



THE SWANSEA REPORT

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2017

Tuesday April 4th Is Election For Swansea Officials

On April 4th, Swansea residents will vote for the positions of Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer and three Trustees.

Two candidates have filed and will be on the ballot for Mayor: the incumbent Mayor Kenneth S. Mueller and the current Treasurer, Michael W. Leopold.

Two candidates have also filed and will be on the ballot for Clerk: the incumbent Clerk Lauren O'Neill, and Tracy Dahm Thieken. Only one candidate, John M. Walter, filed for Village Treasurer, and will thus run unopposed.

Eight candidates have filed for the three open Trustee positions: incumbents Matthew R. Lanter and Brian L. Wells, along with new candidates Jeff Parker, Frank Bell, Daniel P. Guest, Richard "Rocky" McDonald, John Deckard, and Albert Hampton.

Polling places are indicated on your most recent voter's registration card. If in doubt, or if you have an older card and there is a chance your polling place may have changed, you can check on-line at <http://www.countyclerk.co-st-clair.il.us/elections> and click on the **Polling Place Location and Sample Ballots** link on the left side of the page. Type in your address, street and select "Swansea" and it will provide polling info, a map, and a sample ballot when they become available.

Community Wide Yard Sale Apr 22 Rain Date Will Be April 29th

Swansea's Community Wide Yard Sale will kick off in just a few weeks, when folks are expected to flock to the area to take in yard sales all over town. This will be the Village's first attempt to coordinate such an event.

While a permit is usually required for yard sales and the number of such events held at any one address are normally limited during the year, sales held on one day - April 22, 2017 - will not have those requirements: no permit will be needed and the event will not count towards the limit. Sales may start as early as 7:00am and must conclude by 5:00pm.

Residents who want to participate need only set up and oversee their own sale. But, if you would like your address listed on a master list that will be posted on the Village's website, email swanadmn@swanseail.org. Title your email **YARD SALE** and in the body simply type "**Add my address to the list:...**" then include **your address**. Do so before noon on April 20th to ensure you make the final list.

Village staff will create a complete list and post it to the website so that it can be viewed, downloaded or printed. Press releases about the event will provide a web link to that list so shoppers can map their route in advance.



A number of entire subdivisions have already signed up for the event. So if you live in one of the subdivisions below you do not need to email the Village. Those planning to participate so far include:

- Fairfield Manor
- Willow Walk
- Rosewood
- Wild Horse Meadows
- Stonefield Crossing
- The Knolls
- Sullivan Farms

If it is pouring down rain at 7:00am and the forecast is for all-day rain, the event will be postponed to April 29th. But if the forecast is for scattered showers or intermittent rain, the event will go on as planned.

Spring Clean Up Event Put On Hold

While the Village hoped to immediately follow up the Community Wide Yard Sale with a "Spring Clean Up" event to allow residents an opportunity to get rid of large items cluttering their garages and attics - as well as some items that require special disposal like electronics - the required logistics make it difficult to effectively organize such an event yet this Spring. Therefore the idea is being put on hold temporarily.

Village staff will continue to gather information and explore options while planning for a possible event in Summer or Fall. More detail will be provided in a future Swansea Report.

News Briefs

Government Center Closed Fri. April 14th

Refuse Collection Not Affected

The Swansea Government Center and all non-emergency services of the Village will be closed on Friday, Apr 14th for the Easter holiday. Republic Services will still make collections on Apr 14th so this Village holiday will not affect refuse or recycling collection.

Trash Sticker Price Increases May 1

The price of Trash Stickers will increase as of May 1st, 2017. Weekly Trash Stickers will increase in price from \$19.20 per sheet of five stickers to \$19.95. Any stickers purchased at the current price will still be honored if used beyond May 1st.

