



# E-NEWS

A LOOK BACK AT THE MONTH THAT WAS AND THE MONTH THAT WILL BE IN SWANSEA



The Town of Swansea is starving for local coverage on all that is happening in our great community and as a result will be providing a monthly update recapping our board/committee meetings, providing department updates, advertising upcoming events, spotlighting employees and projects, and highlighting local businesses. This e-newsletter will be published on our website at the end/beginning of each month and feature a subscription service so that it can be emailed to anyone interested in receiving it. Please email [media@swanseama.gov](mailto:media@swanseama.gov) to receive the newsletter directly in your inbox.

## UNSUNG HEROES

On Jan 18, 2024, 20-year old Tristan Tucker was involved in a head-on collision with a drunk driver. Tristan is currently a student at MTTI and works at Five Guys Burgers. The Five Guys team began donating their tips to Tristan on January 19, which initiated additional community involvement. Residents were stopping in to donate without purchasing food, and other businesses such as County Fare Too and Friendly's jumped in by also donating their tips. As of this past weekend, Five Guys is still accepting donations for Tristan. Josh, Tucker, Tristan's brother, set up a go fund me if the community is still looking to donate <https://gofund.me/acdbc22d>. It is uplifting to see the hope, help, and sense of community throughout all of Swansea to help Tristan and his family during this difficult time. Thank you, Swansea!

Local resident Betty Consigli has personally taken on the responsibility of ensuring a clean neighborhood on Warhurst Avenue. Her commitment to ensuring a litter-free area for her and her neighbors to enjoy does not go unnoticed and signifies the tremendous impact a small act can have on a community like Swansea. We thank Betty for her volunteerism and initiative to keep Swansea beautiful and to publicly recognize her efforts. She has even approached state and local officials to discuss setting up a Beautification Day where teams would clean up Swansea town-wide. Her work embodies the Martin Luther King, Jr., quote, "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." Thank you, Betty!!

Follow us on Social Media—Facebook, & Instagram



- Check out our dedicated news websites:
- [swanseaportal.com](http://swanseaportal.com)
- [swanseapolice.com](http://swanseapolice.com)

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Click below for all real estate transactions from 2023  
January 2024



## COMING DOWN THE PIKE

Based on public feedback during the Comprehensive Plan development, an analysis of several features along Rt. 103 will begin this spring. Topics to explore include safety improvements for pedestrians and vehicles, streetscape improvements, and zoning changes. If interested in learning more, please email [jhansen@swanseama.gov](mailto:jhansen@swanseama.gov)

## BUILDING PERMITS

Click below for residential and commercial building permits issued over the last month

February 2024 Permits



## POLICE LOGS

[https://cms8.revize.com/revize/swanseama/departments/police\\_department/dispatch\\_logs/dispatch\\_log\\_february\\_2024.php](https://cms8.revize.com/revize/swanseama/departments/police_department/dispatch_logs/dispatch_log_february_2024.php)



## CULVERT ASSESSMENT

The Town recently had an assessment completed of all road-stream crossings (61), also known as culverts, underneath our local roads as part of a Community Compact Best Practices Grant from the State. Inadequate or undersized road-stream crossings can be flooding and washout hazards and can serve as barriers to the passage of fish and other aquatic organisms. As precipitation events become more intense and less predictable as a result of climate change, inadequate or undersized road-stream crossings throughout the Town are expected to pose a greater risk through the threat of failure causing flooding damage to homes and businesses, transportation/utility infrastructure, and stream channel erosion.

The results of the stream crossing assessments will inform the selection of infrastructure and natural system solutions to increase flood resilience and stream connectivity in the community. This project is intended to help the Town prioritize culverts for repair or replacement based on their structural condition and aquatic organism passage. The data collected through this field inventory effort will also provide the Town with data to perform additional future analyses that would enable the Town to prioritize crossings based on potential for improving other aspects of community resilience, such as maintaining emergency response routes, mitigating existing and potential future flooding, and increasing stream continuity and aquatic passage.

Here is a quick summary of the results:

**22% were deemed to be in poor or critical condition**

**59 had flow constriction and 40 of those were rated as severe**

**59 had utility crossings at them, which indicates the critical nature of their integrity**

Hydraulic capacity was calculated at five crossings shown below that have previously experienced roadway flooding:

Stevens Road at Lewin Brook; Sharps Lot at Lewin Brook; Seaview Drive; Touisset Avenue; Marvel Road east of Bark Street



Based on this Assessment, the Town will seek State and Federal grants to address the deficiencies found at these locations.

