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VOLUME 31, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2016

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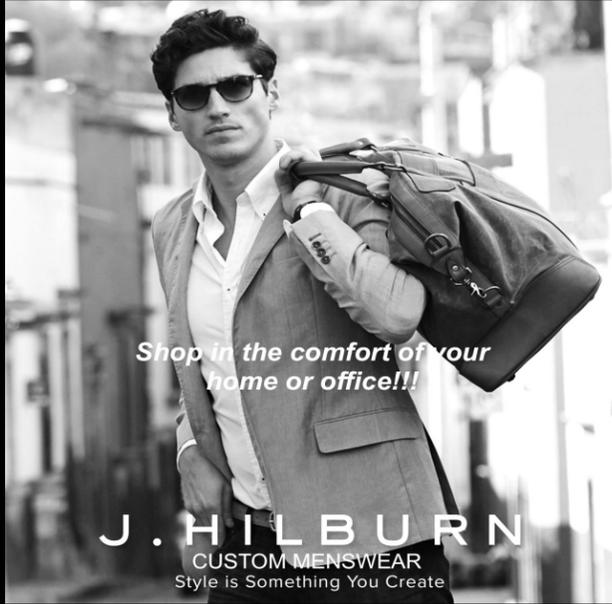
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Village Hopes to Move into "New" Government Center Before Oct 1st

The Village is still in the process of remodeling the building at 1444 Boul Avenue to convert it into the Village's new Government Center. The 4,600 square foot structure will become home to the Village's elected officials, administrative, sewer billing, and building and zoning staff, as well as the Village Board meeting room.

The current schedule anticipates moving by the end of September with the facility fully operational by October 1st. If that schedule holds true, the offices at 1400 N. Illinois Street may be closed on Friday, September 30th to allow time for staff to move from one building to the next.

So far the building has gotten a new roof and new HVAC systems. Interior walls have been removed or added to meet the needs of the Village, and that is being followed by plastering, painting, new ceilings in some areas, and new flooring.

To the greatest extent possible, the Village intends to reuse existing furniture and equipment.

Once the Government Center has been relocated, the existing building at 1400 N. Illinois Street will become strictly a police station and will be remodeled itself to accommodate the Department's needs.

Do Storm Clean-Up Attitudes Indicate a Shift in Expectations for Government?

In the immediate aftermath of the July 13th storm that swept through Swansea, almost every north-south street in the area north of Morgan Ave. and east of N. 17th Street was completely blocked by fallen trees.

Public Work crews went there first. While the trees did not belong to the Village, our immediate task was to clear our right-of-way so that residents and emergency vehicles had clear passage. We cut that path and then returned the next day to cut up and remove those tree sections that had fallen across the roads.

That, and removing any fallen trees that were actually on our property or right of way, is the limit of our true responsibility for storm clean-up.

But because of the extensive damage throughout Swansea, the Mayor authorized the use of Public Work crews and equipment to pick up limbs and branches that residents placed at the curb or edge of the street. Other communities in our area did not offer this 'free' service to their residents, but Swansea did.

Yet the service is not really free. It required extensive use of staff time to the exclusion of other tasks that got put on hold. It required the rental of additional equipment to effectively handle to size of the brush being collected. And it will require paying someone to come in and chip up the branches to convert them into mulch. None of these expenses were included in an already tight budget so the Village is faced with finding a way to cover the cost.

Still, many residents who called the Government Center clearly expected the Village to provide this service. When we did, some expressed their gratitude. But others wanted more.

Some asked crews to enter upon their private property to retrieve limbs or trees. Some asked that we come back multiple times to make pickups each week. Some had professional tree services do their work but tried to leave the limbs and stumps for the Village to deal with. And some took advantage of the situation to try to get rid of accumulated yard waste or to cut down a tree they had been meaning to remove, claiming it was lost in the storm in order to have the remnants hauled away by the Village.

All of this provides an interesting glimpse at the changing relationship between government and its citizenry - a common theme whether at the national, state or local level. While on one hand there is a frequent call for lower taxes and greater government efficiency, there is often an expectation that government do more, provide more services, and step beyond its traditional role.

An example of this evolution may be most evident in our educational system. Today schools often provide before and after school care. They offer breakfast as well as lunch. The curriculum has evolved from "reading, (w)riting, and (a)rithmetic", to address life skills and social issues. What used to be taught at home is now taught in the classroom.

See *Government's Role* on page 3

News Briefs

Village Annexing 38 Acres At Frank Scott Parkway and Sullivan Dr.

