



The

# Swansea Report

Volume 30, Number 3

Website: [Swanseail.org](http://Swanseail.org)

March 2015

## Municipal Directory

Web Site: [www.swanseail.org](http://www.swanseail.org)

Admin E-mail:

[swanadmn@swanseail.org](mailto:swanadmn@swanseail.org)

Police Department

Non-Emergency - 233-8114

Email: [swanseap@swanseail.org](mailto:swanseap@swanseail.org)

Fire Department

Non-Emergency - 233-0456

Engine House: 234-3291

Building & Zoning: 355-0280

E-mail: [swanbnz@swanseail.org](mailto:swanbnz@swanseail.org)

All Other Departments

General access number  
234-0044

Mayor's Office, Village Clerk,  
Administration, Utility Billing,  
& Public Works

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday - Friday

### BUILDING LOCATIONS

Police Department,  
Government Center  
& Building and Zoning  
1400 N. Illinois Street

Fire House # 1, 1350 N. Illinois St.

Fire House # 2, 144 Huntwood Rd.

Street Garage, 215 Service St.

Wastewater Plant, 209 Service St.

**Daylight Savings Time  
Begins**

March 8th!  
Don't forget to  
move your  
clocks forward



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## Metro-East Regional Chamber Hosts Candidates' Forum



Swansea residents fill the Thompson Center for the 2013 Swansea Candidates' Forum hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce will host a Candidates' Forum event on March 12th at the Thompson Civic Center. The Forum will give residents and local business owners the opportunity to learn more about the candidates' qualifications and what they plan to do to make Swansea a better place to live and work, if elected.

This year's election will have three Board of Trustee positions available that are four year terms. Current Trustees, Susan O'Malley, Susan Schultz and Ron Sutterfield, terms will end and all three have chosen not to run for re-election.

Candidates running for the Board of Trustee positions are: Doris Rebenstorff, Bill Phillips, Stephen Pulley, Marilyn Neumeyer and Brian McGuire. You may pick up to three of these candidates on election day, April 7th.

### Swansea Candidates' Forum

Thursday, March 12th

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Thompson Civic Center

1501 Caseville Avenue, Swansea

For more info contact the Metro-East Regional Chamber of Commerce  
233-3938 - [chamber@MetroEastChamber.org](mailto:chamber@MetroEastChamber.org)

## In Your Corner

### *A word from your Trustee*

As my term as a Swansea Trustee winds down, I find it a good time to reflect on the changes of the past six years. This is not to take credit for any one accomplishment—it truly “takes a village” to affect change.

From a financial standpoint, I believe the Village is in a much stronger position. We weathered the storm of the economic downturn. Budgets were cut until balanced and then monitored. The internal accounting system was upgraded in terms of technology, internal controls and personnel. These improvements resulted in the elimination of concerns repeatedly expressed by our external auditors. The Village was rewarded for these improvements—we secured a very favorable AA– bond rating and were able to refinance the bonds on Firehouse #2, saving the taxpayers more than \$260,000 over the life of the bonds.

The new \$20 million sewer plant was completed, along with major improvements to both Huntwood Road and Fullerton Road. After extensive negotiation, an agreement was reached to provide sewer treatment service to our neighbors in St. Clair Township. Admittedly, controversy remains in this area. Our parks have seen improvement with new walking and bike trails. New businesses have come to town, while others have gone. Efforts have begun to revitalize the intersection of Routes 159 and 161 with the purchase of numerous under-utilized properties by the Village. Finally, a much-needed web site upgrade is in progress.

Much work remains. Many roadways are in dire need of repair. Much of the equipment in use by our staff is aged. While it has been a priority of mine to address our pension problems, the pensions remain severely underfunded. The new accounting system provides the infrastructure to enhance transparency, but much work remains to tap the available capabilities.

While my time as a Village Trustee was not what I would always characterize as “fun”, it was most certainly rewarding. I learned much about my community and our wonderful residents. I learned to work with others in spite of disagreements. Finally, I learned the value of vigilance—and that it is not solely the responsibility of elected officials. Vigilance by and input from citizens is critical.

It has been my honor to serve—thank you for the opportunity.