Yearly Trash Stickers will increase in price from \$211.19 to \$219.63 on May 1st. Thereafter, the cost for the annual sticker is reduced on a pro rata basis by \$3.99 each week, until the stickers expire on April 30, 2018. That way, someone purchasing an

annual sticker after May 1 only pays for that portion of the year they actually have the service. New annual stickers will not be available until right before May 1, 2017.

Landscape Waste Options Begin April 1

Swansea ordinances restrict the burning of landscape waste to specific time frames in Spring and Fall. For 2017 the Spring 'burn' season begins April 1st and ends June 14th.

Residents who choose to do so may burn landscape waste between those dates but only on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and only between the hours of 11:00am and 4:00pm. All the conditions for doing so are contained in the ordinance on the Village's website at www.Swanseail.org.

However, residents also have the option of signing up for unlimited curbside yard waste pickup starting April 1st, which helps to keep the air cleaner, and perhaps your neighbors happier.

Yard waste pickup can be arranged by calling Republic Services at (618) 656-6883. Residents must commit to at least a three month period at signup. Republic bills customers directly for this service, which starts the first Wed of April - April 5th this year. Service can be purchased until the last Wed of December, the 27th.

NOW HIRING

The Village of Swansea is seeking applicants for part-time summer employment working outdoors and performing manual labor like cutting grass and assisting with roadway maintenance. Positions filled ASAP and could continue through October if applicant is available. Generally 32 hrs / week. Entry level is \$10 per hr. More info and apply on-line at the Village's website - www.swanseail.org - or pick up an application at the Government Center, 1444 Boul Ave., M-F, 8:00am - 4:30pm. Positions may be filled as candidates apply.

PART TIME JANITOR

The Village is also seeking applicants for a Janitor to clean municipal buildings. Must have experience and be able to provide references. The position is part-time and expected to average 20 hours or less per week. Pay rate will be based upon level of experience. The selected candidate must pass an extensive police background investigation.

While some flexibility may be possible, candidates must be willing and able to negotiate a work schedule acceptable to the Village. More info and apply on-line at www.swanseail.org, or pick up an application at the Government Center, 1444 Boul Ave.

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News Briefs

Swansea Police Blotter Now Available On-line

The Swansea Police department has been modifying its section of the Village website to add the Police Blotter - the daily record of calls for service to which officers have responded. This will allow the public to view the information and be better informed about what is going on in their neighborhoods.

The average Swansea citizen may not realize that the Swansea Police Department responded to nearly 21,000 calls for service last year. The list will contain all calls for service, which includes foot patrols, traffic stops, and extra patrols. The Department will also begin adding data for traffic stops showing the type of arrest, such as DUI, Suspended, or Warrant. To protect victims of crime exact addresses are not used. Event locations will instead be identified but the street "block".

The Department will make every effort to post a blotter daily - usually one day behind - but workload on any specific day might hinder that

frequency. The direct link to the police blotter is <http://swanseail.org/2255/Police-Blotter>.

Yard Signs Supporting Swansea Police Still Available

Local resident Jim Wolfe gave Police Chief Steve Johnson a check for \$425.00 in January, representing monies he has received to date from the sale of yard signs declaring support for the Village's officers and department.

Mr. Wolfe took it upon himself last year to have 100 support signs printed at one time, which reduced the cost per each. He sells those signs to residents for \$20 each. 100% of the 'profit' - over 60% of the \$20 cost - is then donated to the Department to support the K-9 unit or any of the other special programs the police have started. He has a number of signs remaining. To purchase one, call him at 560-9758.

Wolf Branch Accepting Registration For Kindergarten; Pre-K Registration Apr 6th

Wolf Branch Elementary School is now accepting registration for students who will enter kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year. Parents can register in the elementary school office any school day between 9:00am - 1:00pm. You may want to call the school office in advance at 277-2100 to be sure of what documentation you will need to provide.

In addition, Pre-K registration will be held on Thursday, April 6th from 8:30am - 2:30pm.

The District's Pre-K program is half days. You can choose either the morning or afternoon session. Child care is also available before and after class. Please also call the school office at 277-2100 if you have any questions about the Pre-K registration.



