



Town Newsletter

February 2025

Council Meeting on February 24

Town Council will conduct its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 24, 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, February 17.

Office Closure for Presidents Day

Town Hall will be closed on Monday, February 17, in observance of Presidents Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, February 18 at 8 AM.

Although the offices are closed for this 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.



New Businesses in Town!

We're happy to welcome two new restaurants and a new salon to town! Please be sure to patronize them when you can.

[Kozy Kitchen](#) opened January 6 at 290 S Monmouth Ave (formerly Sugarbaker's Buffet). The family-owned and operated restaurant offers a lunch and dinner buffet of Southern home-style cuisine as well as regular menu options, Tuesdays through Saturday. Eat in and carry-out service is available. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 AM to 8 PM; Sunday from 11 AM to 3 PM; closed Monday. To see what's on the menu, visit their [Facebook page](#).

[Shumpert's Kitchen](#) opens January 7 at 6 AM, offering a home-style breakfast and lunch menu. This family-owned and operated restaurant is located at 706 St. Matthews Road (formerly Countryside BBQ). Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 6 AM to 2 PM; Saturday 6 to 11 AM; closed Sunday and Monday.



Parlor 705, a nail and waxing salon located at 270 W. Second Street, celebrated its grand opening on February 8. The salon offers products and services by appointment.

Celebrating Black History Month

This month, the nation celebrates Black History Month, recognizing the contributions of Black Americans throughout history. This year's theme is "African Americans and Labor," focusing on the significant contributions of Black individuals in various labor sectors.



Here are a few ways to learn more during Black History Month:

- Visit Lexington County Library's Black History Month [webpage](#) to learn how Black history is American history, check out children's and adult book lists, and more.
- Browse the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture [website](#) for resources around the 2025 theme.
- Watch a documentary, musical performance, and other [Black History Month programming](#) on PBS.
- Visit any of Historic Columbia's five museum sites, including the Robert Mills House, where the "[Heat & Hardship: The Hidden Labor of Enslaved Cooks](#)" exhibit recently opened.
- Drive down to Charleston to visit the [International African American Museum](#) for exhibits, special lectures and performances, and more.

Applications Sought to Fill Vacancies on Board of Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission

Serving on the town's planning and zoning boards is one way town residents can participate in shaping the town's future. We currently have a vacant seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and on the Planning Commission (PC).

The [Planning Commission](#) meets monthly and is currently working on revising planning-related ordinances and zoning map updates; later this year, the PC will begin work on a new Comprehensive Plan for the Town.

The [Board of Zoning Appeals](#) meets as needed to hear request for special exceptions and variances arising from the application of the town's zoning ordinance, resolutions, and maps or when a property owner wishes to appeal a zoning official's decision. In addition, members of both boards must satisfy some educational requirements during their terms.

To apply for these board positions, please submit in writing or by email a letter with your contact information and indicating which board you are interested in and any applicable interests/experience to town clerk Margaret Harvey. Council will review the applications prior to appointing individuals to the BZA and PC.

If you have any questions, please contact town administrator [Chris Keefer](#) at 803-223-4261.

Council Retreat Postponed Until December 2025

Due to inclement weather, the Council Planning Retreat set for Saturday, January 11 was cancelled. It is being rescheduled for Saturday, December 6, 2025, and will include a goal-setting session facilitated by Naomi Reed, the Municipal Association of South Carolina field representative assigned to the Town of Swansea.

“We will likely have other items for Planning Retreat agenda as time goes on,” says town administrator Chris Keefer. “Having a retreat right after the November 2025 municipal election will help new and continuing Council members focus on goals intended to move the town forward over the next few years.”



The January 11 retreat was to also include a brief report from WK Dickson on the utility system evaluation that the engineering firm completed in late 2024. WK Dickson project leader Danielle Dowd made the report to Council at its January 27 regular meeting.

Happening in the Community

Valentines Dinner

Wednesday, February 12 | 6 PM

Swansea First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 145 S.

Church Street, Swansea

Enjoy dinner and dessert and a photo booth snapshot with your favorite Valentine! Dinner includes barbecue chicken leg quarters and banana pudding. Free childcare and meal for the kiddos, too. Cost is \$15 per person, payable at the door. To reserve your seats, call 803-568-3368 by Sunday, February 9. This event supports the SFBC Youth.



Dinner Date & Paint Night

Thursday, February 13 | 7 PM

Swansea United Methodist Church, 305 N. Church Street, Swansea

Enjoy an elegant china-plated Valentine's dinner of chicken alfredo with salad, bread, dessert and a drink, music, and a fun Valentine's game for just \$10 per person. Can't eat in? Request a takeout plate. Following dinner, guests have the option of participating in a Valentine-themed paint night, for \$10 per person. Sign up using this [online form](#). Payment may be made at the door; cash or checks (payable to Swansea UMC) are preferred. All proceeds benefit Swansea UMC.

Boot Scootin' & Lumberjackin'

Saturday, February 22 | 6-11 PM

Bishop's at the Mill, 200 S. Spring Street, Swansea

Pull on your boots and c'mon down for a night of line dancing, ax throwing, and fun with friends. The Spicy Voo-Doo food truck will be serving food. Line dance instruction is 6-8 PM, but the music continues until 11 PM. For more information, see the [Facebook event](#) or call the store at 803-422-1024.

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

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