

Swanzey Uncovered Winter Edition



Town Administrator's Report – Fall/Winter 2025

I am excited to share my first-ever report for Swanzey Uncovered! As we move into the fall and winter months, there is so much to be grateful for in our community. Below are a few important updates and highlights since this summer.

Town Hall Updates & New Staff

Town Hall is now fully staffed, and we are thrilled to welcome two new team members:

Katie Collins, Administrative Assistant – Katie has seamlessly stepped into this role and quickly become an essential part of our daily operations. She supports the Town Administrator, the Board of Selectmen, and all municipal departments.

Jessica Russell, Welfare Director – Jessica brings valuable experience and compassion to this new position. Her fresh ideas and resident-centered approach will strengthen our ability to assist individuals and families with basic needs.

Town Hall Building Improvements

Earlier this spring, Town Hall received several building upgrades, including a new front ramp and staircase to improve accessibility. Additionally, enhanced security measures were installed to ensure privacy, safety and efficiency for employees and visitors. Most recently, the back entrance deck and stairs were replaced due to rotten and warped wood that was causing a safety concern.

Swanzey Community Power Program

Program Options Starting December 2025				Eversource Basic Service
Swanzey Standard (Community Default)	Swanzey Basic	Swanzey 50	Swanzey 100	Residential
11.580 ¢/kWh	11.220 ¢/kWh	12.100 ¢/kWh	13.890 ¢/kWh	11.196 ¢/kWh
Adds 10% voluntary renewable energy (NH Class I RECs)	No additional renewable energy	Adds voluntary renewable energy (NH Class I RECs) to total 50%	Adds voluntary renewable energy (NH Class I RECs) to total 100%	No additional renewable energy
24 Months: December 2025 until December 2027 meter reads				Aug 1, 2025 - Jan. 31, 2026



The Swanzey Community Power program has been renewed with new pricing effective from December 2025 to December 2027. Current participants do not need to take action to remain enrolled. More information: https://swanzeycommunitypower.com

Governance Committee Progress

The Governance Committee has been hard at work reviewing various forms of municipal government. The Board of Selectmen looks forward to hearing their recommendations at the December 10th meeting. Updates can be found on the Governance Committee Facebook page or the Town website.

Fire Station Project Update

The new Swanzey Fire Station project continues to advance on schedule. Gordon Services and project partners have made steady progress, and we look forward to sharing additional updates in the coming months.

2026 Budget Development

Department Heads and the Board of Selectmen have been working diligently to prepare a fiscally responsible 2026 municipal budget. We remain committed to delivering high-quality services while being mindful of taxpayer dollars.

Important 2026 Town Meeting Dates:

- Budget Hearing: January 13
- Deliberative Session: February 3
- Town Election: March 10

Thank you for your continued support, involvement, and pride in our community. Swanzey is a wonderful place to live and work, and it's an honor to serve as your Town Administrator.

Respectfully,
Lori Rautiola
Town Administrator

Swanzey Rail Trail Advisory Committee

The Rail Trail Advisory Committee continues work on improving and maintaining both the Ashuelot Trail and the Cheshire Trail.
The RTAC has been busy with activity on both trails:
Ashuelot Rail Trail:
The trail was mowed once this year. The two most northerns washouts from the July 2023 floods were fixed in May thanks to the Keene SnoRiders. The washout adjacent to the Eversource substation is planned to be fixed in 2026 as part of the Christian Hill Rd bridge project. The current historic Christian Hill Rd bridge will be moved to fix the washout. The remaining 4 washouts located between the two Holbrook Rd crossings is being funded by a TAP grant that Swanzey was awarded several years ago. Planned implementation is 2027.
The Town awarded the MAST grant to install flashing pedestrian crossings at each of the three Matthews Rd crossing. A flashing pedestrian crossing at Sawyers Crossing Rd has been added to the project. Implementation has been moved to 2026.
Working with the Swanzey DPW, the plan is to replace three rusted galvanized culverts local a bit south of the Riley Conservation trail head.
Working with the Swanzey DPW, detour signs to detour trail users around the washouts was completed in the sprint.
Cheshire Rail Trail:
The trail was mowed once this year. Thanks to the Swanzey DPW, the parking area located at Mt Huggins Dr was improved.
The RTP grant to grade, level, fill, and apply final hardpack surface material was implemented this year by Swanzey DPW. Thanks to Joe DiRusso and the crew. They did a great job. The trail is world class.






Swanzey Governance Committee
Chairman's Update

In hopes of finding better ways of keeping Swanzey voters informed and involved, and to review the workings and operation of our town government, the Selectmen appointed a committee to gather information and explore the pros and cons of different forms of town government. The committee started meeting in August with discussions on our current form of government, SB 2 (formerly known as the Australian ballet.) This system utilizes a deliberative session where all the warrant articles are discussed and possibly amended, but not decided on, just voted to move forward to a second session where all matters are decided by ballot without further discussion. We have discussed variations of SB 2 where only specific questions, such as, budgetary and/or non-budgetary would be on the ballot.
We have discussed Traditional Town Meeting where all of the town business and budgetary questions are discussed and decided at one meeting, along with matters decided by ballot (election of town officers, and zoning amendments). Another form of town meeting we have discussed is a Representative Town Meeting, which is a variation of traditional town meeting, where voters elect representatives from districts within the town that would vote on and decide all issues that are not decided by ballot. Our discussions have touched on a Town Council/Town Manager form of government where a town council is elected and the town council appoints a town manager who takes the place of the board of selectmen. This form of government not only abolishes the Selectboard, it also abolishes the town meeting form of government. A variation of this form of government would be just a town council where the town council functions as both the governing body (Selectboard) and the legislative body (voters). We have also discussed the "Official Ballot Town Council" which is a blend that limits the power of the town council by authorizing certain matters on which the voters, by official ballot, vote, such as a Budgetary Town Meeting where the voters have a limited authority to vote on the annual operating budget as presented by the town council. So, as you can see, the committee has its work cut out for it. We have until late November to submit a recommendation/proposal to the Selectboard in order for it to be included on the next town warrant. Our meetings are posted on the Swanzey website and we encourage anyone interested to attend.