*Susan O'Malley*

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## Friends of Centennial Park, Swansea, Illinois

Friends of Centennial Park got a nice start on removing invasive bush honeysuckle last October, but we have a long way to go. We are planning another invasive plant removal, Saturday, March 21, 9 – noon (rain date March 28). Heartlands Conservancy will again provide their experience and tools. We need to come up with the bodies. Last October we had about 50 volunteers. We had a good time and got a lot done. Our goal is the same, remove as much of the bush honeysuckle as possible, and have a good time. We will meet in the park's parking lot. Please dress accordingly. We won't turn you away if you don't RSVP, but it would help to get a head count. Email Sarah Vogt or Brian Wells at [sarah.vogt@heartlandsconservancy.org](mailto:sarah.vogt@heartlandsconservancy.org) or [bwells@swanseail.org](mailto:bwells@swanseail.org).

Centennial Park is located off of Highway 161. Head east on Highway 161, at the intersection of Highway 161 & highway 159. The park entrance is just past the traffic signal of Castle Acres Subdivision on the left before going up the hill. March is a good time to think Green. So come out and be green with us.

*The following is the Solid Waste and Recycle Volumes for the Village for the month of January:*

**Curbside trash pickup – 197.64 tons**  
**Curbside recycle pickup – 92.59 tons**  
**Diversion rate of 32%**

Republic Services offers curbside recyclable pickup, and in doing so, offers an incentive to the residents of Swansea to recycle at no cost. If a resident chooses to put recyclable items in the trash can, they will be paying to have these items picked up.

Swansea residents are obviously making a bold, conscious effort to recycle. The Elected Officials and Staff of the Village applaud your diligence in recycling. Keep up the great work. The future generations will thank you as well.



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## The Return to Camelot



### Who will be there?

The Magical Excalibur? Sir Lancelot? Queen Guinevere?  
King Arthur? You?

The Swansea Patriots are bringing back one of the most successful fundraisers for our parks, the Camelot Dinner and Auction. Details are being made as we ride our way to **Saturday, October 10, 2015.**

A grand evening with over 200 of the Village's finest knights and ladies.

Rather than pulling the sword from the stone, we might ask that you pull your wallet from your pocket.

For 30 years the Patriots and loyalists in Swansea have raised funds for the parks in our community. **save the date** and await more proclamations from the Patriots right here.



Swansea firefighters braved the extreme cold on Sunday February 22 to review their Ice Rescue training skills. Swansea has 9 firefighters certified to perform rescues for ice/water emergencies. There are over 30 lakes, ponds and wet retention areas located in the Village.

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**Justin Chapman**  
Commercial Lending

As of February 17, 2015, Ordinance No. 1716 was passed by the Board of Trustees to increase the rental and deposit fees for park facilities. Additional changes include procedures for pick-up and return of keys, and additional fees for the use of the kitchen in the Thompson Center. The key may now only be picked up by the person renting the facility and may be picked up on weekdays between 8am and 4:30pm at the Government Center and after regular business hours and on the weekend from the Police Department after 8:30 am. The key must be returned to the Police Department by midnight the day of your rental. The facility will need to be cleaned up and vacated by 10pm.



**The new prices for the facilities are as follows:**

- Norman Lehr Center – Rent: \$100.00 Deposit: \$125.00 Total: \$225.00**
- Thompson Civic Center – Rent: \$150.00 Deposit: \$200.00 Total: \$350.00**
- Thompson Civic Center with kitchen facilities – Rent: \$200.00 Deposit: \$300.00  
Total: \$500.00**
- TWM Center – Resident – Rent: \$100.00 Deposit: \$150.00 Total: \$250.00**
- Non-Resident – Rent: \$150.00 Deposit; \$150.00 Total: \$300.00**

The Pavilion Rentals stayed the same - \$25.00 for Residents and \$50.00 for Non-Residents



Chris Lashley is recognized by Mayor Ken Mueller for his community service volunteering on the Village of Swansea Park Board.

**The Swansea Patriots  
(Growing Our Parks)**

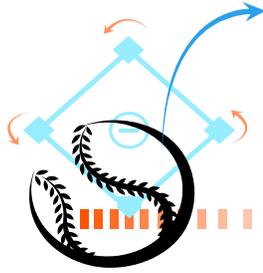
**PMB 149  
2661 North Illinois St.  
Swansea, IL 62226**

**Upcoming Event:** We are hosting a “Spring into the Parks” 5K run/walk at Schranz Park on April 24, 2015 at 7pm rain or shine. Entry forms are available at the Village, and on our website: [www.swanseapatriots.org](http://www.swanseapatriots.org).