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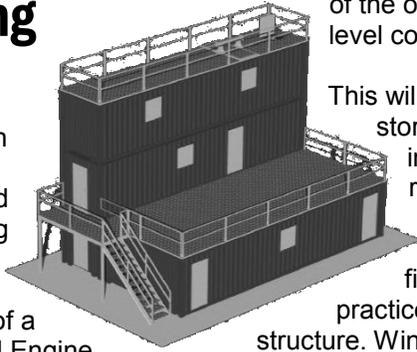
News Briefs

Village Accepts Bid For Fire Training Facility

At their meeting on March 20th, the Board of Trustees accepted the bid of American Fire Training Systems, Inc. of Lockport IL for the design and construction of a fire training facility behind Engine House #2.

The company's bid of \$162,331.25 was lowest of the two received. The other was \$297,750.00. Five other companies requested specifications but did not submit bids. The construction approach is unique, and that probably prompted those who usually build more conventional structures to not submit.

The facility will be constructed from five 40' long shipping containers. Three of those will be positioned side by side at ground level and connected to create passageways



between 'rooms'. The remaining two containers will be stacked one on top of the other on the ground level container to the rear.

This will create a three story structure with internal stairs, a roof top access, and a rappelling station to allow firefighters to practice rappelling off a structure. Windows, decks, a burn room and other amenities will allow the Department to simulate multiple fire fighting situations and training scenarios.

Most of the cost of the facility is being paid with Foreign Fire Insurance funds. Those funds are taxes collected at the state level from insurance companies located outside Illinois, but who sell insurance within the State. Those funds are distributed directly to fire departments for their needs as each department sees fit.

The Swansea Fire Department has been saving Foreign Fire Insurance funds for many years in order to build

this facility. The Department will supplement those funds with money raised at events and fund raisers.

Rotary Scholarship Deadline April 5th

Applications for the Rotary Club of Swansea's annual scholarship are due on or before April 5th for the club's three \$2,500 scholarships. The competition is open to all graduating high school students who reside in Swansea on April 5th, or who have resided in the Village for at least three of the past five years immediately prior to April 5th.

Visit the Swansea Rotary Club website at www.swansearotary.org for complete details on eligibility, the process and requirements for applying, and to download a copy of the application form. The completed application form, essay and letter of recommendation must be mailed to by the deadline to :

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News Briefs

Make Sure Your Address Numbers Are Visible

Swansea's emergency responders would like to offer a reminder: the address of your home, business, or apartment building must, by law, be clearly visible from the street.

Section 304.3 of the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code - which was adopted by the Village - requires that address numbers be displayed on the front of every building and be visible from the street that runs in front of the building. The code specifies that those numbers be legible, visible, on a contrasting background, and a minimum of 4" high and 1/2" wide.

To test the visibility of your address numbers, stand at the street at night. Do so with your porch light on, and then with it off. Then ask yourself: How well will Police, Fire or EMS personnel be able to see them when looking for your home? This is not just a code requirement - treat it as if your life depends on it, because it may.

Grass and Weeds

With the warm weather in February, grass cutting season is already upon us. In Swansea, grass and weeds that exceed 8 inches in height are declared a nuisance. So not keeping your lawn cut can result in the issuance of an ordinance violation and fine. And if residents fail to comply in a timely manner, a Public Works crew may step in and cut the grass.

However, when the Village does so, it charges standard time and material hourly rates for each worker and the equipment used. The Village then files a lien against the property to ensure it can collect payment for having to cut the grass.

The Village does not want to be in the business of cutting the lawns of some residents, even if we do eventually get paid for the work. With a small Public Works crew our employees have plenty of projects and work to keep them busy.

Better and cheaper for everyone to be a good neighbor and cut it themselves.