Ann Heffernon
Chair Swanzey Governance Committee

MT. CAESAR UNION LIBRARY FALL/WINTER HAPPENINGS 2025/26

As winter closes in, the library has a variety of community activities to keep you engaged and entertained. If you'd like to cozy up with a book, audio, or movie, we've got you covered. Snowed in? Sign up for Libby to get access to downloadable books or audios. Our wifi is 24/7 for those times the lines are down. If you have an electric car, we have a residential grade charger at the rate of $2.00 an hour. Hard work has taken place amongst our rarely-seen collection of Swanzey antiques, and there was an open house to view them in November. An all-ages comics workshop with Marek Bennett will entertain in early December. Come check it out!

Wishing everyone happy holidays.

Special Activities

ANTIQUARIAN OPEN HOUSE	Sat. 11/22/25 10-2	
MAREK BENNETT COMICS WORKSHOP	Sat. 12/6/25 12:30-1:30	
SCOUTS TREE LIGHTING w SANTA	Sun. 12/7/25 4:45	
FAMILY HOLIDAY MOVIE NIGHT	Fri. 12/19/24, 6:30	The Polar Express
MUSICAL STORYTIME w/ Kim Wallach	Tue. 2/24/26 10:30	

HOURS
Mon 10-4
Tue 10-5
Wed 2-8
Thurs 10-5
Sat 10-2

Ongoing Activities

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME	Thursdays, weekly, 10:30
YOUTH WRITING GROUP (age 11+)	1st & 3rd Saturdays, 12:30-1:30
HOMESCHOOL FAMILY MEETUP	Tuesdays, weekly, 1:30
TEEN BOOK CLUB	1st Thursdays, monthly, 3:00-4:30
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT	Fridays once a month, 6:30
SILENT BOOK CLUB	2nd Wednesdays, monthly, 6-7:30
MCUL BOOK CLUB	1st Mondays, monthly, 12:30 Swanz. Cong. Church
KNITTING GROUP	1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30



Swanzey Fire Department
PO Box 10009 34 Main Street, Swanzey, New Hampshire, 03446
603-358-6455

As another busy year comes to an end, we would like to take this time to thank all of the voters that assisted with the approval of the new fire station. It is well underway and completion should be late winter/early spring 2026, we're looking forward to the move-in date and an open house for the community, and to show off the hard work efforts of the Fire Station Advisory committee and the firefighters that assisted with this project.

The colder weather is upon us, we can't urge everyone enough to have your heating systems cleaned for the season. This includes oil and propane furnaces, wood and pellet stoves, keep those chimneys clean and free from debris. Keep any intake or makeup air vents clear of bushes, shrubs, and snow build up, this can lead to unburnt gasses getting back into your home and exposing your family to carbon monoxide gasses. Hopefully you changed the batteries in the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. During the snowy months to come have your walkways shoveled and free from ice as best can be completed, this will reduce the risk of falls this winter.



Trustee of Trust Funds

Throughout the last 125 years, loyal residents of Swanzey have gifted the Town with funds above and beyond the taxes each of us pays toward community governance and operations. Such gifts are administered by the Trustees of Trust Funds, according to the stated wishes of the benefactor (typically in the last will and testament), and New Hampshire law. Three of Swanzey's legacy trusts are changing status, because their "missions" have been 99% accomplished. Trustees wish to recognize, with profound gratitude, the donors whose trusts will hereafter be changed, and whose names will disappear, regrettably, from the annual Town Report. 1. J. Edward Bouvier – Born in East Swanzey, the son of the local blacksmith, Bouvier spent a distinguished career leading musical groups of all sizes in the Worcester, Mass., area, including 30+ years at Holy Cross College. Upon retirement, he returned to Swanzey, where he built a private chapel (with Vatican approval), called "Naylon View," in recognition of his parents. He served two terms as representative for Swanzey in the NH House. He conducted The Old Homestead ensemble. And he left funds to the Carpenter Home, where he spent his final years. The Bouvier Carpenter Home fund has now dwindled to a size that no longer justifies the bookkeeping to keep it open. Accordingly, with the consent of Town officers and the approval of the director of Charitable Trusts, it has been consolidated with the larger George Whitcomb fund, similarly devoted to the Carpenter Home (now the Carpenter Trust). . Charles Carlton – Born in 1882 at the family farm in East Swanzey, Charles Carlton spent his working years in Peterborough. At his death in 1962, he bequeathed funds to many organizations, among which were the Community House in East Swanzey, Mount Caesar Library (enabling the construction of the fire-resistant ell on the south side), Mountain View cemetery (for paving of roadways), and Mt. Caesar cemetery (for installation of water lines). The Carlton family is also responsible for a substantial trust which supports the performing arts at Monadnock Regional High School. The Charles Carlton Community House Fund is hereafter merged with the Samuel Read Fund, for the same purpose and reasons. 3. Nettie Stone – Mrs. Stone can be credited with the "pavilion" at the Swanzey Lake public beach area known as Richardson Park. The fund she left for maintenance of the building was restricted to income-use only. Since the income stream is no longer sufficient to warrant its separate accounting, the principal and remaining income will be expended on the building in spring 2026. Nettie Stone was born Lunette Ballou in Swanzey in 1852. The widow of George D. Stone, she died in 1920. Trustees again express their appreciation of residents who contribute to the wellbeing of the Town.

Planning Department

Adam Paquette, Town Planner – ***apaquette@swanzeynh.gov*** or 603-352-7411 ext. 112
Stephon Mehu, Assistant Town Planner – ***smehu@swanzeynh.gov*** or 603-352-7411 ext. 108

Certified Mail: What Does It Mean?