Watch for more information in the April Swansea Report. As always you may contact us at [swanseapatriots@gmail.com](mailto:swanseapatriots@gmail.com), and on our Facebook page ‘Swansea Patriots’.

Please support our Sponsors listed on our webpage. Thank you!

# Mel Price Park Ball Diamond Reservations



Application forms for baseball field assignments for the 2015 baseball season may be picked up from and returned to the Swansea Government Center by March 3, 2015.

Applications received after this date will only be considered if an opening is available. Field assignments will be made upon receipt of applications. There is a usage fee for the lights on the large diamond. Please call the Village of Swansea at 234-0044 for more information.



The Swansea Board of Trustees would like to hear if residents of Swansea are interested in a "NO SOLICITOR LIST"

Please let us know if you would be interested in the Village compiling a list of addresses solicitors should not visit. Your opinion may be submitted by email to [swanseaoofficials@swanseail.org](mailto:swanseaoofficials@swanseail.org).

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# Swansea Fire Department

Monthly Fire Responses  
January 2015

For the month of January, the Swansea Fire Department responded to 27 calls. Below is a list of the type & amount of calls the Swansea Fire Department responded to:

- Structure Fire(s) - 3
- False Alarms - 3
- Carbon Monoxide Alarms - 0
- Other Incidents - 21 total Responses - 27

Child Safety Seats Installed  
January - 7



## The Swansea Website is Live!

The Village of Swansea is pleased to introduce our new website!

Our new website will make accessing information about Swansea quicker and easier. Some of the information that will be available on the website will include Board Meetings Agendas and Minutes, Village Ordinances, Fiscal Year Budgets, Frequently Asked Questions, Common Forms, and most importantly, contact information for elected officials and Village staff.

The Village will continue to make improvements and post more information periodically, so please continue to visit our website at [www.swanseail.org](http://www.swanseail.org) and become involved in the great community that is Swansea.



# Swansea Police Department



During the month of January 2015, the Swansea Police Department responded to 1093 calls for service.

- 241 Traffic stops yielded
- 141 Verbal warnings
- 179 Traffic citation issued.
- 39 Traffic accidents
- 13 Misdemeanor arrests
- 4 Felony arrests
- 9 Warrant arrests
- 5 D.U.I. Arrest

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## Village of Swansea Officials

### President:

**Ken Mueller**  
mayor@swanseail.org

### Clerk:

**Lauren O'Neill**  
loneill@swanseail.org

### Trustees:

#### **Matt Lanter**

mlanter@swanseail.org  
**Susan O'Malley**  
somalley@swanseail.org

#### **Katherine Ruocco**

kruocco@swanseail.org  
**Susan Schultz**  
sschultz@swanseail.org

#### **Ronald Sutterfield**

rsutterfield@swanseail.org

#### **Brian Wells**

bwells@swanseail.org

### Treasurer:

**Michael W. Leopold**  
mleopold@swanseail.org

### Group Email

#### Address:

swanseaofficinals@  
swanseail.org

## March Calendar

### 2 Municipal Committee Meetings

*Government Center - 6:00 p.m.*

#### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

*Government Center - 7:00 p.m.*

*or upon conclusion of the committee meetings.*

### 4 Chamber of Commerce

*Board of Director's Meeting  
Fairview Heights VFW*

### 12 Fire Dept. Auxiliary Meeting

*Fire Station - 7:00 p.m.*

### 14 Park Board Meeting

*Norman Lehr Community Center - 7:00 a.m.*

### 16 Municipal Committee Meeting

*Government Center—6:00 p.m.*

#### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

*Government Center - 7:00 p.m.*

*or upon conclusion of the committee meetings*



**Planning and Zoning Board Meeting:** As needed, second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m., at the Government Center. Please contact Building and Zoning to verify if a meeting is to be held.

**Swansea Patriots:** Second Saturday, approximately 8:00 a.m. at the Norman Lehr Community Center, after the Park Board meeting.

**Rotary Club:** Each Thursday, 7:00 a.m. at 1001 North Belt West, Swansea, IL.

**Lion's Club:** Second and Fourth Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at Crehan's, N. Belt West, call Jim Beimfohr at 234-7145 for more information.

