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VOLUME 33, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2017

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Swansea Family Christmas Fund Donations Needed By Dec 8th

Every year, the "Swansea Family Christmas" program provides assistance during the holidays to many local Swansea residents in need, by providing a holiday dinner and / or gifts. The program is completely funded by donations that typically come from individuals, families, neighborhood associations, civic organizations, churches and businesses.

While the Village serves as a point of contact the effort is administered by volunteers. Last year, more than 72 Swansea families, representing 238 individuals all of whom are our neighbors, applied for and received assistance.

While new toys and new clothing are always accepted, a donation of cash allows those volunteers to purchase gift certificates which in turn allow families in need to purchase specific gifts for their children and buy food for their holiday meal.

Checks in any amount can be made payable to the "Swansea Family Christmas Fund" and mailed or delivered to the Swansea Government Center, 1444 Boul Ave., But please do so no later than **Thursday, Dec 8th**. Any other donations may be dropped off to the same location. Please call the Village with any questions at 234-0044.

Village Lowers Annual Insurance Cost For Property, Liability & Work Comp

At their meeting on November 20th, the Village Board voted to move the Village's Property, General Liability and Workers Compensation insurance from the Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT), to the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association (IMLRMA). The change takes effective Dec 1st.

That move is expected to significantly decrease the Village's annual cost for such coverage. In clarifying their proposal, the IMLRMA agreed to hold rates steady through December 2019, thereby provided assurances that coverage costs will not be increased significantly next year.

The Village had advertised for competitive proposals from insurers and received responses from three carriers, IMLRMA, ICRMT and Liberty Mutual Insurance, teamed with the Illinois Public Risk Fund (IPRF), which provides only Worker's Compensation coverage.

Staff spent a significant amount of time reviewing and comparing the three submittals to help ensure the Village would maintain or enhance crucial coverages while lowering costs. They sought clarification from insurers to explore any potential gaps between current coverage and that which is being proposed.

For example, coverage under IMLRMA for mine subsidence was clarified to ensure all buildings and structures were listed on a property schedule with coverage to the amount of the listed value, not capped at some other level - an important consideration in light of subsidence events in Swansea and other parts of St. Clair County.

After an in depth analysis and mitigation of any potential gaps, IMLRMA's coverage, even with some additional premium contribution to close those gaps, was determined by the Village Board to be the best value for the Village.



News Briefs

Government Center Holiday Closings

Trash and Recycling Collection Will Be Delayed

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Monday, Dec 25th in observance of Christmas Day, and on Monday Jan 1 in observance of New Years Day.



Both holidays will also affect trash and recycling collection for residents.

Those with a normal collection day on Monday, will have collection on Tuesday instead. In

turn, Tuesday routes will be picked up on Wednesday, Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday and Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday. Wednesday yard waste collection that would normally occur on December 27th - the last of the current season - will shift to Thursday, December 28th.

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Republic Services Changes Some Collection Routes

Because of ongoing growth in the number of new homes in some neighborhoods in Swansea, in October Republic Services changed the day of the week that refuse and recyclables are collected for some residents. Those affected received a letter directly from Republic alerting them to the change, so if you did not receive a letter your collection day remains the same.

However, as the company rebalances its routes, the time that the collection vehicles arrive at your home might change from what you have previously been used to. And if that means a truck comes earlier, you might miss having your refuse or recyclables collected if you normally wait to place them at the curb.

Republic begins collections at 6:00am, so containers not out by then may not be picked up if you are at the start of the route.

Still, keep in mind that the Village restricts when refuse and recycling containers can be placed at the curb. They can be put out the night before, but only after 7:00pm.

At the same time, empty containers are required to be removed from the curb / street area as soon as possible after the refuse or recyclables are collected, but never later than 7:00pm on the day of collection.

Thanks to All Who Helped With 1st Spooktacular

The 1st Annual Halloween Spooktacular, sponsored by the Village Of Swansea Park Board and the Swansea Patriots, was a great success. Even with the cold weather, everyone had a wonderful time.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the event possible, especially:

- Beimfohr Insurance
- Brian & Stephanie McGuire
- Cates Mahoney Law Firm
- Frank Scott Parkway Family Dental
- Providence Bank
- Rocky McDonald
- Swansea Belleville Midtown Lions Club
- Swansea Fire Department
- Swansea Improvement Association
- Swansea Rural King
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- Swansea Administration
- Swansea Street Department
- Swansea Sewer Department

Swansea Community Calendar - December 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>Merry Christmas</i>					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center			Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center— Captain Dan Simmons "Christmas Message"		Swansea Park Board Meeting 7:00am Norman Lehr Center Swansea Patriots Meeting 8:00am Norman Lehr Center
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			Planning and Zoning Board Meeting 6:00pm Govt. Center	Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - Student of the Month "High Mount and Wolf Branch Schools"		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center			Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - Ed Henrichs "Club Foundation Review"		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Christmas Eve	Christmas Holiday Govt Center Closed			Swansea Rotary Club 7:30am - 8:30am; Thompson Center - Jason Boone "RYLA"		
31						
New Year's Eve						

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News Briefs

Designated Snow Routes for the Village of Swansea

When it snows, it's a good idea to move all vehicles off Village streets before snow plows come through. Not doing so will hamper the Village's ability to effectively clear the streets.

