



# THE SWANSEA REPORT

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## Renting Or Not, Follow The Splash Pad Rules; Report Those Who Do Not

The Splash Pad in Schranz Park is a popular attraction. But when users violate the rules, it often requires that the splash pad be shut down for some period of time. That means your children or others may not be able to use it when you want. And tax dollars get diverted to cleaning and repairing it.

While the Village is taking steps to encourage compliance from those who rent the facility, those who simply stop by to use it on a hot day can have the same negative impact.

Among the rules are a few that are very important to keeping the spray nozzles and filter system clean and unblocked:

- No food, drink, trash, dirt, grass, water balloons (broken pieces), smoking (cigarette butts), or other debris in the splash pad area. All can clog spray nozzles.
- No glass (it may shatter)
- No dogs or pets (it is unsanitary)
- No infants/toddlers in regular diapers (also unsanitary). These children must wear tight plastic pants designed for swimming.

The Village provides our parks and the splash pad primarily for the use of our residents. Please take care of them like they are your own. And please report anyone who is not following these rules.

## Violation of Rules Shuts Down Splash Pad; Board Considers Higher Fee/Deposit

The first person to rent the Splash Pad in Schranz Park under the newly adopted ordinance allowing exclusive use, violated the rules in place and caused the facility to be shut down for some time while the systems and filters were cleaned and sanitized.

What was represented to the Village as a child's birthday party with about 10 guests, was in reality a large gathering with both children and adults. Those "renters" brought food into the splash pad area, used water balloons and broke glass beer bottles inside the fencing. Food and the balloon fragments get into the spray fixtures and clog them. Broken glass is obviously a hazard almost anywhere, but especially on the concrete surface of a water feature where people might be barefoot.

The splash pad functions as a "swimming pool", in that the water drains into a system of pipes and then into a storage tank where the water is filtered, treated with chlorine, and then recirculating back through the spray features. While that is intended to save water and money, having to empty and clean the storage tank and then refill it with fresh water and chemicals costs the Village - meaning it costs our taxpayers.

This incident resulted in the person who rented the facility being banned from doing so in the future. But it also prompted the Village to reconsider the initial rules for rental of the splash pad, and to consider making those more stringent, partially to encourage compliance and partially to recoup any costs incurred by noncompliance.

Changes that have been proposed and that are anticipated to be in place in July include:

- Increasing the rental fee to \$75 for non-residents. The fee for residents will remain at \$50.
- Requiring a security deposit of \$100 for residents and \$200 for non-residents.
- Clearly noting that any violation of the rules, including having food in the splash pad area can result in the security deposit being forfeited.
- Prohibiting rentals on holidays.
- Requiring that any business, day care or other organized group of 10 or more that comes to the park can only use the splash pad if they have reserved and rented the facility 30 days in advance.

In an effort to accommodate such groups but still preserve most of the splash pad time for families and local residents, the Village earlier passed an ordinance that allows the splash pad to be rented to the exclusion of others. But any such rental is allowed only Monday through Friday, and then only for a two hour window between the hours of 11:30 am and 1:30 pm. By 1:30, the group must have vacated the splash pad and left it clean and ready for general use by the public.

When the splash pad is reserved, that reservation will be posted on site. Only the party reserving it is allowed to use it during that time period. If a reservation is not posted, the splash pad can openly be used by anyone, to its maximum capacity of 50 people.

## News Briefs

### Deadline to Apply for Public Works Position is July 6th

Randy Campbell, a 16 year employee of the Village retired in June leaving an opening in the Public Works Department. The Village is therefore taking applications until 4:30pm on July 6th.

The position of Public Works Crew is a regular, full-time, non-exempt position. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and at the time of application must possess a CDL Class A or B license issued by the State of Illinois, with air brake endorsement. Applicants without the CDL license will not be considered.

The full position description, requirements, and application form is available on the Village website at [www.swanseail.org/2217/Employment-Opportunity](http://www.swanseail.org/2217/Employment-Opportunity). Interested persons may also pick up an application packet from the Swansea Government Center, 1400 N. Illinois St., Swansea, IL, Monday through Friday, from 8:00am until 4:30pm. The Village of Swansea is an equal opportunity employer.