More information on the Assessment can be found here: [https://www.swanseama.gov/departments/highway\\_department\\_public\\_works/culvert\\_management.php](https://www.swanseama.gov/departments/highway_department_public_works/culvert_management.php)

# March

*Spring is sprung, the grass is riz.  
I wonder where the birdies is.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 	18	19 	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 <b>Good Friday; Town Offices Closed</b>	30
31 						

See board/committee meeting calendar here: <https://www.swanseama.gov/calendar.php?view=month&month=10&day=01&year=2023&calendar>

## BOARD SPOTLIGHT

### Harbor Advisory Committee

Established by the Board of Selectmen in June 2000

1-year term; 9 members - appointed (one vacancy)

Henry Elliot, Chair

Mike Raposa, Vice-Chair

Kevin Munro, Clerk

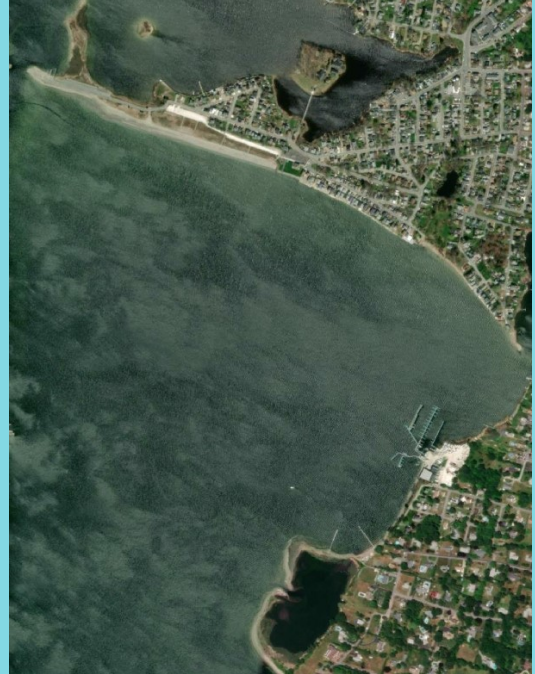
Shawn Cusick

Nanci Hedgorth

Sean Moffi

Charles Applegate

Shane Heneghen



The Harbor Advisory Committee provides the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen assistance in matters to do with the coastal waters in the Town. They are currently working on a Waterways Plan and a volunteer water sampling effort with lab testing done by UMass Dartmouth.

### Cultural Council

MGL Chapter 10, Section 58

3-year term; 7 members - appointed

Jennifer Salpietro, Chair

Lisa Majewski, Treasurer

Colleen Mulligan, Secretary

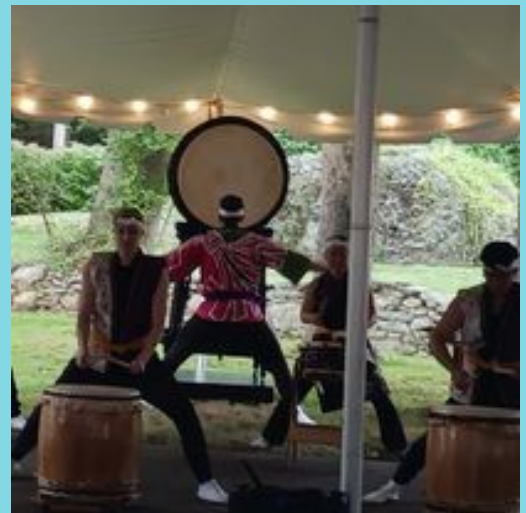
Albertina Bell

Ersilia Fanuele

Kimberly O'Donoghue

Brian Lowney

The Swansea Cultural Council is part of the Local Cultural Council (LCC) Program administered by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The program promotes the availability of cultural experiences for residents in Massachusetts. Receives and evaluates applications for arts and cultural programs within the Town; allocates funds in the form of grants from the State Arts Lottery Fund. A member cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. After 2nd term, the volunteer must wait a year before being reappointed.