However, there are streets in the Village specifically designated as snow routes. Section 72.40 (A) of the Swansea Municipal Codes states: "Within the village, whenever there is an accumulation of three inches or more of snow, no person, firm, or corporation shall park or allow any motor vehicle to remain parked, on any designated snow route...for a period of 24 hours following said accumulation, or until said route has been sufficiently cleared of snow."

There is a very logical reason for this regulation. Designated snow routes are those primary arterials for moving traffic in or out of residential areas and as such they are cleared first to make it easier for you to get to or

from your home. The Village needs to do so as quickly as possible - without having to navigate around parked vehicles - in order to move on to residential streets that don't carry as much traffic.

Designated snow routes in Swansea are as follows.

Beau-Gon: for its full length within Village limits

Bettina Dr.: Lakeland Blvd. to Big Bend Blvd.

Big Bend Blvd.: Bettina Dr. to Leawood Dr.

Bobbie Dr.: Castle Dr. to Brian Dr.
Brian Dr.: Bobbie Dr. to Mary Jo Dr.

Caseyville Ave.: Gilbert St. to North Belt West

Castle Ct.: Route 161 to Castle Dr.

Castle Dr.: Castle Ct. to Bobbie Dr.

Creekside Ct.: Creekside Dr. to Old Collinsville Rd.

Fawn Meadows: Lake Lorraine Dr. to Old Collinsville Rd.

Fournie Dr.: Mary Jo Dr. to Josephine Dr.

Fullerton Road: Rte 161 to Rte 159

Gilbert St.: North Illinois St. to Kenwood Dr.

Green Haven Dr.: for its full length
Huntwood Road: for its full length
Josephine Dr.: Fournie Dr. to Rte 161

Kenwood Dr.: Gilbert St. to Kingsbury Dr.

Kingsbury Dr.: Kenwood Dr. to North 17th St

Kinsella Ave.: West "H" St. to Caseyville Ave

Lakeland Blvd.: Rte 159 to Bettina Dr.

Lake Lorraine Dr.: for its full length
Leawood Dr.: Big Bend Blvd to Twin Lake Dr.

Lyonshall Blvd.: within Village limits
Mary Jo Dr.: Brian Dr. to Fournie Dr.

Morgan St.: 17th St. to Rte 161

Polo Run: for its full length

Rand Lane: for its full length

Roger St.: 17th St. to Rte 161

Smelting Works Rd.: North Illinois St. to Drake Rd. for those portions within the Swansea municipal limits

Steinberg Farm Rd.: Rand Lane to William Lane

Twin Lake Dr.: Leawood Dr. to Huntwood Rd.

William Lane: Old Collinsville Rd to Steinberg Farm Rd.

News Briefs

What You Need To Know About Snow Plowing

If you believe Dave Murray's long-term Winter Forecast, this winter will not be as mild as the last two. So it might not be too long before we see some snow accumulation. A reminder as to how the Village approaches snow plowing might be helpful towards understanding the process, and will hopefully prompt residents to maintain reasonable expectations.

First, snow plows move snow from the middle of the road to the sides. So by design, plows will inevitably deposit some snow at the ends of driveways and sidewalks that may have already been cleared. The reality is that you may have to shovel that area again. Consider helping neighbors who are elderly or physically unable to do so.

Knowing that, if you pile snow at the end of your drive, do so on the right side as you face the street. Why? Because a snow pile on the left might get pushed across the drive as the plow moves past.



Check to ensure that your mailbox doesn't hang out into the roadway. The closer it is to the road, the more likely it could be damaged by the snow pushed aside by the plow. Wet snow is heavy and it doesn't take much to knock over a mailbox.

And if possible, don't park on any street until plowing has ended. Crews often clear drive lanes first and then

return later, maybe even the next day, to "plow back" snow at the edge of the streets or around the perimeter of cul-de-sacs. Designated snow routes are listed on page 10.

The 'route' a snow plow travels may not make sense to some. In some neighborhoods it might seem as though they plow half of your street and then disappear for awhile. But the routes are designed to minimize backing up and turning around and doing so may mean that the truck travels over other streets before it returns to yours to finish the other side of the street.