If you receive a piece of certified mail from the Town, don't worry! This usually means a neighbor has submitted an application to the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment. New Hampshire law requires us to notify all neighbors (abutters) about public hearing dates. Please open and read your letter. This is your chance to learn about proposed changes that might affect you. Attending the public hearing allows you to ask questions and share your feedback on the project. Stay informed by collecting certified mail from the Town!

Volunteer Opportunities

The following Town boards, committees, and commissions currently have openings and are seeking new members:

The Zoning Board of Adjustment works to evaluate the requests of property owners who want to use their land in ways that deviate from Swanzey's zoning ordinance. Examples include requests for variances or special exceptions, appeals from administrative decisions, and requests for equitable waivers from dimensional requirements.

The Conservation Commission works to maintain and improve the natural resources of Swanzey. Members monitor and manage land conserved under the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). They also provide comments to NH-DES on permit applications for work in wetlands, as well as review all new proposals and ongoing projects with respect to their effect on the environment.

The Energy Commission works to advise and make recommendations to Town staff and Boards, Committees, & Commissions on matters of policy pertaining to the study, planning, and utilization of energy resources for municipal buildings and built resources of the Town .

The Rail Trails Advisory Committee is charged with making recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on the options for use, maintenance, fundraising, and other matters, as requested by the Board, for the two rail-trail corridors in Swanzey.

While we currently have a full roster for our Planning Board, we encourage those interested in serving to keep an eye out for potential openings later in the year

Volunteering with one of these groups is a great opportunity for residents to get more involved in the community and help with making important decisions about the Town's future. More information on these committees, commissions, and boards can be found on the Town's website, including meeting minutes and packets. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Does Your Project Meet Local Regulations? Starting a project on your property? Not sure if it complies with local regulations? The Planning and Economic Development Department can help! Call or email our office to schedule a pre-application meeting in advance of your application submittal. Pre-application meetings are not mandatory, but they can help identify and solve problems ahead of a public hearing.

Appointments with Staff
To ensure you receive the most accurate information for your needs, we highly recommend scheduling an appointment in advance of your visit to Town Hall. Walk-ins are accepted, but we serve scheduled appointments first, and walk-in assistance is subject to staff availability and daily workload.

Planning Roundtable Sessions
In 2026, we are hosting a series of community roundtable sessions. Swanzey residents are encouraged to attend and provide input on how our Zoning Ordinance should adapt for the future. Meet with Planning Board members and Town Planners to share your perspective.

Session dates and times will be announced following the Town Meeting**.**

Recreation Department

2025-2026 School's Out Program
Looking for engaging and fun activities for your children during school breaks and days off? Our School's Out Program offers a safe and enriching environment at Whitcomb Hall (17 Main Street) from 8am to 5pm.
Fee: $30 per child / $20 per sibling
Upcoming Dates:

- Winter Break (*no program on 12/25 or 1/1)



- Monday 1/19
- Tuesday 1/20
- Friday 2/6
- February Vacation Break (2/23-2/27)
- Tuesday 3/10
- Friday 3/20
- April Vacation Break (4/27-5/1)

Give your child a memorable and active out-of-school experience!
For more information and registration details scan the QR code!

2nd Annual Swanzey Snow Fest
Sunday, January 18th ~ 1pm to 3pm ~ Swanzey Ball Fields
Join us for the 2nd Annual Swanzey Snow Fest as part of World Snow Day! Spend the afternoon enjoying all the wonders our New England snow has to offer! We will have sledding, a snowman building contest, hot chocolate and s'mores around the bonfire!
Weather Permitting

Family Valentine's Dance
Friday, February 13th ~ 6pm to 8pm ~ Whitcomb Hall
Grab the family and your dancing shoes and join us for a wonderful evening at our Family Valentine's Dance! DJ and dancing on the 2nd while we have a valentines craft and light refreshments & drinks on the 1st floor.

6th Annual Wilson Pond Family Ice Fishing Derby
Sunday, February 22nd
This wonderful event is co-hosted by Connecticut River Sportsman's Club and fun for the whole family! Fingers crossed that Mother Nature plays nice this year! More information to come at the end of December!

Spring Kickball League
Our 6-week spring kickball league will be held at Brown Memorial Field from May 5th-June 11th on Tuesdays & Thursdays starting at 5:30pm. This is a fantastic opportunity for children in kindergarten-6th grade to get active, learn teamwork, and enjoy a classic playground game. This league is perfect for kids looking for a low-pressure, high-fun environment to make new friends and develop basic athletic skills. More information to come in February and registration will open in March.

Swanzey Lake Summer Camp
Join us for 8-weeks of fun this summer at Swanzey Lake Summer Camp
Weekly themes, Wacky Wednesdays, Roller Skating Fridays, daily swimming, games & crafts! Register for all 8 weeks and swim lessons are included, weekly registration is also available.
Location: Richardson Park - 60 East Shore Road
Time: 8am to 4pm
Registration Closes: June Ages: Entering Kindergarten - Entering 6th Grade for the 2026-2027 school year
Registration Opens: March 1st for Swanzey Resident , April 1st for Non-Resident Registration opens April 1st

Upcoming Community Events

- Annual Easter Egg Hunt
  - Saturday, April 4th at 10am ~ Swanzey Ball Fields
- Sweep Up Swanzey
  - Saturday & Sunday, April 18th & 19th
- Town Wide Yard Sale

- Saturday & Sunday, May 16th & 17th
- Swanzey Gate to Gate 5Kish
- Saturday, June 13th ~ Richardson Park

Richardson Park ~ 60 East Shore Road

Richardson Park on Swanzey Lake is the town owned beach, bathhouse, & summer camp pavilion that is open to Swanzey Residents and their guests from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 10am to 8pm. Visitors will be asked for their residency upon arrival at the parking lot, please be prepared to present your driver's license or car registration to our Public Beach Attendants.