The Village will soon finalize the annexation of approximately 38 acres of undeveloped land at the intersection of Frank Scott Parkway West and Sullivan Drive. The property in the southwest quadrant of that intersection had been for sale for some time, and there is now interest in proceeding with its development.

A formal proposal is expected to be submitted for multi-family housing on part of the property with commercial development on the balance. The property was zoned for both as part of the annexation agreement.

Since the economic downturn of 2007-2008, there has been a noted shift in demand from single-family to multi-family housing, driven to some degree by aging baby boomers and millennials who tend to favor low maintenance housing options. The Federal Reserve has projected that by 2020 multifamily construction is likely to peak at a level nearly two-thirds higher than the highest annual level during the 1990s and 2000s.

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Owner of Another 200+ Acres On North Side Of Frank Scott Pkwy Also Requests Annexation

As the Village was completing annexation of the 38 acres in the southwest quadrant of the Frank Scott Parkway West and Sullivan Drive intersection, the owner of the property in the northwest quadrant expressed his interest in annexation as well.

Over 200 acres on that side of the roadways is being proposed for annexation and development. The corner of the property had been previously cleared and graded and the water service has been extended to the parcels. The Village will be considering how to most effectively and efficiently provide sewer service to the developments on both the north and south sides of Frank Scott Parkway.

Traffic counts are high through the intersection and it could be an ideal location for commercial development. Swansea would particularly like to attract sales tax generating businesses because they increase revenue without direct taxation to Village residents.

The north side might be an ideal location for "small box" development, along with a bank and strip retail centers. The balance of the property will probably be developed with a mixture of multi-family and single-family housing.

Swansea Police & Fire Charity Kickball Tournament Sept 10th

The Swansea Police and Fire Departments are co-sponsoring a Kickball Tournament on Sept 10th as a benefit for the BackStoppers Organization. COED teams of 10-12 players will square off against each other starting at 9:00am that Saturday morning. The event takes place at Melvin Price Memorial Park.

Food and drink will be sold on site and there will be other ways that "fans" can help to contribute money towards the charity. So consider coming out to cheer on the teams and help this worthy cause.

Government Center Closed For Labor Day

Trash, Recycling, Yard Waste Collection Will Be Delayed

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Monday, September 5th for the Labor Day holiday. The normal Monday evening Village Board and committee meetings shift to Tuesday, Sept 6th.

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.

Swansea Community Calendar - September 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Mark Your Calendar For Oct 8th! The Swansea Park Board is planning a volunteer day to spruce up Melvin Price Park on Saturday Oct 8th starting at 8:00am. Focus will be on cleaning up planting areas. Please come out and help. More details in the Oct issue.			1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day  Labor Day Holiday Govt Center Closed	6 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center	7	8 Swansea Farmer's Market 11:00am - 3:00pm Rural King Parking Lot	9 Chamber of Commerce Morning Mingle 7:45am - 9:00am Recreation Center Fairview Heights Rec Center, 10025 Bunkum	10 Swansea Park Board Meeting 7:00am Norman Lehr Center Swansea Patriots Meeting 8:00am Norman Lehr Center Kickball Tournament Mel Price Park Starting at 9:00 AM
11 Patriot Day Observed as a National Day of Service and Remembrance	12	13 Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6:00pm Govt. Center	14	15 Swansea Farmer's Market 11:00am - 3:00pm Rural King Parking Lot	16	17
18	19 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center	20	21 Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Sponsored by: Answer Direct Solutions, 5:00-7:00pm	22 Swansea Farmer's Market 11:00am - 3:00pm Rural King Parking Lot	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Swansea Farmer's Market 11:00am - 3:00pm Rural King Parking Lot	30 Govt Center May Be Closed To Allow For Move to 1444 Boul Ave	

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News Briefs

Swansea Farmer's Market

The produce has been incredible this year. And now the weather should make this a great time to really enjoy your farmer's market. We have an abundance of produce, baked goods, refreshments, and crafts. We have had over 20 vendors.



The Market is easy to find - located on the parking lot of Rural King, at 2801 N. Illinois Street, Swansea. The Market runs from 11:00am - 3:00pm Thursdays, rain or shine. **SENIORS:** A limited number of coupons are still available. Don't miss out.

For additional information, you may contact Norm Geolat at 978-8753, or swanseafarmersmarket@yahoo.com or visit the Facebook page at Swansea Farmers. Look forward to seeing you there.