Basketball Goals Can Cause Problems

With the advent of portable and movable basketball goals, some residents place them at the back of curb so the hoop hangs out over the street. Others might even install a goal permanently in such a location. Both would be a violation of Village codes.

See GOALS on page 4

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News Briefs



Santa Will Arrive In Price Park on Dec 1

Santa plans to arrive at his special house in Melvin Price Memorial Park on Friday, Dec. 1st. While he may be busy at other times rechecking his list, he will be at his Swansea home from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm every Saturday and Sunday and from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm each weekday evening, through December 22nd.

The house is near the Lehr Community Center at the south end of the park. The park is in the 1500 block of Caseyville Ave. Photos with Santa will be available for \$5.00, and every child will receive a small gift. The Swansea Santa House is sponsored by the Swansea Park Board.

Santa could always use some extra help. If you might be interested, contact Marilyn Neumeyer at 234-6293 or 363-8694 for details.

GOALS, continued from pg. 3

First, while it might seem ideal to use the street as a basketball court, it is dangerous and thus not allowed by the Village. Obviously, placing a goal in this manner would probably prompt your children or others from your neighborhood to play in the street. So if one of them is hurt in doing so, or causes an accident, you as the homeowner or tenant might be held liable.

At the same time, if basketball players are obstructing traffic, they could be fined for doing so. But there is another important consideration. When snow plows come through this winter, some will have their beds raised to spread salt. And that raised bed can collide with anything overhanging the roadway, including a basketball hoop or goal. Such a collision will often destroy the goal but could damage the truck as well, again something for which you might be held liable.

Be proactive. If you have a basketball goal in violation, move it or remove it to at least 10 feet behind the curb or street edge.

News Briefs

Ameren Will Be Updating Meters

Ameren will be making energy updates to include their electric meters, poles, wires, and technology over the next several months. This is for the delivery of safe energy.

In addition, they will also be upgrading natural gas meters at customers' properties. There will be no natural gas service interruption.

Here is the breakdown on the meter upgrades:

- Ameren Illinois or their installation contractor Donco, will be making the meter upgrades, normally on Monday-Friday during regular business hours.
- All installers will have Ameren ID badges and will knock on your door to let you know they're on site. As always, residents should look for such identification and be cautious about opening their door to anyone claiming to be from Ameren but unable to show ID.

- You don't need to be present as long as the installers have clear and safe access to your meters.
- If you are not present, a door hanger will be left to let you know if the upgrade was completed.
- The upgrade should only take 10-15 minutes.
- Reminder post cards are to be mailed about three to four weeks before Ameren starts upgrading meters in your neighborhood.

For more information or to learn about your energy-saving options, visit their website at: AmerenIllinois.com/WaysToSave or call them at 1-800-755-5000.

What Is That Leaking Toilet Costing You?

Do you sometimes walk into your bathroom and notice that water is running in the toilet? You know, where you need to 'jiggle' the handle to stop it? Or do you ever hear the toilet fill up with a short

burst of water, even though it hasn't been flushed in awhile? Both are indications of a sticking flapper valve or some other water leak.

But are you putting off fixing it until you 'get some time'? Well, a toilet leak could send as much as 200 gallons of water per day down the drain. So when you consider that you are paying not only for that unused water, but also for its treatment as wastewater, the loss costs you about \$1.69 per day.

Think about that. Let one week go by before you get around to making the repair, and the delay cost you \$11.82. Put it off for a month and your loss grows to about \$51.00. Or wait two months until your sewer bill comes out, and \$101.35 went down the drain in the mean time. Literally.

Experts estimate that in the average U.S. home, 14% of your annual water usage is from leaks. So one way to keep utility costs in check is to quickly fix any leaking toilet, dripping water faucet, or leaky exterior hose bib, before they impact both your water and sewer bills.

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News Briefs

Allowed Burning Of Yard Waste Ended On Nov 29th

November 29th was the last day to legally burn yard waste in Swansea for the current season. Burning is now banned again until next Spring.

At the same time, residents who use Republic Services for curbside collection of yard waste will see service suspended for the winter on December 28th.

Therefore, any resident who still has leaves or yard waste that they want to dispose of, would need to take it someplace like St. Louis Compost, located at 5841 Mine Haul Road, and pay a fee to them for accepting it.



Member representatives of the Swansea Rotary presented a \$500.00 check to Mayor Mike Leopold on Nov 20th with the funds to be used towards the purchase of a large shade tree to be planted in Schranz Park. This is the third tree donated this year to the park, all of which have been planted near the new pavilion donated by the Kelso family, through the Swansea Patriots Organization.