Some Rules to Remember:

- Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult while at Richardson Park
- No dogs or other animals. Service dogs are allowed.
- No smoking or vaping on the property. This includes the parking lot.
- No alcohol or glass on the property.
- Mon – Fri 7:30am to 4:30pm, for 9 weeks the pavilion and right side of the property is designated for Swanzey Lake camp

Brown Memorial Field ~ 732 West Swanzey Road

The Brown Memorial Fields, located at 732 West Swanzey Rd, offers softball and 12U soccer field rental opportunities for the 2026 summer season to organizations and members of the public. Interested parties for the 2026 season should visit the Brown Memorial page on the Town website or scan the QR code!

Part-Time Seasonal Employment Opportunities

We are looking to fill the following seasonal position in 2026;

- Basketball Referees (January & February)
  - Must be 13+ years old
  - $25 a game
- Summer Camp Counselors / Lifeguards (mid June to mid August)
  - Must be 16+ years old
  - Starting at $12.36 for counselors & $13.61 for lifeguards
  - Will provide lifeguard training at no cost for the right applicants
- Public Beach Lifeguards (Memorial Day to Labor Day)
  - Must be 17+ years old
  - Starting at $13.61
  - Will provide lifeguard training at no cost for the right applicants
- Public Beach Attendants (Memorial Day to Labor Day)
  - Must be 14+ years old
  - Starting at $12.00
- Soccer Referees (September & October)
  - Must be 13+ years old
  - $25 a game

To apply please fill out an application found on the town website and email to Meagen (mkerris@swanzeynh.gov) or drop it off at the Town Hall.

Calling All Local Businesses: Invest in Swanzey's Future!

The Swanzey Recreation Department is seeking enthusiastic corporate sponsors to help us continue providing vital events, programs, and facilities for our community. Your support will directly contribute to enriching the lives of Swanzey residents of all ages.

For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Swanzey Recreation at (603) 209-2927, recreation@swanzeynh.gov or scan the QR code!

Scan the QR Code to stay connected & register online!

MyRec Registration System

Swanzey Recreation Facebook

Department of Public Works

DPW would like to introduce the following three new employees:

DPW/Wastewater Foreman Drew Armstrong
DPW Truck Driver & Laborer Chris Simonds
Swanzey Wastewater Operator Rob Riendeau

2025 has been very busy for the Department of Public Works. In addition to the annual maintenance work, such as grading, ditching and roadside mowing, the following projects were successfully completed:

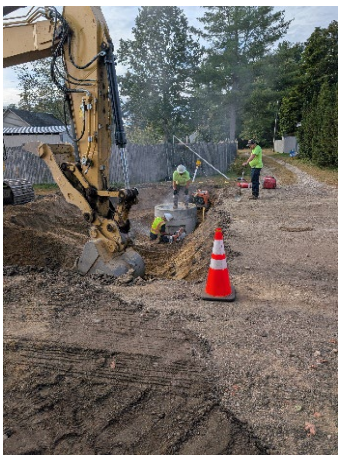
•Railroad Street Sidewalk Project: approximately 1000' of new sidewalk and curbing connecting Main Street to Summer Street was constructed.
•DPW completed several phases of the new Fire Station's site work lowering the overall cost of the project.
•Webber Hill retention wall and drainage project has been finished.
•The following roads were paved this year: Forest Ave., Prospect Street, West Street and a portion of Eaton Road that was failing.
•A portion of West Street was reconstructed, and a drainage system was installed to eliminate dangerous puddles/flooding in the roadway.
•An upgrade to the drainage system on Eaton Road where it meets Railroad Street was completed to eliminate dangerous puddles/flooding in the roadway.
•A formal parking area at the Mt. Cresson conservation area was constructed at the request of the Conservation Committee.
•The project at Town Hall to install a new American Disabilities Act (ADA) entrance and access ramp has been finished. The final phase of this project consisted of rebuilding the rear entry steps.
•The Rail Trail Committee received a grant to resurface the North Swanzey Rail Trail from Keene to Marlborough. The work was completed by DPW.
•The West Swanzey Wastewater Plant Solar Array and Energy Efficiency project was completed. This work consisted of energy efficient improvements to the facility and the installation of a solar array. The goal of the project is to significantly lower electricity costs and possibly provide energy for all of the plant's needs.
•The North Winchester and California Street reconstruction project has been substantially completed. The work consisted of new drainage systems, new sidewalks and complete reconstruction of both roadways. There will be some minor cleanup work/punch list items to be completed during the spring of 2026.

The Building and Grounds Maintenance Crew were also very busy with taking care of the buildings and grounds at the Town Hall, Police Station, Fire Stations, Richardson Park, the baseball fields and cemeteries. Fall cleanup of all Town properties is ongoing on a daily basis as weather allows. As we all work on fall cleanup of leaves and debris from our properties, please remember that driveway culverts are the property owner's responsibility. Leaves are not to be discarded in the drainage ditches and culvert inlets and outlets need to be cleaned. Failure to do this can result in damage to driveways and the roads.

A friendly reminder to residents and visitors that the winter parking ban went into effect on November 15. From November 15 - April 15, all motor vehicles parked on any street or highway between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. or hindering snow removal operations, will be towed at the owner's expense. Don't crowd a snowplow or travel beside it. Snowplows travel slowly, make wide turns, stop often, overlap lanes, and exit the road frequently.







Winter Wildlife Watch: Swanzey Residents Can Celebrate Biodiversity along the Ashuelot

Winter brings a quieter kind of magic to the Ashuelot River in Swanzey. As the days grow shorter and fresh snow softens the riverbanks, life along the Ashuelot doesn't stop, it simply shifts. Tracks appear where leaves once rustled, owls take over the night shift, and hardy plants and lichens hold their ground beneath the frost. It's a beautiful time to appreciate the river's resilience, and an equally important time to help monitor the biodiversity that depends on this corridor.

The Ashuelot River is more than a scenic backdrop for our covered bridges, winter rail-trail walks, and peaceful fishing spots, it's a living ecosystem supporting hundreds of species year-round. Thanks to community scientists and the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee (ARLAC), we're gaining a clearer picture of just how vibrant this corridor remains, even in the coldest months. ARLAC uses iNaturalist to gather observations of plants, animals, and fungi found within roughly half a mile of the riverbanks. Through the Ashuelot River LAC Biodiversity Project, volunteers have already documented an impressive 9,426 observations of 1,991 species. Here in Swanzey alone, residents have contributed 2,608 observations representing 984 species.

