
Town Newsletter

July 2024

Holiday Closure for July 4

Town Hall will be closed on [Thursday, July 4](#), in observance of Independence Day. Although the offices are closed for the holiday, business may still be conducted online by going to the [town's website](#) and clicking the appropriate links for Municipal Court or utility (water & sewer) payments. Phone numbers are also listed on the website to make payments by phone. **Happy Independence Day!**

About Those Fourth of July Fireworks...

The Town of Swansea does not have a fireworks ordinance, so [Lexington County's fireworks ordinance](#) for unincorporated areas of the county would prevail in terms of setting allowable dates and times for holiday fireworks displays. For Independence Day, this ordinance permits the discharge or shooting of fireworks on [July 3, 4, and 5](#) between the hours of 10:00 AM and 11:00 PM only. However, if an active burning ban was issued by the Lexington County Fire Chief, that would void the permitted discharge of fireworks. Please [be safe](#) and be mindful of this ordinance, as well as your pets and neighbors, if you opt to make fireworks part of your Fourth of July celebration.

Are You Licensed to Do Business in Swansea?

Whether you're a pop-up vendor, mobile food truck, home-based business, or a brick-and-mortar merchant, all persons engaged in, or intending to engage in, any business activity within town limits are required to pay an annual license fee and obtain a business license, as set forth in the town's business license ordinance. Violations of the ordinance could result in a fine up to \$500, imprisonment up to 30 days, or both. Be sure to contact town clerk [Margaret Harvey](#) before setting up shop!

Update on Police Chief Search

In June, town administrator Chris Keefer recruited a search committee to assist in hiring the next chief of the Swansea Police Department. The committee includes representatives from Town Council, staff, and the community who will screen and interview candidates, then recommend a candidate to hire. The majority of committee members have law enforcement experience, which has been extremely helpful in this process. So far, the team has reviewed the applications received and has begun preparing for the interview process, which should begin later in July.

We'll update you again in the next newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns about the hiring process, please contact [Chris Keefer](#), town administrator, at [803-568-2835](tel:803-568-2835).

Budget Work Continues

At its [June 24](#) regular meeting, Town Council voted unanimously to conditionally extend the current FY 2023-24 budget for another two months. This action allowed the town to enter the new fiscal year that started [July 1](#) with an approved budget in place until the end of [August 2024](#).

In the meantime, Town Council and staff are working on ways to create a structurally balanced budget for FY 2024-25 in which expenditures (money going out) are equal to revenues (money coming in), without using contingencies, debt, and non-recurring revenue such as grants to mathematically balance the budget.

They have been engaged in an ongoing series of budget workshops over the last few months to identify and discuss recurring revenue sources, forecast future revenues and expenditures, and to identify ways to reduce expenses, with the goal of implementing a balanced budget for FY25.

Council's next budget workshop will be held on [July 16](#) at 6 PM. If you have questions or concerns about the budget, please contact your Council representative or [Chris Keefer](#), town administrator, at [803-568-2835](#).

Back to School Bash on August 3

P.U.L.L. Community Outreach and Swansea Police Department are partnering again to host their annual Back-to-School Bash on [Saturday, August 3](#), from 10 AM to 2 PM in the Swansea Town Hall parking lot.

In preparation for a successful school year, students attending will receive:

- Essential school supplies
- Instruction on cyber safety, financial literacy, and bullying
- A scrumptious free lunch.

This is the perfect opportunity to bring the entire family and ensure the kids are prepared for the upcoming school year with all the necessary gear and knowledge.

"Last year, we were overjoyed to distribute 207 customized book bags, and we're aiming to do even more this year with the community's help," says Casandra Riley of P.U.L.L. Community Outreach. "We invite you to join us in any way you can—whether it's through donations, volunteering, or simply showing up to participate in the festivities. Your support makes a world of difference!"

For more details about the Back to School Bash, please contact Casandra Riley at [803-216-1152](#) or Ty McComas at [803-429-2017](#).

New & Noteworthy

We're happy that [Sugarbaker's Buffet](#) is now open for business at the corner of S. Monmouth and W. Third Streets—conveniently located across the street from Town Hall. **Councilmember Doris Simmons** was on hand to help cut the ribbon at Sugarbaker's grand opening on [June 7](#). We're looking forward to more new business openings in Swansea in the weeks and months to come. Shop local and support our community!

Welcome to **Sorina Simion**, who is interning this summer with the town's water department. A senior at Spring Valley High School, Sorina is getting a first-hand look at how a municipal water and sewer utility operates as she completes a 200-hour internship in a workplace related to her career plans. She hopes to study environmental science or environmental engineering at either Clemson, USC, Furman, or UNC Charlotte. One very interesting fact about Sorina is that her parents are originally from Romania, so we enjoy learning a little about culture and life there through Sorina.

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Happening in the Community

Back to School Bash

Saturday, August 3 | 10 AM to 2 PM

Swansea Town Hall Parking Lot | 320 W. Third Street

Celebrate and get ready for a new school year with fun activities, free school supplies, and more at this family-friendly event.

Swansea Crime Watch Meeting

Friday, July 26 | 6 PM

Swansea Council Chambers | 320 W. Third Street

Learn how you can help keep your corner of our community safe, with tips and updates from our law enforcement officers in the Swansea Police Department.

If you have event information you'd like to share with the community, email the details to [Chris Keefer](#).

Town of Swansea | PO Box 429 | Swansea, SC 29160 US

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