# Swansea Council on Aging



260 Ocean Grove Avenue ~ Swansea, MA 02777  
508 - 676 - 1831

## MOVIE DAY AT THE COA



Join us on Monday, March 18th at 1 PM for Portrait in Black. They say money can't buy happiness, but can murder? Lana Turner and Anthony Quinn star as an adulterous couple who conspire to kill her tyrannical husband. The lovers in crime receive an anonymous letter and their life begins to unravel as they realize that someone, somewhere, knows their dark secret. FREE to Swansea seniors 60+. Non-residents—\$2.00. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED—508-676-1831.

## MASSACHUSETTS EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM



Join us on Monday, March 25th at 1 PM for important information from the Massachusetts State 911 Department. This agency funds and oversees the Massachusetts Equipment Distribution Program or more commonly referred to as MassEDP. The program provides adaptive telephone equipment to people who have difficulty using a landline or wire-

less telephone due to issues such as hearing loss or vision loss. The telephones that are part of the program can assist with providing a more clear, independent phone communication and the ability to contact 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency. The specialized telephone equipment is offered to people with a permanent disability for little or no cost, depending on income level. We look forward to sharing more information about the application process in order to receive telephone equipment through MassEDP. To register, please call the Swansea COA at 508-676-1831.

## BOOKS & BREW CREW BOOK CLUB



Our Book Club continues on the last Tuesday of each month at 1 PM. Books will be available for free on a "loaned" Kindle device for Swansea seniors 60+. A hard copy may be available upon request. Kindles are limited - first-come, first-served. Call 508-676-1831 to register. Our fourth Book: "The Girl Who Was Taken". High school seniors Nicole and Megan are at a beach party

in their small town when they go missing. Police launch a massive search. Hope is all but lost—until Megan escapes. A year later, the bestselling account of her ordeal has made Megan a celebrity. It's a triumphant story, except for one inconvenient detail: Nicole is still missing.



# Swansea Council on Aging

## WRAP UP

Finishing February



**CRAFT EVENT:** Beautiful wooden heart keepsake boxes were decorated beautifully by this talented group! Great job everyone!



**BOOK CLUB EVENT:** Our Books & Brew Crew met to discuss "Please Tell Me". Special guest Town Administrator stopped by to join us to discuss this incredible book. We even enjoyed some freshly baked Pizzelle's! We'll be meeting on February 26th to talk about "The Silent Patient". Don't miss out! Call the Swansea COA at 508-676-1831 to register for March's book!



**Medicare Matters:** 1) Council on Aging staff continue to attend monthly training to keep apprised of upcoming changes impacting our seniors. 2) Medicare beneficiaries should be mindful of a scam asking its way through our Town. Scammers call the homes of seniors, claiming to be from Medicare and ask that you verify your Medicare number on the pretense that they will be mailing out new Medicare card with a new chip. There is NO SUCH CARD. Also, Medicare will NOT CALL YOU—HANG UP! 3) You are reminded to look at your Medicare Summary notices. A Swansea senior recently noticed that Medicare had been billed THOUSANDS of dollars for catheters they do NOT use and did not receive. Upon reporting this to Medicare, I was advised that fraud is often then case when billing for urinary catheters.

Swansea COA SCAM ALERT  
Medicare will NOT call you  
NO Chip Cards being Issued



JUST HANG UP

# TOWN DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## Board of Assessors

Long standing Board of Assessor's member Wayne Gray will not seek another term. His experience and wisdom will be greatly missed. Elderly, Widow, Veteran and Blind Exemption deadlines are April 1st.

Single-family median sales prices:

2019—\$332,450

2020-\$353,000

2021-\$381,000

2022-\$420,000

2023-\$439,000

## Town Clerk

March 5th is the Presidential Primary. Early in-person voting can take place between 8am-2pm at Town Hall. The Annual Town Election is April 8th.

## Fire Department

Station 4 firefighter Timothy Johnson submitted his notice of retirement after 41 years of service as volunteer firefighter. Station 1 firefighters Gary Irons and Erik Ferriera submitted letters of resignation due to career changes that have limited their ability to commit sufficient time to the department. Station 1 welcomed back firefighter Logan Macdonald who had been serving overseas on active duty with the US Army. Station 2 welcomed Lucas Canario as a new member

There were 48 emergency responses by the Fire Department during the month of January. There were 252 emergency medical dispatches during the month. Swansea firefighters provided 229 man-hours of emergency response and 156 man-hours of training for a total of 385 man-hours of commitment by volunteer firefighters. Department members were also detailed for a total of 95 hours to Cardi's Furniture as the replacement of the facility's fire pump left the building with no fire protection for several hours over the course of multiple days.