Participating is simple, and winter is a great time to start. Whether you're out for a quiet hike, following fresh tracks, or admiring a bright red winterberry against the snow, just snap a photo of any plant, animal, or fungus you see and upload it to iNaturalist. The platform records the location automatically, helps identify what you've found, and adds your observation to ARLAC's growing database that supports river conservation and stewardship.

Winter encourages us to slow down, making it an ideal season to connect with the Ashuelot River in new ways, walking its trails, snowshoeing along its edges, or contributing to community science efforts like this one. Every observation adds to our understanding and helps protect the river's future. Small actions, from recording local wildlife to supporting conservation programs, create meaningful long-term benefits.

If you'd like to get even more involved, consider representing Swanzey on ARLAC and supporting river stewardship through outreach, education, and conservation action. Together, we can protect the Ashuelot for future generations, one observation, one project, and one winter adventure at a time.

Community engagement is key to protecting the Ashuelot River. The more we raise awareness of the river's challenges, the more solutions we can create. To learn about becoming a Swanzey representative on ARLAC, please email Barbara Skuly at bskuly@ne.rr.com.

Learn more about our local biodiversity project and start participating today:

Ashuelot River LAC Biodiversity Project on iNaturalist

Starter's Guide to iNaturalist

Conservation Commission—Swanzey Outdoors

The Conservation Commission thanks the voters for supporting Wetland Conservation District amendments at the polls last March—and in March 2026, we hope you'll do it again! Why? This year, we've spent long hours collaborating with Town Planner Adam Paquette and the Planning Board to bring you a complete and improved ordinance, tailored for Swanzey, and including an accompanying conditional use permit system. Many NH towns use this system in tandem with their ordinances, allowing flexibility in permitting where it makes sense. Our new proposed Wetland Conservation District ordinance (which you'll be able to approve with ONE vote!), does the following:

1. Limits Swanzey's Wetland Conservation District to any wetlands over 1,000 square feet (including portions on adjacent properties), vernal pools over 500 square feet, and any wetlands adjacent to surface water. State law prohibiting dredging and filling ANY wetland will still apply, but Swanzey's new rules will only apply to the above wetlands.
2. Requires a naturally-vegetated buffer OR setback for wetlands over 10,000 square feet, peatlands over 1,000 square feet, vernal pools over 500 square feet and wetlands of any size adjacent to surface water. Those seeking to develop must choose either a buffer or setback: a 20' buffer or 50' setback in the Industrial Park, or Village Business Districts I or II; or a 50' buffer or 75' setback in the Rural/Ag, Residence, Business, and Commercial/Industrial Districts.
3. Allows existing non-conforming uses or structures to continue and be maintained or repaired.
4. Reverts from a 125' wetland setback for a leachfield, to the 75' setback per state law.
5. Exempts human-made ditches, farm ponds and the like, and exempts our larger rivers, Swanzey Lake and Wilson Pond—covered by the more-restrictive Shoreland Protection District.

Permitted uses in the Wetland Conservation District remain essentially the same few as those passed in March, but we now have a list of "conditional uses"—from structures to driveways to parking lots—that will require a Conditional Use Permit, and clear criteria that must be met to permit these activities. Landowners must still comply with state law, and prove they have no alternative to wetland (or buffer) development—but the Conditional Use Permit process will allow more flexibility and creativity where appropriate than the current variance process.

We feel this ordinance more strongly protects our important wetlands and associated wildlife, while allowing reasonable development that takes wetland protection into account.

We want to hear from YOU! Please come to our public hearing on the ordinance in December. You can read the ordinance in its entirety on our page at swanzeynh.gov.

You can also follow us and learn more on our new Conservation Commission Facebook page! Visit https://www.facebook.com/SwanzeyNHConCom/ for info on local wildlife, trails, events and our work.

The Commission is finishing our work with Moosewood Ecological to update our 20-year-old Open Space Plan, set to be completed by March 2026. Residents will be able to preview and offer input on the plan this winter. It will include new maps of our natural resources (and an interactive online story map), ecological assessments, updated conservation focus areas and recommendations for voluntary and regulatory protection of natural resources. The project is paid for by the town's Conservation Fund.

Using the proceeds of the recent Mt. Cresson timber harvest, the Commission hired Meadowsend Consulting to create a new hiking trail loop this fall at Mt. Cresson town forest. Work was completed in November, and you are invited to check it out! We'll host a guided hike this winter or spring as well. The new trail is gentler and less steep and passes by a vernal pool, and the view from the summit has also been opened up again.
Do you know a child or teen who'd like to attend Barry Conservation Camp next summer? How about a graduating senior or grad student majoring in environmental sciences? We offer scholarships! Please contact us for more info or keep an eye on our Facebook page for announcements this winter.
Sadly, we lost our faithful former chair Wally Smith, who passed away August 31. Wally had continued to lend his wisdom serving as an alternate in recent years. If you would like to be an alternate, please contact Cheri Domina at cheri.domina@gmail.com.

Swanzey Lake Watershed Update

Swanzey Lake's 2024 Watershed Management Plan identified 37 sites requiring work over the next 3-5 years to address stormwater runoff, erosion, culvert restrictions and lack of vegetated buffers around the lake. Fifteen of those projects are now done! Thanks to FEMA funds made available after the 2023 flood, the DPW has done a great job shoring up East Shore Road with culverts and rip-rapped ditches.

Talbot Hill Road's west end is still a major erosion problem, which DPW, the Selectboard and the Swanzey Lake WMP work group are studying how to address. North of where Talbot Hill Road intersects East Shore Road, and a large stream flows out of a beaver dam above, the Town and Underwood Engineers are seeking grants to build a culvert similar to one on Rabbit Hollow Road—with guard rails and deep concrete culverts. Engineering, permitting and potential easements will be significant; estimated cost is $750K - $1 million.