**Youth Government Council:** First Monday of every month at 4:00 p.m.

The Swansea Report is published monthly by the Village of Swansea, 1400 N. Illinois Street, Swansea, Illinois, as a community service to our residents and businesses. The school information contained within this publication is published as a community service, and does not reflect the opinions of the Village of Swansea. Copyright by the Village of Swansea, Illinois. Reproduction, or the use, in any manner and without permission, of the text or graphical content of this publication is prohibited. Mailed free to all addresses within Swansea. For information on advertising or news stories, call 234-0044 Monday - Friday, 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.



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## **THIS IS YOUR TIME TO BE HEARD: To Burn or NOT To Burn!**

### **PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO BAN THE BURNING OF LANDSCAPE WASTE**

The discussion of leaf burning (landscape waste) has been a subject of conversation for many years and most recently it has been a hot topic for more than 12- months. The Village of Swansea held a public hearing on December 15th, which was advertised in both the Swansea Report and the Belleville News Democrat. In addition, the ordinance being considered was posted in the Swansea Report.

The discussion of modifying the burning of landscape waste continues to be a regular agenda item on the Environmental Committee. It was discovered that the practice of issuing a special "Open Burning Permit" was already in place. In our quest to be thorough, several additions have been suggested and a new proposed ordinance is under review. The main sections of the proposed ordinance are outlined below.

#### **SECTION 13-223. LIMITATIONS ON BURNING LANDSCAPE WASTE**

(A) It shall be unlawful for any person, business firm or corporation to burn, within the village corporate limits, all accumulations of grass or shrubbery cuttings, leaves, tree limbs and other materials accumulated as the result of the care of lawns, shrubbery, vines and trees.

(B) The following are exempt from subsection (A), above:

- (1) Burn permits issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; and
- (2) Burning as allowed by a Village of Swansea, Illinois or Federal emergency declaration.
- (3) Open Burning Permits as approved by the Board of Trustees. The Village of Swansea has adopted the International Fire Code (2006 ed.) ("code" for use in this section only). Section 105 of the code contains provisions regarding permits. Section 105 shall continue to apply to the issuance of Open Burning Permits with the following modifications:

(a) Section 105.6.30, "Open Burning" shall read, "An operational permit is required for the kindling or maintaining of an open fire or a fire on any public street, alley, road, or other public or private ground. Instructions and stipulations of the permit shall be adhered to.

Exception: Recreational fire and bonfires as defined in Section 302 of the code.

(b) The Fire Chief shall review an application for an Open Burning Permit, in accordance with Section 105 of the code, and shall recommend to the Board of Trustees the approval or denial of the Open Burning Permit. The Board of Trustees shall give its approval, with additional conditions it may deem necessary, or denial of the proposed Open Burning Permit, considering the safety, health and convenience of the public.

(C) Any person who violates the provisions of this section is subject to the following fines:

- (1) One hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the first occurrence; and
- (2) Three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the second occurrence; and
- (3) Five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each occurrence thereafter."

To view the proposed ordinance, in full, please visit the Village website at [www.swanseail.org](http://www.swanseail.org), or if you do not have access to a computer, visit the Swansea Government Center Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to review a hard copy of the proposed ordinance. If you would like to contact the Village Officials, send an email to [swanseaoofficials@swanseail.org](mailto:swanseaoofficials@swanseail.org).

## Chamber Offers Scholarship



**METRO-EAST  
REGIONAL**

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
SWANSEA & FAIR VIEW HEIGHTS

The Metro-East Regional Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for the Dr. Bruce Adams annual scholarship. The Chamber will offer one \$1,000.00 scholarship to a graduating student of Belleville West High School, Belleville East High School, Althoff Catholic High School, or Governor French Academy who is also a resident of Swansea or Fairview Heights. Application deadline is April 1, 2015.

For more information & application form go to the chamber website [www.MetroEastChamber.org](http://www.MetroEastChamber.org) or call 233-3938.



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department  
Community Development Group  
Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2019)  
Needs Assessment Survey

**St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department (IGD) is requesting you complete the attached survey instrument. You may print and complete the paper version and mail it to Shawn Schneider, Budget Analyst at IGD (address is below). You may also go online to the St. Clair County website at [www.co.st-clair.il.us](http://www.co.st-clair.il.us), or visit our face book page at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) to complete and submit electronically.**

Please share this survey with everyone you know residing in St. Clair County. The more responses received, the better we can prioritize the expenditures of awarded HUD funds. Thank you for your assistance.