Clayton Keller Proclamation

On August 16th the Village Board issued a proclamation recognizing Clayton Keller for his achievements to date. Keller was recently selected 7th overall in the National Hockey League entry draft, going to the Arizona Coyotes. The 19 year old grew up in Swansea and attended Wolf Branch School.

2016 Citizen's Police Academy Begins Oct 4th

This year's Swansea Police Dept. "Citizen's Police Academy" will be held on six consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6:00pm - 8:30pm, starting Oct 4th and ending Nov 8th. The program focuses on drug education, patrol techniques, crime scenes, Officer involved shootings, law enforcement technology, and community involvement. It also offers ride along opportunities.

The Academy is limited to 25 people. You must be at least 21 years of age, possess a Valid Driver's License, pass a criminal background check (i.e. no felonies, no domestic batteries), live or work in the Village, and sign a liability waiver/release. Apply by emailing your interest to SwanseaP@Swanseail.org or call 618-233-8114 and ask for Michele. There is a \$35.00 per person 'cost', paid in the form of a donation to the 2017 Swansea Police & Fire Youth Academy.

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Village Still Working to Resolve Quality of Work on Western Sanitary Sewer Project - Phase II

The Village continues to pursue a resolution to the problems identified with the sanitary sewer main construction leading to the Western Avenue Lift Station. Since declaring the contractor in default Swansea has been working with their insurer to address the issues, get the project completed, and the site cleaned up.

Issues at one creek crossing where storm water was entering the system have already been addressed by emergency replacement of that section. Multiple errors in alignment, elevation, loose joints and broken pipes were found when the previous contractor's work was unearthed.

Their insurer has hired an engineer to work with the Village's engineer to agree upon a 'plan of attack' for the rest of the work. While this may postpone fixing other issues, it is the best option available to Swansea if the goal is to get the project completed without additional cost.

Government's Role *continued from page 1*

What may not be entirely clear is if that evolution is the result of parents consciously relinquishing their responsibilities, or the result of government progressively assuming more responsibilities. More than likely, it is a combination of the two.

So the local question becomes "As Swansea offers a service like storm clean-up in response to a specific event, do we create an expectation in our citizenry that we will do the same for every storm event?"

Is this an appropriate role for local government? A service that is best provided by government because we as citizens can not effectively provide it for ourselves?

In the Village Board's visioning session and in the recently initiated Comprehensive Plan process, the Village is looking to define and discuss what is meant by "community". In essence, human beings come together in community because we have some needs that we can not effectively provide for ourselves individually. Police protection and fire fighting are good

examples. So is the construction and maintenance of streets. Or the collection and treatment of wastewater.

People live in a community and agree to collectively fund specific services through taxes because we believe those services can be provided by government more efficiently, effectively and economically, than they could be provided by individuals.

Yet we don't ask government to mow the grass in each of our lawns, because government can't do that as efficiently as each of us could do ourselves. It would cost us more.

John F. Kennedy made famous a quote by Gibran Khalil Gibran: "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

We say, ask: "What can I as an individual do to help my community - to help Swansea? What could I do to help a neighbor? How can I help develop and nurture a culture where we are willing to sometimes take care of ourselves and each other?"

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News Briefs

Schools Are Back In Session - Watch for Students Obey Traffic Laws Re: School Buses

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

This may be a good time to also review traffic laws related to school buses. Flashing red lights on a school bus mean drivers are required to stop when approaching that bus, either heading in the same direction or in the other lane heading in the opposite direction. It is unlawful to pass a stopped bus, so please be patient and wait until its red lights are turned off and its stop sign retracted.



There are some exceptions for 4-lane roads, such as IL Rte.159 and IL Rte. 161 in Swansea. On those highways, children are not allowed to cross the street after being discharged. Traffic headed in the same direction as the bus must still stop and wait for the bus to turn off its red flashing lights, but traffic headed in the opposite direction can and should proceed, while still being cautious.

Understand that children may be distracted and thus unaware of the dangers when they exit the bus. They expect vehicles to yield so they may walk into the street with that expectation.

Violations tend to occur at designated bus stops, in front of the homes of special needs students where the bus may be loading or discharging a single child, in parking lots and even in front of the schools themselves.

Most violations result from drivers not understanding the law or from being distracted until it's too late. But a citation could result in your license being suspended. Drive carefully.

Comprehensive Plan In Process

At the August 9th Planning and Zoning Board meeting the Village officially kicked off the process for revising and updating Swansea's Comprehensive Plan document.

