

As you are reading this today, I hope you have remembered to vote! Today is an important milestone for our Swanton Local School system. Residents will decide whether to accept 23.1 million dollars in funding from the Ohio School Facilities in order to construct a new k-6 building. A new building will allow students to be on one campus, share staff and equipment, and reduce total operating costs, especially energy costs. The property owners' share to complete this project will never be lower. If we don't accept the assistance from the OSF, the solution will entirely be our financial responsibility at some time in the future. The need does not go away by a "no" vote today. It will return, and at some point, the state will require the school system to close the middle school, at which time the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will be forced to move elsewhere, and we will still have two old school buildings to operate. The plan the board presents today is the solution for the future. Please support your local Swanton Schools today.

Last Saturday, the SEED kids (the Jr. High grades of the Swanton Area Community Coalition) participated in Global Youth Day by cleaning downtown and S. Main St. by picking up trash and sticks and removing leaves. They moved quickly and were efficient. They then were able to go to the Toledo Zoo for their efforts. I appreciate their enthusiasm. On Sunday, the Leos, the youth group of the Lions Club, helped clean Memorial Park, by sweeping, raking, picking up trash and leaves. Thank to them also.

This past Saturday, Rotary Club cleaned up Rotary Park. A little more needs to be finished, but our hope is to breathe new life and beauty into this wonderful walking area of our town. I appreciate the cooperation the Rotary Club has shown.

Saturday, May 18, the Swanton Fire and Police Departments will be hosting a Public Safety Day at the Fire Station on Church St. There will be food, games, fun, and educational activities for all, with the focus on fire and crime prevention. Bring the whole family, meet your public safety officials, and learn just how much they do to protect and serve all citizens. See you there!