Grass Clippings

A related and common violation is the depositing or blowing of grass clippings and leaves onto the public right-of-way and into public drainage ditches and storm sewers. Drainage ways need to be kept clear of grass clippings, leaves and other materials, which if blown into the street can end up clogging storm sewers and drainage ways.

Grass clippings might then cause rain water to backup onto your property, your neighbors property, or into the street where it could cause an accident to occur. If you are not mulching or bagging your grass clippings, the discharge from your mower should be directed back into your yard, not onto the street.



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Village Preparing Budget For New Fiscal Year Beginning May 1

The Village is working towards a May 1st deadline to have a new fiscal year budget in place. A Tentative Budget will be published in accordance with law and made available for public inspection on April 11th at 8:30am.

That budget will be reviewed at a Public Hearing on April 17th at 5:45pm. Any final changes made to the document will be presented before a special Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, April 24th and passed by ordinance so that it is in effect for the start of the new fiscal year on May 1st.

Overall, the Village budget encompasses over \$13 million in 13 different funds. Each fund has a specific purpose and goal, but some of those funds are interrelated.

While the law only requires budgeting by line item with a comparison to the last year actual revenues and expenditures as well as an estimate of the year-end revenues and expenditures in the current year, the Village's budget document goes beyond that.

It provides detail under many line items as to the specific revenues or expenses anticipated during the year. So for example, under a line item entitled Equipment Purchase, the budget will identify all equipment that is planned for purchase during the year, as well as the individual cost of each. These expenses are also

allocated to the month they are expected to occur, so that the Village has a better idea of cash flow needs each month. Some equipment purchases, therefore, might be delayed until later in the year, to ensure that expected revenues are in hand before the purchase is made.

In spite of a number of unforeseen challenges during the current year, the Village expects to reach April 30th in relatively good financial shape. All of the Village funds except one are projected to end the current fiscal year in the black, with a higher cash balance on April 30th than they had at the beginning of the year. The one fund that will not is a Business District Fund that has been accumulating revenues over a number of years. Those revenues were finally paid out in 2016 as called for in the business development agreement. So while the expenditure exceeded the revenues for one year, it resulted from revenues accumulated over many years.

Some of the credit goes to department heads and managers for keeping a lid on spending. While

those individuals may ask for specific allocations in their respective budgets so they are prepared to address any unknowns that might pop up during the year, they tend to not spend that money if they don't need to. They might also delay on some equipment purchases if they are able to continue to work effectively with what they have on hand. There is no 'spend it or lose it mentality'. In the end, these conservative spending habits help to keep the budget in balance.

In today's world, maintaining a balanced budget can be a challenge. The Village will be facing a number of new expenses in the coming year and staff and elected officials are working diligently to prioritize expenses in an attempt to match them to available revenue.

For some items, the Village may accumulate funds over several years to pay for a very expensive purchase or large project in a future year. By doing so, the year end balance in a specific fund may increase each year for a number of years, only to see it drop noticeably in the year that the purchase is finally made, or the project is finally constructed.

Once the budget is passed it will be published in pamphlet form and posted on the Village's website. A hard copy will also be available at the Government Center and can be reviewed there by any interested person during normal business hours.



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Village Seeking More Advertisers To Help Support The Swansea Report: Is That You?

One of the ultimate goals of the Swansea Report is that it be self sufficient. While the Village knows the newsletter is a valuable resource for residents and an effective way to keep citizens informed, ideally the Board of Trustees would like the advertising revenue to fully cover the full cost of printing and mailing. If all ad spaces were sold that goal could become a reality.

The Village has been producing the Swansea Report for over 32 years. It has gone through some changes and evolutions over time. Yet it is still published every month and still mailed to every resident and business in Swansea. Currently, that involves the monthly distribution of 6,300 copies by saturation mail, so each issue is labeled with a specific addresses individually printed on each newsletter.

For an advertiser that means you can have your message in the mailbox of all 6,300 Swansea homes and businesses for only pennies each. Buying a business card sized ad for \$70, is the equivalent cost of 1.2¢ per address. And buying a 1/2 page ad for \$240, is the equivalent cost of 3.8¢ per address.