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### Village Continues to Pursue Resolution to Quality of Work Issues on Western Sanitary Sewer Project - Phase II

Having declared the contractor who was replacing a portion of the sanitary sewer main leading to the Western Avenue Lift Station to be in default of their contract, the Village is now working with that contractor's insurance company to have the project completed by another company.

Residents affected by the project have had to deal with ruts in yards, damage to trees, and construction debris that the contractor failed to correct. The Village is working diligently through the required processes to get those issues addressed as quickly as is possible.

In one case the Village has already moved ahead. A creek crossing is leaking and allowing water from the creek into the sanitary sewers. The Village Board has already let contracts to have that issue addressed now, rather than wait.

### New Street Overlay Project Starting In Caseyville Avenue Area

In June, employees from the Village's Public Works Department wrapped up the advance preparation work, including removing concrete patches

and replacing or adjusting storm water culverts so that Rooters Asphalt can begin their contract to overlay Caseyville Avenue and other nearby streets. They were expected to begin the last week of June.

While the rough roads following the replacement of water mains by Illinois American Water have been a headache for residents and those who regularly travel these roads, the end result should be much better than the previous oil and chip pavement. Illinois American agreed to participate financially in overlaying rather than patching the streets. The additional funding provided from them will allow the Village to resurface every oil and chip street with asphalt pavement in this area bounded by 17th Street, North Belt West, Caseyville Ave and Morgan St.

### Government Center Closed Monday, July 4th Holiday Also Affects Trash, Recycling & Yard Waste

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Monday, July 4th for the Independence Day holiday. The normal Monday evening Village Board and committee meetings shift to Tuesday, July 5th.

The holiday is also observed by Republic Services. As such, the collection of trash and recycling will shift one day for all routes that week. Normal Mon pickup shifts to Tue, Tue to Wed, Thu to Fri, and Fri to Sat. Wed yard waste shifts to Thur.



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# News Briefs

## Village Board Meeting Start Time Changed

The start time of the regular meetings of the Village Board of Trustees has shifted from 7:00pm until 7:30pm. The Committee meetings on the same evening will still begin at 6:00pm. The change is intended to allow more time for committee discussions and to help facilitate the completion of all committee business before the beginning of the Board meeting.

## Remember Leaf Burning Ended June 15

A reminder that June 15th was the last day to burn yard waste in Swansea until the Fall. Burning is banned again until Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> through Nov. 30th, and allowed then only on Wednesday's and Saturday's from 11:00am until 4:00pm. In between residents may compost, use Republic Services yard waste collection (call 618 656-6883), or take their yard waste to St. Louis Compost, located at 3521 Centerville Ave. in Belleville.

## Swansea Requires Occupancy Permits

The Village of Swansea has adopted the St. Clair County Property Maintenance Code which put into place a Property Inspection and Occupancy Permit Program for all residential properties and dwellings in the Village. For the health, safety and protection of the new residents, these structures must pass an inspection before an occupancy permit is issued and before anyone can move in.

All rental properties, as well as all owner-occupied properties are included in the program, but an inspection is only required when there is a change in the tenant or occupant, or when property is sold.

The St. Clair County Building & Zoning Department conducts the actual inspection and forwards the results to the Village. The Village then issues an occupancy permit for those properties that pass inspection.

The specific inspections performed may depend upon the type of dwelling that is involved. Call St. Clair County Building and Zoning at

825-2532 with any questions and to schedule an inspection. Occupancy permit information can be obtained from the Swansea Government Center at 234-0044. Permits must be requested in person and you can do so Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Specific documentation is required at the time of application:

- A photo ID for the person applying for the permit,
- A copy of the lease or rent receipt if renting,
- A copy of the sales contract or closing papers if buying,
- A list of all persons who will occupy the residence, including their name, age, and date of birth, and
- A permit fee of \$30.00, cash, check, debit or charge.



