



Town Newsletter

May 2025

Council Meeting on May 29

Town Council will conduct its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 29, starting at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 320 W. Third Street. **Please note the date change, which is due to Memorial Day falling on the fourth Monday of the month (Council's usual meeting day).**

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 Thursday, May 22.

Public Information Meetings Scheduled to Discuss Proposed Local Hospitality Tax

The Swansea Town Council is considering the implementation of a local hospitality tax, as permitted by state statute, effective July 1, 2025. This is a uniform two percent tax on the sale of prepared foods and beverages sold within the town limits of Swansea. By state law, local hospitality tax revenue is to be used exclusively for improvements and projects that would help draw more people into the town and, in turn, generate more business and economic development to benefit the entire community.



Because local hospitality tax is collected from customers at the point of sale, we are reaching out to local businesses—including restaurants, grocers, convenience stores, and mobile food vendors—and the public to ensure everyone understands the impact of the Town of Swansea's [proposed local hospitality tax ordinance](#). You have the opportunity to [learn more](#), ask questions, and offer feedback at these two public information meetings:

- Monday, May 12 at 9 AM at Sea Swan Café, 265 S. Monmouth Avenue (targeted specifically to food service business owners)
- Wednesday, May 14, at 6 PM at Swansea Council Chambers, 320 W. Third Street (open to all).

Feedback and comments from these meetings will be shared with the Town Council in preparation for the Council's second reading of the local hospitality tax ordinance on Thursday, May 29, at 6 PM. Immediately before that meeting, there will be a public hearing at 5:30 PM during which time the public can comment on that ordinance.

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming meetings and hearing your comments. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact [Chris Keefer](#), Town Administrator, at 803-568-2835.

FY26 Budget Planning Begins

Town Council began working on the annual budget last month, with a General Fund budget workshop on April 14 and an Enterprise Fund (utilities) budget workshop on May 5. These are 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.



Swansea High School Improves Graduation Rates

Thanks to the efforts of teachers and administrators, 211 students in the Class of 2025 will receive their high school diploma at the May 30 graduation ceremony.

According to data presented at a recent Lexington County School District 4 board meeting, Principal Marcia Seawright noted that the high school has seen a steady increase in its graduation rates, increasing from 70.3% for the 2022-23 school year to 80.3% for the 2023-24 school year. The anticipated graduation rate for the 2024-25 school year will be 86.25%--which is above the most recently reported statewide graduation rate of 85.4%.



This means that more Swansea High School graduates will be ready to enter college or careers as soon as next month, thanks to the school's work-based learning program with local employers, dual enrollment program with Midlands Technical College, career and technical education programs (welding, auto tech, and electrical), and a multi-tiered system of support for each student.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025, and our appreciation to all Lexington 4 teachers, staff, and administrators for preparing students to succeed!

Thank You, Spring Clean-up Day Volunteers!

Promoting Swansea SC (PSSC)'s Spring Clean-Up Day on April 26 was a huge success! Thirty volunteers showed up to help to cover four miles of main roadways in our community, picking up more than 100 bags of trash, many tires, and a variety of other debris. The town looks great! Thank you to everyone in the community who supported this effort!



Community Members in the News

...If there's a young child in your life who doesn't want to go to school, a local author has created a charming children's book to help families deal with this challenge. The book, titled [*Mommie, I Don't Want to Go to School*](#), is available now on Amazon. The author humbly asked to remain anonymous, but if you check the Amazon listing, you'll find out who it is!

...Swansea native **Antjuan Seawright** was featured in [an article](#) appearing in the April issue of CityLight's Catalyst Magazine for his influence and success as a political consultant on the national, state, and local levels. Seawright, founder and CEO of Blueprint Strategy LLC, is featured as the Democratic political analyst for the "State House Insiders" segment that airs during WLTX-TV's 7 p.m. newscast on Thursdays. That's Antjuan on the left in the image below from the segment that aired a few weeks ago.



Happening in the Community

Public Information Meetings: Proposed Local Hospitality Tax Ordinance

Monday, May 12 | 9 AM | Sea Swan Café | 275 S. Monmouth Avenue

Wednesday, May 14 | 6 PM | Town Council Chambers | 320 W. Third St.

Learn more about the Town's proposed local hospitality tax ordinance and how it will impact our community. For more information, contact [Chris Keefer](#), Town Administrator, at 803-568-2835.

Swansea Speaks: A Community Conversation with LRADAC

Thursday, May 15 | 6-7 PM

Town Council Chambers | 320 W. Third Street

LRADAC invites the community to learn more about LRADAC and to hear your ideas and questions about how to make Swansea stronger, healthier, and more connected. For more details, see the [event flyer](#).

Swansea High School Commencement Ceremony

Friday, May 30 | 8:00 AM

Doug Bennett Stadium | 718 Redmond Mill Road

Celebrate the achievements of Swansea High School's Class of 2025 during its graduation ceremony at the high school stadium. Tickets are not required for entry.

"Color Our World" Summer Reading 2025 Kickoff Party

Friday, June 6 | 2-4 PM

Lexington County Library – Swansea Branch Library | 199 N. Lawrence Avenue

Kickoff a summer of reading with colorful stories, lively games and activities, yummy pizza and cotton candy, and a bright world of full-color possibilities. All ages invited! For more information, visit or call the Swansea Branch Library at 803-785-3519.

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



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