It would be great to have the support of additional businesses and organizations. Even if your business does not normally advertise in this manner- or even if you wonder if there will be a direct benefit from advertising - consider the indirect benefit from being a part of this community effort and helping to provide this source of information to Swansea residents.

Available ad sizes and prices are listed below. For more info email swanadmn@swanseail.org.

VILLAGE OF SWANSEA CONTACT INFO

Swansea Government Center
1444 Boul Avenue
Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm, M-F
www.swanseail.org

**Administration,
Mayor's Office, Village Clerk,
Utility Billing & Public Works**
Phone: 618-234-0044
swanadmn@swanseail.org

Building, Zoning, Permits
Phone: 618-355-0280
swanbnz@swanseail.org

**Swansea Police Department
Emergency: 911**
Non-emergency: 618-233-8114
swanseap@swanseail.org

**Swansea Fire Department
Emergency: 911**
Engine House: 618-234-3291

Village of Swansea Officials

President: Ken Mueller
mayor@swanseail.org

Village Clerk Lauren O'Neill
loNeill@swanseail.org

Treasurer Michael W. Leopold
mleopold@swanseail.org

Trustee Matt Lanter
mlanter@swanseail.org

Trustee Brian McGuire
bmcguire@swanseail.org

Trustee Marilyn Neumeyer
mneumeyer@swanseail.org

Trustee Stephen Pulley
spulley@swanseail.org

Trustee Katherine Ruocco
kruocco@swanseail.org

Trustee Brian Wells
bwells@swanseail.org

If emailing multiple officials it may be best to also include swanadmn@swanseail.org among those email addresses so staff can help coordinate any requested response.

THE COST OF AN AD

Specific ad dimensions and prices are as follows:

1/8 page "Business Card Size" = 2" high x 3.7" wide
\$ 70.00 / month

1/4 page vertical = 4.1" high x 3.7" wide
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1/4 page horizontal = 2" high x 7.5" wide
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Detective Dan Lipe Named 2016 Swansea Officer Of The Year

At the Village meetings on March 6, 2107, Police Chief Steve Johnson announced Detective Dan Lipe as the 2016 Swansea Police Officer of the Year. The annual selection is made by fellow officers, not the Chief.

Chief Johnson noted that it would be difficult to highlight all of the work and impact Det. Lipe has had on the Department in the past year, but emphasized that he has clearly made a significant and positive difference.

In addition to handling a significant case load and doing everything his position and the Department has asked of him, Lipe has played a major role in multiple homicide cases with the Major Case Squad. He has been instrumental in maintaining and managing the Department's social media accounts, which he helped implement. And he has consistently exhibited teamwork in his willingness to help other officers and employees.

He is quick to help others with their cases or to rush out to backup patrol officers with traffic stops or risky calls for service. He does so because of who he is as a person - he cares

about his coworkers and his profession, and takes pride in his work and his successes.

Johnson noted that being officer of the year does not mean a person is perfect. Instead he stated that Lipe admits and uses any mistakes or failures to learn from and make him and the Department better by overcoming them and sharing his experiences and knowledge gained.

It may be easier to statistically show the activity or productivity of a patrol officer, but Johnson noted that is a disservice to an officer like Det. Lipe, who always goes above and beyond in his work. His actions and mindset are not focused on placing numbers on a stat sheet, but on doing the absolute best he can for his victims, his cases, and his department.



Lipe has maintained a positive attitude and team first approach despite an increasing caseload and the challenges the work can present.

In handing him the award, Chief Johnson underscored that Det. Lipe truly represents the best of the best of the Swansea Police Department and is deserving of the award as Officer of the Year for 2016.

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Police Give Awards

Police Chief Johnson and Demetrius Owens gave “Outstanding Performance and Lifesaving Actions” awards to Officer Nicholas VanWaes (far left) and Sergeant Matthew Blomberg (not pictured) at the March 6th Village meetings.