Engineers from Fieldstone Consulting are designing solutions for runoff issues at Richardson Park beach. Plans need to be approved by NHDES and could be completed in 2026. Engineers are also designing a reconstruction of the dam, to correct deficiencies before another big storm hits; that work wouldn't take place for at least two years. Lastly, Pilgrim Pines is applying for grants to fix runoff and erosion issues near the chapel and Camp Squanto shoreline. Given federal budget cuts, available grant monies for many projects are now unclear.

The state has approved a petition submitted by the Swanzey Lake Protective Association (SLPA) to create a No Wake Zone at the southern end of the lake. The Zone will be marked by a buoy to be placed by the State in the spring, about 150 feet from where the "channel" enters the lake and 150 feet from both east and west shorelines. The objective is to reduce erosion to the delicate shoreline by encouraging boaters to reduce speed when entering and leaving the lake. The no wake zone was another recommendation by FB Environmental in the Watershed Management Plan. Though only the south end of the lake will be marked by a no wake buoy, State law requires boats travel at "headway" speed (i.e., without generating a wake) within 150 feet of any shoreline.



Tax Collector

Who Sets Swanzey's Tax Rate?
It is actually the State of NH, Dept Of Revenue Administration (DRA) using this formula

$$\text{Tax Rate} = \frac{\text{Total Money to be raised by Taxes}}{\text{Total Taxable Assessed Value of Municipality}}$$

The first step is to determine budget appropriations. Municipalities, school districts and counties determine their annual budgets and necessary appropriations. These are Typically approved by voters in March. The state legislature sets the figure for the statewide education tax.
Second - The net revenue needed is determined. All non-property tax revenues (e.g., state aid, motor vehicle registration fees, permits, licenses, recycling center fees) are subtracted from the total appropriations to determine the remaining amount that mut be raised through property taxes.
Third - Assessors determine the fair market value of all properties in town as of April 1st of that tax year. This assessed value is the basis on which the tax burden is apportioned amount property owners.
Fourth – The DRA calculates an over all rate by adding the rate for each component (municipal, local school, county and state education) together. Some properties in town also pay tax to the North Swanzey Water and Fire Precinct.

Sewer Department

The Town of Swanzey's Sewer Department warns that these items can cause backups that will flood your living space, ruin personal belongings, and require costly repairs.

Please DO NOT flush or put the following items down the drain:
- Dog feces IN PLASTIC BAGS
- ANY "Flushable" wipes (They are NOT flushable and dam up the Town's systems.)
- Paper Towels
- Fats, Oils, or Grease
- Cat Litter
- Feminine Hygiene Products

What is Infiltration and Inflow?
Infiltration and inflow (I&I) is clear water that enters the sanitary sewer system that is not meant to be there. Separate sanitary sewer and stormwater drainage systems are designed to have sanitary sewage directed into one system and stormwater into the other. Negative Impacts of I&I. I&I reduces capacity in sewers intended for sanitary sewage. When I&I enters the sanitary sewer, basement backups may occur which can cause extensive property damage. I&I can also cause sewage to flow out of manholes onto the ground, referred to as sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).
How to help prevent I&I
Repair or replace broken or missing cleanout caps. Disconnect downspouts discharging to the sanitary sewer. Redirect their flow to a pervious area, storm sewer, or rain barrel. Cover window wells to prevent rain and snow from entering window well drains. If your home has a stormwater sump pump, make sure it does not discharge to the sanitary sewer. A licensed plumber can check it and make any necessary modifications. Disconnect driveway drains from the sanitary sewer and direct their flow into a pervious area, to the storm sewer, or to your foundation drain as long as your foundation drain is not connected to the sanitary sewer system. Have your home's service lateral inspected and repair, rehabilitate, or have it replaced. Plan your landscaping to avoid root intrusion into sanitary sewer pipes.

North Swanzey Water and Fire Precinct

I have retired for medical reasons but will stay on as Precinct Clerk to facilitate the transition to our new Superintendent Tyler Hotin. Tyler comes to us with years of experience in water works, most recently with the City of Keene as a Grade II Distribution and Grade II Treatment System Operator. Speaking of Keene, our costs of water have increased and we have to pass that on to you the consumer. The fixed quarterly charge is remaining the same, and the volume charge is now $ 5.62, roughly a 5% increase.
It has been twenty years since we replaced the water mains around Wilson Pond, and our next project is replacing the water mains that bring our water in on Route 12, Route 32, and Swanzey Factory Road. This is obviously a major undertaking, but very required as the current mains are undersized and past their life expectancy. USRDA has awarded us a Preplanning Grant of $30,000 to initiate engineering the project. Underwood Engineers is working on the data to come up with the best course of action to proceed and be successful in procuring grants and low interest loans.
Follow us on our Facebook page North Swanzey Water & Fire Precinct for more updates.
Questions or concerns? Email us at the addresses below, call us at (603) 352-2338, or stop by the Precinct Office at 31 Walnut Place.

Sly Karasinski Tyler Hotin



Golden Rod Grange #114

In the heart of Swanzey stands the Golden Rod Grange Hall, built in 1916, listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings, and once the center of community life for close to a century.

On October 2, 2025, the NH Preservation Alliance designated the Grange Hall as one of the "Seven to Save" structures in the state. This designation raises awareness, draws resources, and ensures that one day the Grange Hall can serve the community. Although the building remains structurally intact, it has suffered decades of deferred maintenance. The Swanzey Preservation Society (SPS) hope to see It restored as a community center once again.

The SPS is reviving events that involve all community members. Every Wednesday, the SPS sponsors a Senior Coffee Connections with good conversation, breakfast treats and worthwhile presentations. This summer, The SPS served refreshments at Old Home Day, and sold hot dogs to concert goers as a fundraiser. On a sunny September Saturday, the SPS hosted a Motorcycle Tour of the six covered bridges in the area, culminating with lunch. All of our great sponsors are listed on our website (http://swanzeyps.wixsite.com//historyisthekey) Check it out!