Todd Streiler of Streiler Planning outlined the timetable and major steps that will be part of that process. He plans to hold at least two public input sessions and is in the process of developing a survey that will be made available to any resident who wants to provide their insights and comments. He will also complete in-depth interviews with a handful of stakeholders to get a better feel for the history of Swansea and those individual perspectives of the community going into the future.

The Planning & Zoning Board, along with the Mayor, Village Administrator and Deputy Code Administrator will serve as the Steering Committee. Their next meeting will be September 13th at 6:00pm.

Some May Save Money With Summer Usage Deduction - Allows Credit On Sewer Bills

The Village allows residents to apply for a credit on their sewer bills to offset sewer charges for water usage that did not enter the sanitary sewer system. Good examples of this are watering a lawn or filling a swimming pool. Residents who buy and use a deduct meter can have 100% of that water usage removed from the calculation of sewer charges, based upon the meter reading.

Because such usage typically occurs during the summer, the Village also provides a credit option to those without a deduct meter - provided they have lived at the property for at least one year. This credit is only available to property owners, not to renters.

The credit is determined by calculating the difference between the customer's average water consumption reflected on the first two bi-monthly sewer bills issued after May 1st, and the average water consumption reflected on the four bi-monthly sewer bills immediately preceding that same May 1st. 50% of that difference between winter and summer average consumption, is then subtracted from the actual consumption on the next bill, and sewer charges are calculated on the balance.

To apply, complete the form to the right and mail or drop off to the addresses indicated. Deadline to apply is Oct. 15th. You must reapply each year.

APPLICATION FOR SUMMER USAGE DEDUCTION

Submit Between September 15, 2016 and October 15, 2016
Before Oct. 1: To 209 Service St., Swansea, IL 62226
After Oct. 1: To 1444 Boul Avenue, Swansea, IL 62226
Or Fax to 618-722-2203

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Sewer Account Number: _____

Day Phone Number: _____

Have you resided at this property for one year? _____

I certify that the above information is true and correct, and I therefore request a Summer Usage Deduction on my sewer bill for the above address.

Signature _____ Date _____

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News Briefs

Municipal Election Process Begins Soon

While there is a great deal of focus on the Presidential election right now, Swansea and other area municipalities will hold local elections on April 4th, 2017. And while that date is more than 7 months away, the path to that election begins much sooner.

In April, residents will cast votes for the positions of Mayor (President of the Board), Clerk, Treasurer and three Trustees. Persons interested in being a candidate for any of those positions could begin to circulate nomination petitions on Sept. 20, 2016. Candidates would then file their petitions starting Dec. 12, 2016, and no later than Dec. 19, 2016.

Anyone interested is encouraged to first visit the website for the State Board of Elections at <https://www.elections.il.gov/> InfoForCandidates.aspx, and download the Candidates Guide for 2017. The document covers all units of local government so parts do not apply to municipal elections, but the document is perhaps the most comprehensive resource for anyone considering candidacy.

The Village Clerk's office will also have information available at the Government Center on Sept. 20th.

Yard Waste Burning Not Allowed Until Oct 1

A number of area municipalities completely ban the burning of leaves and yard waste. In an attempt to find some middle ground, Swansea allows this method of disposal during specific times of the year but only on certain days and times.

Any such burning is banned by ordinance until Oct. 1st. It will then be temporarily allowed through Nov. 30th. However, the option is further limited to only on Wednesday's and Saturday's between those dates, and between 11:00am and 4:00pm on those Wednesday's and Saturday's. Any such fire must be completely extinguished by 4:00pm each day. Any burning must occur on your property, not along the edge of the Village's streets, on the Village's right-of-way, or in any drainage ditch within that right-of-way.

Fires must be attended at all times and the Fire Department strongly encourages residents to refrain from burning on windy days when a small fire can quickly grow to be unmanageable and threaten your home and property.

There are other options available to residents. Republic Services offers yard waste collection for an additional fee (call 618 656-6883). Or residents can take yard waste to St. Louis Compost, located at 3521 Centerville Ave. in Belleville. Or residents can mulch or compost leaves on site.

Village Employees Recognized for Service

At the July 18th Personnel Committee meeting the Village formally recognized three employees for their service to Swansea.

Dale Flach was recognized for 39 years with the Village. Dale started at the wastewater treatment plant but soon moved to the Street Department (now Public Works) where he has been employed ever since.

Steve Rebenstorff, also an employee of the Public Works Department was recognized for his 35 years of service to the Village.

Jack Korves, a firefighter, was recognized for 10 years in that capacity with the Village.

