



Town Newsletter

April 2025

Council Meeting on April 28

Town Council will conduct its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 28, starting at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 320 W. Third Street. The agenda will be posted at Town Hall and on the town's website and Facebook page closer to the meeting, and the meeting is open to the public.

Requests to make public comment should be directed to [Margaret Harvey](#) before 5 PM on Monday, April 21.

Council Considering 2% Local Hospitality Tax

A presentation and first reading of a proposed local hospitality tax was on the agenda for Town Council's meeting on March 24, but it was tabled until the next regular meeting on April 28. The proposal calls for customers of any business serving prepared foods to pay an extra 2 percent sales tax at the point of purchase, starting July 1, 2025.



Food service businesses would then be required to report and remit the local hospitality taxes collected to the town on a regular basis, starting in August 2025. Currently, customers buying prepared foods in Swansea pay state sales taxes of 7 percent, which the food service businesses then report/remit to the SC Department of Revenue.

By law, the Town must keep local hospitality tax receipts separate from all other receipts—and use the local hospitality tax funds only for specific expenditures that help draw more visitors to the town. More visitors to Swansea means more business—and potentially more prosperity for the entire community.

"Most neighboring municipalities in Lexington County have implemented local hospitality tax, so when we choose to eat in Gaston or Cayce, we're paying an extra two cents per dollar to help improve those communities," says Town Administrator Chris Keefer. "Given the amount of people who pass through Swansea on the state highways and US 321 and the number of food service businesses we have here in town, our community would benefit significantly by implementing a local hospitality tax."

After first reading of the local hospitality tax ordinance on April 28, the Town staff will be conducting meetings in May with the public and with businesses to provide more information and answer any questions. Watch for announcements by email and on the Town's Facebook page and website.

Roadside Cleanup Day on April 26

To help make a positive difference in our community, Promoting Swansea SC (PSSC) is partnering with Keep the Midlands Beautiful to host a [roadside cleanup day](#) on Saturday, April 26 from 9 AM to noon.



If you would like to help out, please report to Truist Bank (235 S. Church Street) around 8:45 to get supplies, sign a liability waiver, divide up into groups, then head out in four directions to these endpoints:

- Shumpert's Kitchen, 706 St. Matthews Road, cleaning up SC Highway 6 heading east away from town
- El Rinconcito Tienda Y Taqueria, 1041 Savannah Highway, cleaning up US 321 heading south away from town
- Bishop's on the Mill, 200 S. Spring Street, cleaning up SC 6 and South Spring Street heading east away from the bank
- New Horizon Fitness, 1741 Southbound Road, cleaning up US 321 heading north away from town.

As a thank you, Shumpert's Kitchen is offering a 20% restaurant discount to all event volunteers, and other local business owners are also supporting this event.

Can't participate? Please share the [event flyer](#) with others!

Nominate a Yard of the Month!

The next time you're driving through town or the Swansea area, if you see a well-kept yard, flower garden, or landscape feature, take note of the street address and **nominate the property for Yard of the Month.**

The volunteers at Promoting Swansea SC (PSSC) sponsor this program annually, from April through August, to recognize area residents who put in the time and effort to keep their small part of our hometown looking great.



Nominees just have to be located within the 29160 zip code area. PSSC will post a Yard of the Month sign in the awardee's yard for the duration of the recognition month. To nominate a yard, send a message to [PSSC's Facebook group page](#), reach out to any PSSC member, or contact [Chris Keefer](#) at Swansea Town Hall, 803-568-2835.

Budget Prep Season Begins!

Council will begin the annual budget preparation cycle with a review of a draft General Fund budget during a special called meeting on Monday, April 14. This will be the first in a series of scheduled discussions and required meetings to pass a balanced budget for the next fiscal year that begins July 1, 2026. Watch for more information in upcoming issues of this newsletter and the town's Facebook page and website.



Did You Know...

