIVISION SOUTHWARD
46 responses with 24 (52.17%) in favor of the ban and 22 (47.83%) opposed

EAST OF 159 & NORTH OF LAKE LORRAINE SUBDIVISION
28 responses with 15 (53.57%) in favor of the ban and 13 (46.43%) opposed

So in essence, responses from 106 residents in the southwestern quadrant of the community - which is the 'older' area of Swansea with many mature trees - were overwhelmingly opposed to banning open burning, while the respondents in all other quadrants were slightly in favor of the proposed ban.

Reasons checked by those in favor of the ban were as follows: 83.33% because of health concerns; 49.07% because of environmental concerns; 40.74% because of fire safety concerns and 12.04% for other reasons. Respondents were allowed to check more than one reason, and many did.

Reasons checked by those opposed to the ban were as follows: 68.55% because of the cost of other disposal methods; 28.93% because the respondent did not have a mulching mower; and 32.70% for other reasons. Again, many respondents checked more than one reason.



But here are the caveats with these survey results: first, the survey is not a random sample. Because respondents choose if they want to respond, this format only collects data from those who are motivated to do so.

Second, per Census Bureau numbers, there are roughly 5,500 households in Swansea. If we assume that 4,800 of those households are homes with yards, rather than apartment buildings/units, then the 267 responses to the survey represent the opinions of only about 5.56% of all residents potentially affected by a ban on the burning of yard waste.

So while having the data can be helpful to understanding perspectives, being somewhat cautious and not reading too much into the survey in terms of how the entire community might feel about the issue, would probably be prudent.

The Board of Trustees listened to the comments of the public, and voted to table the proposed ordinance when it came up on the July 16th agenda. Doing so will hold it there until it is brought back from the table for further consideration by the Board, or sent back to the Judiciary Committee for reconsideration.

Mayor Leopold encouraged all Trustees to consider the public's comments, in addition to the survey data and individual phone calls or emails that elected officials might have received directly, using all of that data plus their own research to help form an opinion on the issue.

Is Community Wide Leaf Vacuuming Financially Viable As An Option?

Quickly calculating some numbers would seem to suggest that the idea of the Village providing community wide leaf vacuuming and collection services would not be financially feasible.

It requires a two-person crew to operate a vacuum vehicle. Assuming they can service one property every 10 minutes on average, that means they can service 48 properties per day or 240 per week. Assuming 4,800 residential properties with yards, that one crew, under ideal conditions, might be able to provide one day (10 minutes) of leaf vacuuming to every affected household if they had 20 weeks to do so. But then assuming the need for the service would be concentrated in the fall, it would really take two crews to be able service each house once, over 10 weeks in the fall.

Now assuming each property might need leaves collected 4 times during the fall season, Swansea would need to dedicate eight 2-person crews - 16 employees with 8 vacuum vehicles - to do nothing else during that 10 week period but collect leaves.

Therefore, the Village doesn't even need to crunch the dollar numbers - the concept of the Village providing vacuum collection of leaves is not financially viable. It is obvious that the cost would be significant and could only come at the detriment of other services and needs.

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

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Village Clerk Lauren O'Neill
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Treasurer John Walter
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Trustee Matt Lanter
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Trustee Rocky McDonald
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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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