Many townspeople are in agreement that the building is a part of Swanzey's history and should be preserved. It stands in the center of an historic area with many buildings and private homes dating to the 1700's. When asked what the Grange Hall could be used for, many residents replied: much needed meeting space for town hall and non-profit organizations, town recreation department, coordination with Mt. Caesar Library for programming, performance space for our local schools and theater groups, scouts, summer camps, after school programs, a visitor's center, emergency shelter space, training and workshop space for the police, EMT and fire departments.

The SPS gratefully acknowledges the townspeople for approving the new roof. An in-kind donation to repair, scrape and paint the Grange Hall from Mr. and Mrs. M. Rose, Swanzey residents and licensed contractors, will take place in the spring. A much- needed repair to the foundation is the next project. The SPS asks for your help to preserve the Grange Hall.

Donations can be mailed to: Golden Rod Grange Fund, Swanzey Preservation Society
P.O. Box 10323, Swanzey, NH 03446
For in-kind donations: Contact: Eileen Longe longeeileen1@gmail.com

Swanzey Lake and VLAP

What is VLAP? It is the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program established by the Department of Environmental Services in NH.

Members of the Swanzey Lake Protective Association participate in this program, gathering water samples from Swanzey Lake monthly during the most active season…summer.

We follow protocols set forth by NHDES for gathering, storing, and transporting the samples to Concord for testing. Samples are taken at several depths in the deepest spot on Swanzey Lake as well as two inlets and the outlet by the dam. If water is not adequately flowing at the inlets or is stagnant, no sample is gathered.

What's measured? Color, chloride, chlorophyll, pH, total phosphorus, clarity, conductivity, E.coli, acid neutralizing capacity, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity which is caused by suspended matter (silt, algae) which causes light to be scattered and absorbed.

The good news—readings for 2025 are all within the normal range for color, chloride, E.coli, total phosphorus, and conductivity.

Things of note—our acid neutralizing capacity reading tells us the lake is moderately vulnerable to acid rain effects. Chlorophyll was well within the good range, yet measured just over that threshold late in the summer.

The pH readings throughout the season were satisfactory in most areas of the lake, however, the deep spot samples taken at 12 meters resulted in endangered levels. This and the chlorophyll levels will be monitored closely in the 2026 season.

Dissolved oxygen (DO) levels need to be between 6.5-8 mg/L to support healthy aquatic life. A reading below 5 may cause stress, while readings below 2 are considered hypoxic and are dangerous to aquatic life. Swanzey Lake's DO levels vary from quite good at shallow depths to stressed or hypoxic at greater depths, with concerning levels around 9 meters and deeper.

The great news—water clarity measured as exceptional, and turbidity is very good and very clear.

Recycling Center

Upcoming events

Hazardous Waste Schedule:

The Summer Hazardous Waste days have come to an end. The 2026 Spring Hazardous Waste days are scheduled to be released in winter 2026. Improper disposal of hazardous waste items can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health and can even be fatal. Any questions about Hazardous waste, talk to a facility operator. All collections will be held at the Keene Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility located adjacent to the Keene Recycling Center, 55 Old Summit Road, Keene from 8am-1pm.

ALLOWED

Products marked Flammable, Combustible, Poison, Toxic, Corrosive, Caustic, Reactive, Irritant, Hazardous, and Oxidizer are all dangerous.

Mercury containing products:

- Compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Mercury Vapor
- High Pressure Sodium
- Metal Halide
- Thermostats
- Thermometers
- Mercury button cell batteries
- Switches and relays

NOT ALLOWED

Empty HHW containers

Latex paint - Dry out and dispose of with your trash

Makeup and toiletries - Dispose of with your trash

Fireworks/Flares - Call NH State Police and leave a message 603-223-8590

Ammunition - Call NH State Police and leave a message 603-223-8590

Gun Powder - Call NH State Police and leave a message 603-223-8590

Medications - Bring to Keene Police Department for disposal

Smoke Detectors - Dispose of with your trash



DON'T TRASH RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES – IT'S THE LAW!

Effective July 1, 2025, rechargeable Li-ion batteries are prohibited from disposal in New Hampshire landfills and incinerators. (RSA 149-M:27, II)

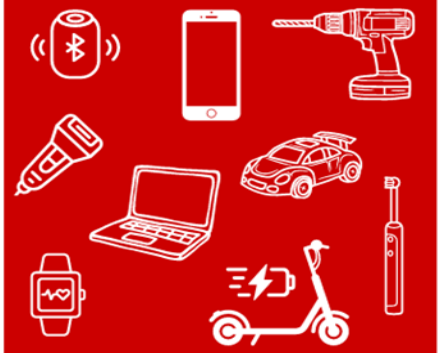
The disposal ban requires **everyone** to recycle their Li-ion batteries.

Vapes/e-cigarettes?

These have a battery!

DO NOT TRASH. Nicotine is an acute hazardous waste.

Manage as a hazardous waste. Contact your town for disposal information.



PRODUCTS WITH RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

Cordless power tools

Personal care products (electric toothbrushes, shavers)

Electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, tablets)

Toys

Electric vehicles, bikes, scooters, hoverboards

WHERE TO RECYCLE YOUR LI-ION BATTERIES

Many New Hampshire municipalities and businesses have collection boxes for recycling rechargeable batteries.

To find a drop-off site near you:

- Contact your transfer station.
- Search online for "Battery Recyclers in NH."
- Search online for battery mailback programs.
- Check Call2Recycle.org or Earth911.com.
- Visit a participating retailer such as:
  - BatteriesPlus.
  - Best Buy.
  - Home Depot.
  - Lowe's.
  - Staples.

RECYCLE RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES!

CAUTION!

When crushed or damaged, Li-ion batteries can cause fires resulting in property damage, injury or death.

Li-ion battery fires are extremely difficult to put out!