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# News Briefs

## Swansea Rotary Awards 2016 Scholarships

The Rotary Club of Swansea recently announced the recipients of two \$3,000 scholarships under the club's 2016 Chad Wood Memorial Scholarship program.



The first recipient is Hannah Geppert, a Belleville East High School graduate and daughter of

Shawn Geppert, who plans to attend SWIC and then SEMO to pursue a career in Special Education.

The second recipient is Scott Semko, a graduate of Althoff



Catholic High School and the son of Mark and Paula Semko. Scott will attend the University of Illinois and pursue a degree in Business.

The scholarships are made possible through the Annual Service Above Self 5K that was held on June 4, 2016. The Chad Wood Memorial Scholarship was created to honor the memory of Chad Wood who passed unexpectedly on May 8, 2005. Chad was the son of Penny and Ray Wood, and Ray was the Charter President when the Rotary Club of Swansea was formed in 2002.

## Doing Business With the Village of Swansea

The Village of Swansea is developing a "bidders list" of local business that may want to provide goods and services to the Village. When the Village needs to purchase products or services it does so either by advertising for sealed bids or by requesting price quotations.

The exact approach depends upon the expected cost and other factors.

But if the need is for a product or service you provide and you are on the list of interested businesses, the Village will notify you along with any others on the list. If the Village needs something for which it has no list, it will try to identify potential providers and contact them.

Generally, the Village tries to secure pricing from at least three vendors. And generally the purchase is made from the vendor offering the lowest price, although other factors related to vendor qualifications may enter into and affect that final decision. If interested, send an email to swanadm@swanseail.org, and provide the following:

- The general category of products or services you offer
- Your business name
- Your contact name
- Your address, phone and email info
- A website address, if you have one

A staff member may contact you following your email if they need to clarify any information or gather any additional information.

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042015-0552240

# Police And Fire Youth Academy Well Attended

Over 50 young people participated in the 2nd Annual Swansea Police and Fire Youth Academy. The 3-day event started Monday, June 20th and continued through Wednesday June 23rd. It was hosted at Engine House #2 on Huntwood Road.

The young participants, aged 9-13, met from 8:00am until 4:00pm each day, and had the opportunity to experience law enforcement training, K-9 and fire department demonstrations, leadership preparation, and much more, through both classroom and hands on instruction.

Each received a Youth Academy T-shirt and lunch was provided each day. Because of generous donations from the public there was no fee for participating and all costs were covered.



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# Most Fireworks Are Illegal In Illinois: Consider Consequences

If you are new to the area, please note that it is illegal for anyone in the State of Illinois to shoot off fireworks, or to even have them in their possession. Illegal "fireworks" are specifically defined in the laws but generally include any that explode, including firecrackers, bottle rockets, other rockets and Roman candles.

Possession is a petty offense if you have less than one pound of illegal fireworks, a class B misdemeanor if you have between 1 and 3 pounds, and a class A misdemeanor if you have more than 3 pounds.

As specified in the law, the term "fireworks" does not include snake or glow worm pellets, smoke devices, party poppers, or sparklers. So if you see "fireworks" for sale in local stores, they should be these legal varieties. And while most vendors who set up temporary stands on parking lots will only sell what is legal, it seems as though every year brings a newspaper story about a

vendor who tries to sell fireworks banned by the law. Therefore, you can't always assume that because you bought it in Illinois it is legal in Illinois.

In our area it is also not unusual for Illinois residents to cross over into Missouri, buy fireworks that are legal there, but then bring them back into Illinois where they are illegal.

But Illinois' laws are not waived or suspended for the 4th of July or any other special day. So if you are thinking of bringing illegal fireworks into Swansea and shooting them off for the holiday, please consider the potential consequences.

First, suppose your illegal sky rocket goes off course, through your neighbor's window, and burns their house to the ground. Does your homeowner's policy cover your illegal acts? Or suppose a neighborhood child is seriously injured by a cherry bomb or pack of firecrackers. Are you covered for that injury?

Insurance coverage may be more certain if your neighbor's child is hurt by your "legal" sparkler but you may still be financially liable, and a child would still be injured. A sparkler burns at a

temperature of 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. And the scenario doesn't have to be a neighbor's child...it could just as easily be your own child or grandchild who is injured.