## VILLAGE ELECTIONS

On April 7, 2015, the Consolidated Election will occur. There are three (3) Village of Swansea positions to be elected. The title for each of these positions is: "Village Trustee - four-year term." The Trustee office holders with expiring terms are Trustee Susan O'Malley, Ronald Sutterfield, and Susan Schultz. The salaries of the Trustee positions are presently \$7,200.00 per year.

**CONSOLIDATED ELECTION**  
**April 7, 2015**

\*\*\*\*\*  
LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE: March 10, 2015  
\*\*\*\*\*

ABSENTEE VOTING:

January 7, 2015 First Day to Apply for  
Application to Vote by Mail

March 30, 2015 Last Day to Apply for Application  
to Vote by Mail: Military

April 2, 2015 Last Day to Apply for Application  
to Vote by Mail: Civilian

April 6, 2015 Last Day to Vote In Person

GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION & VOTING:

March 11, 2015 First Day  
April 4, 2015 Last Day

EARLY VOTING FOR ELECTION:

March 23, 2015 First Day  
April 4, 2015 Last Day

**SWANSEA POLLING LOCATIONS**  
**April 7, 2015**

St Clair 1-5-10 Thompson Civic Center 1501 Caseyville Ave Swansea, Illinois 62226	St Clair 1 St Clair 5 St Clair 10
St Clair 3-11-21 High Mount School (Gym) 1721 Boul Ave Swansea, Illinois 62226	St Clair 3 St Clair 11 St Clair 21
St Clair 6-8-20-30 Wolf Branch Middle School 410 Huntwood Rd Swansea, Illinois 62226	St Clair 6 St Clair 8 St Clair 20 St Clair 30
Belleville 9 & 10 Westview Baptist Church 2500 Sullivan Dr. Swansea, Illinois 62226	Belleville 9 Belleville 10



### Is Your Dog Missing ???

Contact the Swansea Police Dept. to see if the police have found your dog.

**Non-emergency number  
233-8114**

### ZUMBA GOLD



**Starting Tuesday, February 10th, Zumba Gold will be at the Moose Lodge at 2425 N. Illinois, Swansea, IL from 11am-12pm.**

Instructor Sheri O'Donnell will lead you in this fun exercise. A suggested donation of \$4.00 to the St. Clair County Office of Aging will help off-set some of their cost.

For more information you can call:  
**Mary at 234-4410 ext. 7034**

### Advertising Space Is Available

If you are interested in placing an ad in this space, please call the Swansea Government Center for more details (618) 234-0044.

### BEIMFOHR ASSOCIATES

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### High Mount School District # 116 March 2015

Dear Parents:

Students will be taking the PARRC test during March. It is extremely important to the school that your child takes these tests seriously. Funding is directly affected by these tests. Also, it is a good gage as to where your child ranks with other students in the state and the nation. The school also uses these tests to improve curriculum, so we can give the students the best education that we can. Please help us create a positive testing environment.

During PARRC testing it is essential that students come to school. Not only should they come to school, but they should be well rested. Please be sure to send your children to bed at a reasonable time.

Mr. Darin Loepker, Principal  
[dloepker@highmountschool.com](mailto:dloepker@highmountschool.com)  
618-233-1054 x504

### Pancake/Sausage/Egg Breakfast March 7th – 8am-10am

The Westside Optimist Club together with the High Mount Visionary Club will host a Pancake, Sausage and Egg Breakfast in the High Mount School Cafeteria on Saturday, March 7th from 8am-10am, adults \$8, children \$5. Tickets are available in advance from any Westside Optimist member or from any Visionary Club member.

**You can also bring your electronics recycling from 8-11 on the same day. Bring anything that plugs into a wall, runs on battery (including batteries), ink, toner, cell phones, and metal, including TV's**

Mr. Darin Loepker, Principal (ext. 504)  
[dloepker@highmountschool.com](mailto:dloepker@highmountschool.com)  
1721 Boul Avenue  
Swansea, IL 62226  
618-233-1054

**Attendance Line: 233-1054 extension # 300**

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Swansea Rotary Club Student of the Month Award for the month of February goes to:

*Austin Byington, 8th grade, from High Mount School  
&  
Victoria Kellmeyer, 8th grade, from Wolf Branch School*

These Swansea students were recognized for their excellence in academics, civic and extracurricular activities.  
Congratulations!



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*Attorneys at Law*

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(618) 277-5500*