Illinois Fire Service Institute Holds Training At Swansea Facility

On Saturday, Nov 4th, the Illinois Fire Service Institute, headquartered in Champaign and the statutory fire academy for the State of Illinois, used Swansea's new training facility behind Engine House #2 for local firefighter training. Classes ran from 8:00am until 5:00pm and included Residential Structure Fire Operations and Rope Rescue Operations. Classes were state funded and provided to participating firefighters at no charge.

In addition to Swansea, firefighters participated from the following departments: Northwest, East Side, Signal Hill, Fairview Heights, O'Fallon, Mascoutah, Smithton, Camp Jackson, East St Louis, Glen Carbon, Maryville, Troy, Long Lake, Fairmont City, and Caseyville.



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To benefit Swansea Rotary Club Food Pantry. Drop off dates: 11/20—12/20

Village and Patrol Officers Agree To A Four Year Contract Talks Continue With Sergeants

Patrol Officers in Swansea had been working under an extension of their previous Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) that expired April 30, 2017, while they negotiated terms of a new agreement with the Village. That new agreement was recently finalized and then approved by the Board of Trustees on November 6th.

The Village of Swansea is fortunate to have great police officers who often go above and beyond the call of duty to serve the residents and businesses of the community. The department regularly gets notes from residents detailing specific examples: - from visiting crime victims in the hospital on their own time, stopping to pick up litter blowing down a residential street, or washing the egg off a resident's car - thrown there by vandals - because the owner had a disability and was unable to do so. Our police officers do those things without being prompted or asked. Just because it is in their nature.

So contract negotiations can be stressful for both sides. Officers obviously want to be compensated fairly and the Village Board wants to do so. But it also needs to balance compensation against the financial constraints of trying to provide public services in the most efficient, effective and economical way.

Through on-going discussions, both sides expressed their positions, perspectives and wants. While bargaining never became heated, both sides were fairly firm and it took effort to move to some middle

ground. Both sides gave somewhat so no one got what they initially asked for. But in the end everyone agreed upon mutual terms.

Aside from a few minor language clarifications, the focus of the negotiations was on wages. Per the final agreement, the wage rate for a non-probationary officer will now be \$32.69 per hour retroactive to May 1, 2017. That rate will increase to \$33.34 effective May 1, 2018, to \$34.04 effective May 1, 2019, and to \$34.86 effective May 1, 2020 - roughly 2% for each of the first three years and 2.5% in the fourth year.

Those percentages are lower than raises agreed to in some other area communities, but still help maintain Swansea officers at the top of the wage chart for the communities most comparable to ours.

While the bargaining system is somewhat skewed towards "us versus them" thinking, both the Village officials and the officer representatives involved in the process work hard to avoid that.

It is of primary importance to the Village Board that the Village and its officers continue to work together effectively for the betterment of Swansea. The Board is very much aware of the quality of officer's the Village has been able to attract and retain, and how those individuals make it easier to serve our residents.

The department's four Sergeants are under their own Collective Bargaining Agreement which is being negotiated separately. Final agreement has not yet been reached for that CBA, but efforts continue towards resolving it in the near future.



News Briefs

New Building And Zoning Director Assumes Role

The Village of Swansea is awash with new developments including the hiring of a new Building and Zoning Director. Dallas Alley started his new position with the Village on November 1st. Before coming to Swansea he worked in the St. Clair County Building and Zoning Department. He also currently serves on the boards of the St. Clair County Regional Office of Education, the St. Clair County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Executive Board of the Illinois Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers.

During his free time Dallas enjoys spending time with his wife Julie and their two children Leina and Declan, along with pursuing his hobbies that include gardening, being in nature, working on the family garlic farm, and conservation.

Dallas' initial focus will be on code enforcement and economic development, with code enforcement a top priority. So residents are encouraged to report to him any property that has debris visible in the yard or does not otherwise appear to be in compliance. He will visit the location and address any code violations he finds.

Residents are aware that two new commercial projects are underway on the north end of the Village - the



replacement Huck's convenience store and Tommy's Car Wash. But there are a few additional developments in the planning stages that he will help to move forward. Dallas hopes to build on this initial momentum to bring redevelopment projects to the southern area of Swansea, where the Village has been focusing its efforts.

His past experiences have given Dallas broad knowledge and skills that will greatly benefit Swansea and he looks forward to working for and with the residents of Swansea, as well with local businesses and potential developers.

He foresees great things in the future for the Village, and plans to build upon the foundation of Swansea as it is today, to make it even better for tomorrow.

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

President: Mike Leopold
mayor@swanseail.org

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 Brian McGuire
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Trustee Marilyn Neumeyer
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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.

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