A second possibility is that a neighbor complains to the Police Department and a police officer shows up at your home. The consequence could range from having to simply cease your actions and surrender your fireworks, to the potential of being cited. Some residents might be willing to gamble with that - believing that even if a neighbor calls, the police have better things to do than handle "fireworks calls". And they may.

Certainly if two calls come in at the same time, one for an auto accident and the other a neighbor complaining about the noise of your fireworks, the police officer will be dispatched first to the auto accident.

But that also puts the Village into a tough position of having to prioritize our response to calls when in fact the simple complaint about the noise of fireworks could escalate to that house fire or child being injured.

So in reality on the 4th of July as well as the days surrounding the holiday, those who illegally shoot off fireworks add to the workload of our Police Department, and maybe our Fire Department. They pull resources away from other needs.

Please consider all of these possibilities, and the alternatives outlined on the facing page.



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# The Legal Alternatives to DIY

When it comes to fireworks it is best to leave the pyrotechnics to the professionals. The following is a list of some of the professional displays in our area this holiday.

For the largest display by far, cross the river to **Fair St. Louis**, held again this year in Forest Park. Fireworks are scheduled for all three nights: July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:05 PM, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 PM, and July 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 PM. Complete details about the fair are at <http://www.fairsaintlouis.org/>.

For smaller crowds, also consider:

### Edwardsville Community Fireworks

July 2, 2016 at Dusk  
American Legion - Golf Course  
58 South State Rt. 157, Edwardsville, IL  
Fireworks are Free  
Other festivities start at 2:00pm. Old time carnival type theme with ring toss, balloon darts, duck and fish ponds, plinko, and much more. Will also have inflatables, face painting, and hot dog eating contest at 6:30 pm. Funds raised help support veterans & their families.

### Caseyville Picnic & Fireworks

July 2, 2016 at Dusk  
(Rain Date July 3, 2016 at Dusk)  
Caseyville Park, 40 W Reynolds  
Caseyville, IL  
Fireworks are Free  
Lots of food, activities and fun.



### Carlyle Lake Fireworks Spectacular

July 2, 2016 at Dusk  
Carlyle Lake, Carlyle, IL  
Fireworks are Free  
Events and live music all day concludes with large fireworks display shot from Point 1 and can be viewed by boat or by shore in the Dam West and Dam East Recreation Areas.

### Alton / Godfrey Fireworks on the Mississippi

July 3, 2016 at 9:00pm  
Alton Riverfront Park, Alton, Illinois  
618-465-6676.  
Fireworks are Free  
Live music. Near the Clark Bridge.

### Mascoutah Old Fashioned July 4th

July 4, 2016 at Dusk  
Scheve Park, 6th St. & Harnett  
Mascoutah, IL  
618-566-2964  
Fireworks are Free  
Music, Food, Drinks, Kid's Games, Pony Rides, and much more starting at 4 p.m.

### Columbia July 4th Celebration

July 4, 2016 at Dusk  
American Legion Park  
375 E. Locust St., Columbia IL  
(618) 281-8000  
Fireworks are Free  
Music and refreshments while you wait for the fireworks display at dusk.

### Patriots In The Park

July 4, 2016 at 9:15pm  
Coolidge Middle School  
3231 Nameoki Road, Granite City, IL  
618-877-3059  
Fireworks are Free; other events and activities may include a fee  
Carnival runs July 1-4, 2016. Other events include Patriot Idol, Car Show, Parachute demonstrations and more.

### Highland 4th of July Fireworks

Date: July 4, 2016 at Dusk  
Glik Park, 12525 Sportsman Road  
Highland IL  
Fireworks are Free  
Bring blanket or lawn chairs. Music, inflatables, food and drink. Coolers are not permitted to be brought into the park grounds.