New Employee Hired In Public Works Dept.

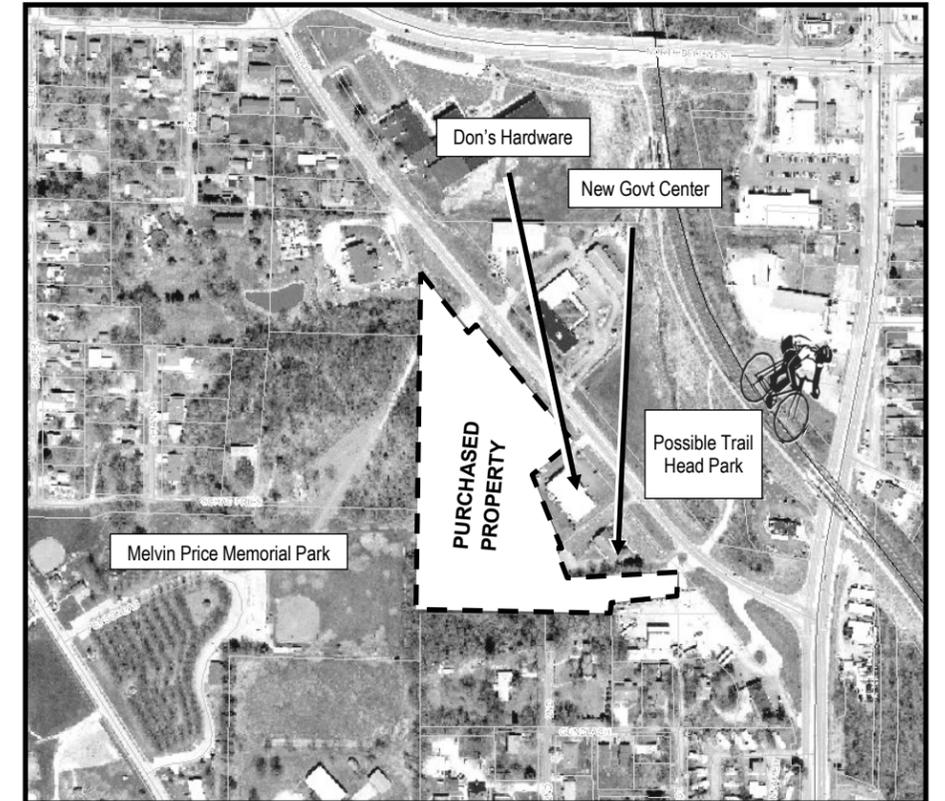
The Personnel Committee also recently recommended the hiring of Joe Kern in the Public Works Dept., filling the spot left open by the retirement of another employee. Joe comes to the Village with a significant amount of experience, including four years with another municipality. He also has a wastewater operators license, water operators license, and has training and experience in auto repair, small engine repair, and the operation of equipment like backhoe, track hoe and front end loader. He started with the Village Aug 1st.

Swansea Buys 7.4 Acres on Boul Ave

The Village of Swansea is completing the purchase of 7.36 acres of vacant property at 1500 Boul Avenue. The parcel wraps behind the new Government Center building and behind Don's Hardware, but also fronts Boul Avenue. It had been for sale for a number of years with a recent asking price of \$295,000. The Village paid \$140,000.

The Village plans to divide the parcel and expand the Government Center property westward to directly connect to Melvin Price Memorial Park.

The Village has also been exploring the possibility that property on the north side of Boul Avenue, owned by St. Clair County Transit District, could be converted into a trail head park which would provide a parking lot and direct access to the MetroBikeLink trail. The Village's property purchase then opens the door to easily connecting Price park to the new Government Center and then directly across Boul Avenue to the Transit District property and MetroBikeLink. That trail in turn links to the Village's



other bike trails, as well as the regional trail system.

In addition, the Village is considering how best to market the balance of the property. It specifically hopes to attract sales tax generating businesses to the

Boul Avenue corridor and could offer property as a development incentive. With easy access from both IL Rte. 161 and 159, the Village sees the area as ideal for a couple of restaurants or other establishments that would benefit from the high traffic counts.

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Park Pavilions and Buildings in High Demand; Residents May Want To Reserve Early

It is not unusual for someone to call the Government Center wanting to reserve a pavilion or building in one of Swansea's parks, only to find that all facilities are already reserved on the specific date they wanted.

Reservations are on a first come, first served basis and the Village does not 'pencil in' or 'hold' a facility. Persons must come to the Government Center, complete a reservation form, and pay any fees. They must also present photo identification.