BATTERY MANAGEMENT

NEVER put Li-ion batteries in the trash or curbside recycling bin. **RECYCLE** them through a battery collection program.

LEARN MORE

Scan above to learn more about "Managing My Waste."

BUSINESSES
Call the Hazardous Waste Helpline at 1-866-HAZ-WAST.

RESIDENTS
Contact your local transfer station or the NHDES Household Hazardous Waste Program.

(603) 271-2047

HHW@DES.NH.GOV

DES.NH.GOV/WASTE

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Services

Lithium-ion BATTERIES

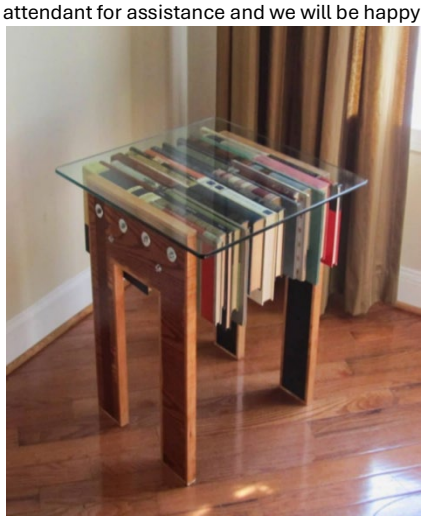


IF THEY'RE RECHARGEABLE, THEY'RE RECYCLABLE!

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Services

Winter Upcycling Project- "home decor"
The pictures below are a great way to repurpose everyday items for a minimal to no cost of sprucing up a space. These items can be found at the Swanzey Recycling Center, ask an attendant for assistance and we will be happy to help!







Happy Upcycling, please share some of your projects or ideas with the Recycling Center Staff!

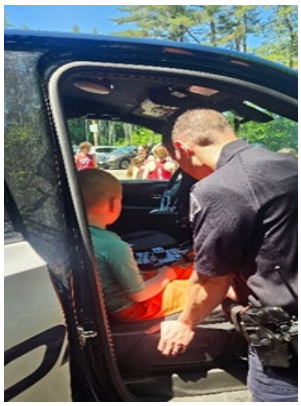
Swanzey Police Department

Statistics	Five Months June 2024 – Oct 2024	Five Months Nov 2024 – Mar 2025	Eight Months Apr 2025 – Nov 2025
Calls for service	3,767	2,227	4,374
Citations	535	551	615
Field Interviews	619	467	943
Accidents	48	49	100
Incidents	218	183	359
Arrests/Booking	75	47	94
Registrants	17	18	19
Warrants	8	8	16

STATISTICS:
A review of our statistics above shows an increase of "Calls for Service, "Field Interviews," "Accidents," "Incidents," "Arrests/Booking," and "Warrants" incidents. Statistically there is no decrease in the incidents that we track.
PERSONNEL:
Officer Tabitha DiRienzo came onboard full-time status on April 30th.
Officer Shawn Collins transferred from Chesterfield Police Department to the Swanzey Police Department and came onboard June 8th.
Officer O'Leary transferred to Rumney, NH. His last day was October 25th. We wish him good luck on his future endeavors.
TRAINING:
A Department meeting was held on April 23rd at the police station to provide training on report writing and an update on current issues.
Chief Gonsalves participated in the Monadnock Regional Middle High School voluntary physical security assessment with School District personnel and personnel from the New Hampshire Homeland Security & Emergency Management agency on May 21st.
Chief Gonsalves and Sgt. Clark attended the Cheshire County Emergency Management exercise at the Sheriff's Office on June 30th. The exercise was run by the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management office and attended by several Cheshire County law enforcement agencies as well as Swanzey Fire, Cheshire EMS and a couple of private groups. The exercise was based on a missing juvenile scenario at the Cheshire County Fair in Swanzey.
In August the Police Department personnel participated in Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security and Privacy Training.
All the police officers have completed the annual mandatory online Police Academy assigned training for this fiscal year.
Police officers completed firearms qualifications and rifle training in October.
EVENTS:
The Northlands music festival took place from June 12th to June 15th without any serious incidents.



Officer Colby Zilinski and Officer Shawn Collins attended the Town's Recreation community hero event at Richardson Park for about 70 campers on June 30th.







Sgt. Clark and Officer Zilinski assisted with the Monadnock Regional Middle High School homecoming parade on October 11th.



Chief Gonsalves, Officer S. Collins and Officer Zilinski participated in 7th Annual Halloween Block Party at Brown Memorial Field on October 25th. The Police Department received the most votes in the municipal category and took first place!

Winter Information

RSA 41:11

A friendly reminder to residents and visitors that the winter parking ban will go into effect on November 15. From November 15 to April 15, all motor vehicles parked on any street or highway between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m, or hindering snow removal operations, will be towed at the owner's expense.



Winter Driving

Don't crowd a snow plow or travel beside it. Snowplows travel slowly, make wide turns, stop often, overlap lanes, and exit the road frequently. However, the road behind an active snowplow is safer to drive on. If you find yourself behind a snowplow, stay behind it or use caution when passing.







Prepare Your Car for Winter

- Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops.
- Make sure the cooling system is in good working order.
- Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car.
- If using all-season tires, check the tread and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch.
- Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops
- Check your wiper blades and replace if needed.
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees F.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze.

PRSRT. STD.
PAID
Swanzey, NH
Permit #11
ECRWSS

TOWN OF SWANZEY
620 OLD HOMESTEAD HIGHWAY
P.O. BOX 10009
SWANZEY , NH 03446

WWW.SWANZEYNH.GOV

Postal Patron

Swanzey, NH 03446

What's Inside

- Town Administrator's Report
- RTAC
- Governance Committee
- MCU Library
- Fire Department
- Trustees of Trust Funds
- Planning Department
- Department of Public Works
- ARLAC
- Conservation Commission
- Tax Collector
- Sewer Department
- North Swanzey Water & Fire
- Golden Rod Grange
- Swanzey Lake VLAP
- Recycling Center
- Police Department