## VILLAGE OF SWANSEA CONTACT INFO

**Swansea Government Center**  
1400 N. Illinois Street  
Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm, M-F  
[www.swanseail.org](http://www.swanseail.org)

**Administration,  
Mayor's Office, Village Clerk,  
Utility Billing & Public Works**  
Phone: 618-234-0044  
[swanadm@swanseail.org](mailto:swanadm@swanseail.org)

**Building, Zoning, Permits**  
Phone: 618-355-0280  
[swanbnz@swanseail.org](mailto:swanbnz@swanseail.org)

**Swansea Police Department  
Emergency: 911**  
Non-emergency: 618-233-8114  
[swanseap@swanseail.org](mailto:swanseap@swanseail.org)

**Swansea Fire Department  
Emergency: 911**  
Engine House: 618-234-3291

### Village of Swansea Officials

**President: Ken Mueller**  
[mayor@swanseail.org](mailto:mayor@swanseail.org)

**Village Clerk Lauren O'Neill**  
[loNeill@swanseail.org](mailto:loNeill@swanseail.org)

**Treasurer Michael W. Leopold**  
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# Swansea Ranks 5th Among St. Louis Suburbs in Illinois

A web based company that describes its mission as "...gathering data from around the web to help determine a wide array of factors about where you live, things like safety, desirability and culture..." recently took on the task of naming the Best St. Louis Suburbs. Called "HomeSnacks", the company tries to present the info in 'bite-sized pieces' for quick consumption.

Noting that big city living has its drawbacks, the company focused on suburbs near big cities, where residents can take advantage of things like jobs and entertainment without the 'disadvantages' that sometimes come from actually living in a big city, such as traffic, parking, crime, and higher costs.

In the St. Louis region the company analyzed several factors that people prefer:

- Low unemployment rate
- High Median household incomes
- Population density (= lots to do)
- High home values
- A lot of college educated people

They then used data from the 2010-

2014 American Community Survey to research each suburb, with at least 5,000 people, that is part of the St. Louis, MO-IL Urbanized Area. Each place was ranked in each category, and an average ranking was determined for each place. This created a quality of life index and overall ranking order.

The population density factor skewed results towards the Missouri suburbs, meaning that Glen Carbon, ranked 25th, was the highest ranked suburb on the Illinois side of the river. Swansea, at number 32 overall, was the 5th highest ranked Illinois suburb.

## Where To Live - The Best Burbs Around St. Louis: Illinois Side

City	Rank	Population	Unemployment Rate	Median Home Price	Median Income
Glen Carbon	25	13,095	6.10%	\$204,200	\$69,419
Maryville	27	7,727	8.10%	\$189,600	\$80,504
Edwardsville	30	24,464	5.00%	\$185,800	\$70,791
Shiloh	28	12,706	5.70%	\$209,400	\$81,731
Swansea	32	13,870	6.20%	\$162,300	\$66,491
O'Fallon	33	29,100	9.00%	\$193,300	\$79,795
Troy	35	9,931	7.50%	\$168,400	\$69,467
Columbia	36	9,889	7.10%	\$188,200	\$65,286
Mascoutah	40	7,675	10.30%	\$146,600	\$66,701
Fairview Heights	41	17,250	5.70%	\$126,800	\$60,427
Belleville	43	43,296	7.00%	\$103,600	\$46,558
Collinsville	53	25,282	10.20%	\$123,300	\$52,821
Centreville	57	5,208	24.40%	\$54,300	\$17,396
Granite City	58	29,764	10.60%	\$82,000	\$43,759
East St. Louis	60	26,697	16.40%	\$57,000	\$19,856
Pontoon Beach	62	5,804	10.90%	\$87,500	\$47,121
Cahokia	63	14,905	15.90%	\$53,900	\$30,394

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# Memorial Day A Fitting Tribute

This year's Memorial Day ceremony was held on Monday, May 30th, at Melvin Price Memorial Park. Participating in the ceremony were (left to right) Deacon Art Hampton, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, USMC retired; Mayor Ken Mueller, USAF retired; Keynote speaker USAF Colonel Linda Guerrero, AMC Surgeon General Staff, in charge of Aeromedical Evacuation Readiness; and resident Roger Relfe, retired Royal Air Force Squadron Leader as Master of Ceremonies. The Westview Baptist Church Worship Team offered moving, patriotic music.