The Department also said a sad farewell to longtime firefighter Tony Miranda, who served Station 1 for 43 years, including as Deputy Chief. Deputy Chief Miranda was an excellent person who always offered guidance to fellow firefighters and was a constant light. He will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

## Town Administrator

The Town was awarded \$1000 from MEGA, our workers compensation company, to implement safety practices for the workplace. We installed two eye wash stations at the Highway Department. The grant is a reimbursable grant.

The Swansea-Somerset Youth Soccer League was selected to lease about 8 acres on Medeiros Farm for soccer fields. They will be charged with constructing and maintaining the fields. The buildings were demolished and the land is ready for improvements. The Town will start with a parking lot, roadway, gaga ball and disc golf track utilizing the \$750,000 in earmarked funds from the state to do so.

## Library

Please tune into the [first episode of \*Flipping the Pages\*](#) hosted by our Director, Jocelyn Tavares, who welcomes local author Steven Manchester.

# GARDNER SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

## GARDNER SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM PROCLAMATION

Whereas: In 1989, the National Snack Food Association and the National Potato Promotion Board declared February as **National Snack Food Month** to raise awareness about snacking and keeping up healthy lifestyles; and

Whereas: Massachusetts is home to very tasty snacks, including the Chocolate Chip Cookie, created by Ruth Wakefield in 1938 in Whitman, Ocean Spray Craisins, developed in Middleboro, and the famous Cape Cod Potato Chip from Hyannis; and,

Whereas: Healthy snacks help manage hunger, boost nutrition and are fun to share with friends and family, and as a result there are plentiful snacks to choose from when deliberating on the best snack for Swansea.

NOW, THEREFORE, the members of the Gardner School Student Leadership Team hereby decree the official snack of Swansea shall be Pepperidge Farm Goldfish, made effective by majority vote of said body on Friday, February 9, 2024, and charge all citizens to take notice of the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of the Town of Swansea to be affixed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

Melina

Alyssa

Leonardo Carrera

Anabelle

Hadley Sanchez

Dayton Ribeiro

Alle Fiorilla

This month, Town Hall had some special visitors – the second grade Student Leadership Team from Gardner School led by Principal Nick Overy. The students visited each office to learn more about their specific functions and how all of the offices contribute toward the workings of the community. The group was sworn in during their visit to the Town Clerk as the Town Administrator charged them with selecting the Official Snack of Swansea! While sitting at the great table at the Library, three members volunteered to serve as Selectmen and heard various ideas about which snack was the best for the Town as other students advocated for their choice.



## PROCLAMATION AND CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

WHEREAS, the GARDNER SCHOOL aims to educate and inspire elementary students of Swansea by ensuring a well-rounded foundational curriculum with innovation, curiosity, and leadership; and,


WHEREAS, the GARDNER SCHOOL, led by Principal Nicholas Overy has established a Student Leadership Program designed to teach the importance of civic engagement and community service to local municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, the GARDNER SCHOOL Student Leadership Team has organized to learn and experience practical simulations of government, meeting in the Swansea Free Public Library to hold a mock Selectmen's Meeting and determine the Official Snack of Swansea, demonstrating skills in advocacy, public speaking, community engagement, debate and civil discourse, and leadership, all skills that will distinguish Swansea students as future leaders in our great Town and Commonwealth.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Swansea, do hereby recognize the GARDNER SCHOOL, NICHOLAS OVERY, and the members of the STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM for their hard work and dedication to learning about service, their commitment to lead with kindness and understanding, and to educate the future of the country and the Town of Swansea.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Great Seal of the Town of Swansea to be affixed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

  
Christopher R. Carreiro  
Chairman

  
Robert C. Medeiros  
Vice Chairman

  
Steven H. Kitchin  
Clerk

After significant deliberation, **Pepperidge Farm Goldfish** came out on top by unanimous vote! The students all shared snacks and had a Q&A with the Town Administrator and Community Development Director.

