



Town Newsletter

June 2024

In Remembrance

Former Town Councilman Woodrow Davis passed away in late May. His funeral was held on May 30 at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, followed by burial at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Cemetery in Swansea. As mayor pro tempore, Mr. Davis led the town for several months in 2021 before current Mayor Viola McDaniel was elected to office. The Town extends its deepest sympathies to the Davis family.



The Search for a New Police Chief Begins

With the departure of former Police Chief Earl Williams III, the police chief position was posted on the Municipal Association of SC website and the full job description was posted on the town's website in mid May. This month, we will be reviewing applications, preparing for interviews, and contacting interviewees, with interviews to possibly begin in July. We'll update you again in the next newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns about the hiring process, please contact town administrator, [Chris Keefer](#), at 803-568-2835.



Budget Preparations in Progress

Town Council and staff have been busy working on the town's budget for fiscal year 2025, which starts July 1. Council had its first budget workshop and first reading in May. The second budget workshop will be held during a special called meeting on June 5 at 6 PM, with a public hearing and second reading tentatively



scheduled for the regular meeting on June 24 at 6 PM. Both meetings will be held in Council Chambers and are open to the public.

The state Constitution requires Town Council to adopt by ordinance a balanced budget for the next fiscal year by June 30 of each calendar year. If a balanced budget cannot be adopted by that date, Council can adopt a provisional budget using the previous year's revenue and expenses. Later, Council could amend the provisional budget to serve as the official budget for the next fiscal year, and would still need to have the two readings and public hearing when doing so.

If you have questions or concerns about the budget, please contact your Council representative or [Chris Keefer](#), town administrator, at 803-568-2835.

Holiday Closures

Town Hall will be closed on the following dates in observance of a few upcoming holidays:

- Monday, June 17 for Juneteenth
- Thursday, July 4 for Independence Day

Although the offices are closed for these holidays, 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.



New & Noteworthy

Swansea Police Officer **Ty McComas** is serving as interim police chief while the town conducts the search and hiring processes over the next several months. Officer McComas has served the Swansea community for more than three years as a law enforcement officer.

Ezekiel Jackson started as the town's part-time sanitation worker in mid May. His main duties include general upkeep and maintenance of town property, yard debris pickup, distribution of curbside trash bins, and assisting the utility department as needed. If you see him out and about, please say hello.

Did You Know...

...that the town's Planning Commission is busy preparing the town for future growth and development? The commissioners, resident volunteers appointed by Town Council, are actively participating in training, reviewing town ordinances pertaining to community planning and development, and gearing up to start work on a new comprehensive plan for the town. The Planning Commission, which meets the last Thursday of the month at 6 PM, includes Permelia Luongo (chair), Tom Daugherty, Suzanne Hackett, Alicia McKnight, and Rae Watson. Meetings are usually held in Town Council Chambers and are open to the public.

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Happening in the Community

Summer Reading Kickoff Party
Tuesday, June 11 | 2 – 4 PM
Lexington County Library-Swansea | 199 N. Lawrence Avenue

Start your family's summer adventure at the library by signing up for the Summer Reading program and enjoying activities and treats. All ages welcome.

Swansea Juneteenth Celebration
Saturday, June 15 | 5 – 8 PM
CSX Railroad Field at S. Spring Street & W. Third Street (Next to Fire Station)

Celebrate freedom with your neighbors in downtown Swansea at this family fun [event](#), featuring a trackless train, water slide, games, and more.

Lexington County Ag & Art Tour
Saturday, June 15 | 9 AM – 4 PM
Sunday, June 16 | 1 – 4 PM

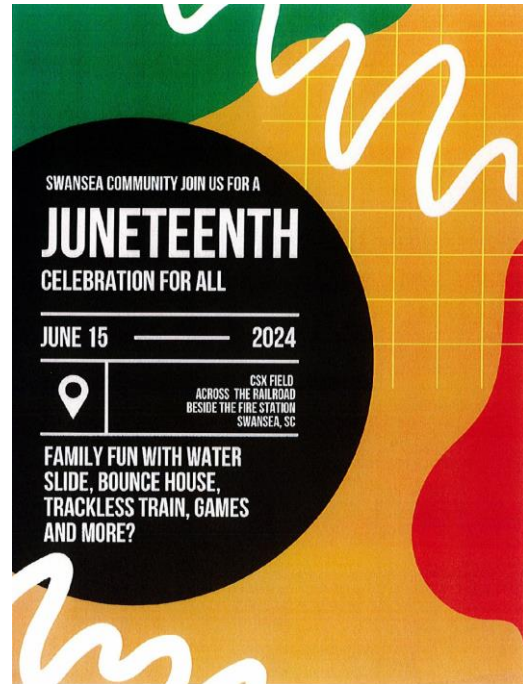
Head to the farm for tours, demonstrations, food vendors, artisan displays, and more! There are 8 stops, including [Fire Barrel Farm](#) here in Swansea and the Lexington County Museum.

Check the event [website](#) for addresses, hours, and activities at each stop.

Swansea Crime Watch Meeting
Thursday, June 20 | Time TBA
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](#).



FROM 5 UNTIL 8 PM