Here is a run down of park facilities.

Norman Lehr Center

Building on southern edge of Melvin Price Park. May only be reserved by Swansea residents. Maximum capacity is 50 people. Tables, chairs, kitchen and restroom facilities. Rental fee is \$100 plus a \$125 deposit for a total of \$225. Deposit is returned only if building is cleaned and undamaged after the rental.

Thompson Civic Center

Building on northern edge of Melvin Price Park. May only be reserved by Swansea residents. Maximum

capacity is 150 people but parking at the building may not sufficiently support that number. Because of the close proximity to residential homes, no bands, DJ's or live music allowed. Rental fee is \$150 plus a \$200 deposit for a total of \$350. Includes tables, chairs and restroom facilities. Kitchen access not included in that \$150 rental fee.

Rental with kitchen facilities is \$200 plus a \$300 deposit for a total of \$500. Deposits in either case are returned only if building is cleaned and undamaged after the rental.

TWM Center

Converted barn at the southern end of Schranz Park. May be reserved by residents and non-residents. Table and chairs. No heat or air conditioning. One men's and one women's restroom. No kitchen facilities. Maximum capacity is 150 people but parking spaces do not sufficiently support that number. Rental fee for resident is \$100 plus a deposit of \$150 for a total of \$250. Rental fee for non-resident is \$150 plus deposit of \$150 - a total of \$300.

The TWM Center abuts private property and a private road. Do not drive or park on that road.

Procedures for All Buildings

When reserving any building, the key must be picked up on the day your rental begins. If

Mon-Fri, key pick up is from the Government Center between 8:00am and 4:30 pm. If rental is on Saturday or Sunday, key pick up is from the Police Department no earlier than 8:30am.

All Keys are to be returned no later than midnight on the day of your rental. If when the Government Center is open, then to the Administrative office by 4:30pm or otherwise to the Police Department no later than midnight.

Any rented building must be completely cleaned, vacated and locked up by 10:00pm on the day of the rental.

Processing the refund for deposits takes 3 to 4 weeks after the rental. Deposits are forfeited for violations of the rules or failure to clean a facility. A letter from the Village will be issued to explain any such loss of deposit.

Pavilions

All pavilions in either Schranz or Melvin Price Park may be reserved. Rental fee is \$25 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. Pavilion rentals are limited to a maximum capacity. Staff will assist you in matching your expected number of people to a pavilion with the capacity to accommodate that number. Because of past issues, exceeding this limit may result in the police requiring your group to leave the park.

Rules Related to Alcohol

The legal possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages are permitted within Swansea's parks

as well as within the Norman Lehr Center, Thompson Civic Center and TWM Center with some limitations:

- Not within 30 feet of a playground,
- Not on or within 30 feet of the Schranz Park Splash Pad,
- Not on or within 30 feet of the outfield lines of any sports field or court during any game or practice session of any sport team(s) in which the players are under the age of 21
- Not within the enclosed area of the Dog Park.

In addition, any group of more than 50 people in which alcohol is part of their gathering or event, may only do so by permit approved by the Village 30 days in advance, and after providing proof of applicable insurance coverage for their event. A Certificate of Insurance, naming the Village of Swansea as an additional insured and protecting the Village of Swansea from liabilities of any kind or from loss or damage must also be provided.

Continued issues involving large groups in Swansea's parks have prompted numerous discussions about amending the rules and regulations for rentals. Buildings and grounds have not been cleaned adequately, renters have had alcohol after saying they would not, and groups have exceeded the number of people they claimed on their reservations form. All of these result in additional cost and work for the Village, and the Park Board and Board of Trustees want to implement changes that will help address them.



More Support Signs for Police Officers Appearing In Town

More businesses and individuals have purchased "We Proudly Support Our Swansea Police" signs and erected them throughout Swansea - showing support for our officers and the work they do.

Individual signs can be purchased from Sign-A-Rama, at 216 Frank Scott Parkway East (234-7446). The business would normally charge around \$35 for one sign but agreed to offer them at a price of \$20 each.

While that money obviously does not go to the Department, some have extended other signs of support for the officers, from sending heart felt letters and notes to providing lunch for the department's employees.

These efforts have been prompted in part by what has happened in Dallas, Baton Rouge, and other cities around our nation, causing businesses and residents to contemplate the difficult job of providing public safety to us day in and day out.

Hopefully through these efforts and actions, Swansea Police Officers know that they are appreciated.



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