Members of the Metro East Regional Chamber of Commerce, public officials and staff cut the ribbon on May 17th during the open house event for the new MedExpress facility at 2524 N. Illinois Street, the company's first in Illinois.



Ruby's opened at 2708 N. Illinois Street on May 20th with a ribbon cutting. The business offers breakfast, lunch and dinner, along with drinks and video gaming.

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## PLEASE SHOP IN SWANSEA

Shopping in Swansea, particularly for items on which you pay sales tax, brings sales tax revenue into your community rather than into another. That sales tax is vital to funding the public services you receive, and to help keep Swansea property taxes from having to increase. In the end, supporting local retailers supports you.

## Swansea Farmer's Market

It's July, the market is heating up. Our unique crops and crafts are even more in abundance. There is nothing like FRESH produce.

**SENIORS:** The Senior Coupons should be available all month long for those 60 and older; that's \$21 of free produce. Each week we are serving up something good to eat.

You will find us in the parking lot of Rural King, 2801 N. Illinois Street, Swansea. We operate on Thursdays 11am - 3 pm, rain or shine. Come out and see what we have to offer and perhaps grab a bite to eat.

For additional information, you may contact Norm Geolat at 978-8753, or [swanseafarmersmarket@yahoo.com](mailto:swanseafarmersmarket@yahoo.com) or visit the Facebook page at Swansea Farmers. Don't miss out.



## Westview Baptist Church to Host Family Event at Schranz Park *All Swansea Residents Are Invited*

Westview Baptist Church in Swansea is inviting all residents to join them for "Sunday in the Park" on Sunday, July 10th. The event is free.

The family fun begins at 4:00pm and continues until 6:00pm. The church will have free food available for those who attend. They will also have a 20 foot aqua bounce house slide for the kids, and the Splash Pad will be open and operational. Again the event is free so drop on by and bring your friends and neighbors with you.

## Leo, Swansea's K9, Completes Training

On June 17th, Police Officer Nick Van Waes and his K9 Leo, completed their 12 week training through the St. Louis K9 Academy. Leo has been trained with specific skills including suspect apprehension, officer protection, and detection of narcotics. In the photo below he demonstrates his ability to find narcotics hidden in a vehicle. Both are back in patrol rotation and protecting the citizens of Swansea.



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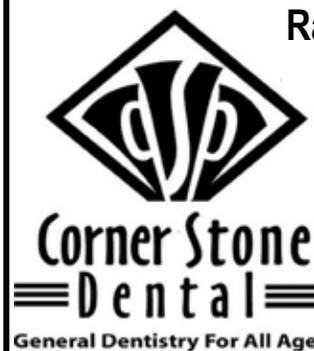
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# Swansea Community Calendar - July 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
					1	2	
3	 <b>Independence Day</b> Govt Center Closed	4 <b>Committee Meetings</b> 6:00pm Govt. Center <b>Village Board Meeting</b> 7:30pm Govt. Center	5	6	7	8 <b>Chamber of Commerce Morning Mingle</b> 7:45am - 9:00am Recreation Center Fairview Heights Rec Center, 10025 Bunkum	9 <b>Swansea Park Board Meeting</b> 7:00am Norman Lehr Center  <b>Swansea Patriots Meeting</b> 8:00am Norman Lehr Center
10	11	12 <b>Planning and Zoning Board Meeting</b> If needed 6:00pm Govt. Center	13	14 <b>Swansea Farmer's Market</b> 11:00am - 3:00pm Rural King Parking Lot	15	16	
17	18 <b>Committee Meetings</b> 6:00pm Govt. Center <b>Village Board Meeting</b> 7:30pm Govt. Center	19	20 <b>Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours</b> Apartment Community at Our Lady of the Snows, 5:00-7:00pm	21 <b>Swansea Farmer's Market</b> 11:00am - 3:00pm Rural King Parking Lot	22	23	
24 31	25	26	27	28 <b>Swansea Farmer's Market</b> 11:00am - 3:00pm Rural King Parking Lot	29	30	

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