...that residents living inside Swansea town limits are prohibited from burning leaves, brush, limbs, paper, boards, or tires ([Town Ordinance Sec. 11.19](#)). The best way to dispose of these items is to take them to the appropriate [Lexington County solid waste facility](#).



Residents of unincorporated areas of Lexington County surrounding Swansea are subject to the [county's Outdoor Burning ordinance](#), which prohibits the open burning of leaves, tree branches, and yard trimming at private residences within 75 feet of any structure and/or property line.

While the South Carolina Forestry Commission has recently lifted the state-wide burn ban in 41 counties (including Lexington), County residents should check the [Forestry Commission's website](#) before starting a fire as weather conditions will vary during the spring. County residents planning to conduct outdoor burning of residential yard debris or prescribed burns must still notify the Forestry Commission before doing so. Notification procedures as well as mandatory precautions for conducting burns may be found on the [SCFC website](#).

Image courtesy of South Carolina Forestry Commission

Happening in the Community

Swansea High School SIC Annual Family & Community Day

Saturday, April 5 | 11 AM to 2 PM

SHS Athletics Field | 500 E. First Street, Swansea

Enjoy some sunshine and outdoor community fun at Swansea High School! There will be an Easter egg hunt, games with student athletes, food, vendors, a 4-H plant sale, health exams, photos with animals, literacy and multicultural activities, and so much more! For more information, contact SIC President Tiffany Black at 803-767-7240.



Easter Egg Hunt & Fundraiser

Saturday, April 5 | 4 to 6 PM

Hooves, Hearts & Hope Equine Rescue & Sanctuary | 804 Jim Rucker Road, Swansea

Hunt for eggs and help the horses! Purchase a \$10 wristband to enjoy games, an Easter craft activity, hayride, and egg hunt by age group starting at 4:30. Pony rides are also available for an additional \$10. All proceeds go to the care of rescue horses and ponies.

2nd Annual Swansea Band Boosters Open Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show

Saturday, April 12 | 9 AM to 3 PM

Swansea HS Doug Bennett Stadium | 675 Redmond Mill Road, Swansea

Car, truck, and cycle enthusiasts will be showing off their rides and competing for awards in numerous categories at this open car show at the high school stadium. Check out the wheels and enjoy live and DJ music, food, vendors, and prize drawings throughout the day. There will be a military salute at noon. For registration information, see the [event flyer](#). For more information, contact [Kacey Cooper](#) at 803-722-3786.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 12 | 11 AM

Fire Barrel Farm | 306 George Derrick Road, Swansea

Round up the kiddos to go Easter egg hunting at the farm! Each child will get an Easter basket and will line up by age group. After hunting for eggs, kids can dye eggs, pin the tail on the rabbit, work on a coloring sheet, and visit with the Easter Bunny and get photos and candy. There will be door prizes throughout the event, and picnic tables available if you want to bring along a picnic basket. Admission is

\$8 per child, payable by cash or PayPal the day of the event. To ensure adequate supplies, please RSVP to 803-917-9565.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 13 | 2 to 4 PM

Shumpert's Kitchen | 706 St. Matthews Road, Swansea

Join the Shumpert's Kitchen family for their first annual Easter egg hunt at the restaurant! Kids of all ages are invited to enjoy free hotdogs, drinks, chips, and cookies (while supplies last) plus prizes, games, crafts, and a special appearance by the Easter Bunny and one of his chicks.

Mobile Market

Wednesday, April 16 | 11 AM to 2 PM

Beulah Methodist Church | 1577 Old State Road, Gaston

Harvest Hope Food Bank and Nucor are teaming up to bring a Mobile Market to our side of Lexington County! This is basically a no-charge farmers market on wheels where anyone can get fresh food until supplies run out. No registration is required.

Litter Pickup Day

Saturday, April 26 | 8:45 AM to noon

Truist | 235 S. Church Street

Help spruce up Swansea! Join your friends and neighbors in picking up litter along one of the four gateways into Swansea. Supplies provided. For more details, see the article above.

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

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

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