On January 8, 2017, VanWaes and Blomberg responded to a medical emergency where they found Mr. Owens in cardiac arrest. Knowledge and experience took over as they performed lifesaving CPR, efficiently connected the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and administered a shock to Mr. Owen’s heart, and even continued lifesaving efforts after the ambulance had arrived.

The Chief and Owens also gave lifesaving awards to Swansea citizens Natalie (top photo, 2nd from left, L to R), Zachary, and Roderick Jablonski for their outstanding assistance to the officers and for rendering emergency treatment to Mr. Owens. Because of the swift and crucial actions of the Jablonski family, Mr. Owens survived the heart attack and was able to hand out the awards at the Village meeting.



Noting that the #1 thing police officers can do to save lives is to take drunk drivers off the streets, awards for DUI enforcement were given on March 6th to (L to R) Officer Andrew Hewitt, Sgt Keith Howard, Det Dan Lipe, and Officer Nic VanWaes by Deputy Chief Craig Coughlin. Not pictured Sgt. Jason Frank and Officers John Sury, Jason Tutterow, and Breanna Kemper-Damm.

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News Briefs

Friends of Centennial Park Again Remove Invasive Plant

At around 7:00 am on March 4th, about 50 volunteers including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Heartlands Conservancy, and other community volunteers began to again remove bush honeysuckle at Centennial Park. It was hard work but that didn't stop the group from having a good time while working to improve our community.

The volunteers were able to remove about a quarter acre of bush honeysuckle. Exotic plants are a serious problem in our area and bush honeysuckle is perhaps the worst. Because it is shade tolerant and grows to the point of making foot travel very

difficult, chokes out native trees, flowers, and other plants so they can't reproduce. It could therefore destroy the natural oak, hickory, walnut, cottonwood, maple, and other trees.

It will take years of these types of efforts to restore Centennial Park to its glory, but the group vows to continue and someday hopes to accomplish their goal... while having some fun getting it there. The Friends of Centennial Park is planning more volunteer days for the year. Look for more information and photos on Facebook under "Friends of Centennial Park, Swansea, Illinois", or email bwells@swanseail.org.



Send Veteran Names For Memorial Day Ceremony

Swansea will again honor men and women who have served and sacrificed in service to the United States at the Village's annual Memorial Day Ceremony on May 29. The event is held each year in Melvin Price Memorial Park, 1500 Caseyville Avenue, starting at 10:00am.

Any Swansea resident who is a veteran of the Armed Services, either retired or currently serving, is asked to email mneumeyer@att.net or call 618-363-8694, to have your name added to the Memorial Ceremony booklet. Then please make a note on your calendar and plan to attend if you are able to do so.

Other veterans as well as all residents and the general public are invited and encouraged to attend.



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Swansea Community Calendar - April 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center	4	5	6 Swansea Rotary Club Networking at 7:00am Mtg at 7:30; Thompson Center in Price Park Program: Relay for Life	7 Chamber of Commerce Morning Mingle 7:45am - 9:00am Recreation Center Fairview Heights Rec Center, 10025 Bunkum	8 Swansea Park Board Meeting 7:00am Norman Lehr Center
9	10	11 Chamber of Comm Annual Mtg & Dinner Holiday Inn, Fairview 5:30pm Planning and Zoning Board Meeting (if needed) 6:00pm Govt. Center	12	13 Swansea Rotary Club Networking at 7:00am Mtg at 7:30; Thompson Center in Price Park Program: Ron Appuhn "Heart to Heart" Intl project	14 Holiday Govt Center Closed	15
16 Easter	17 Budget Public Hearing 5:45pm Govt. Center Committee Meetings 6:00pm Govt. Center Village Board Meeting 7:30pm Govt. Center	18	19 Chamber of Commerce Building A Better Biz Luncheon Outback Steakhouse 11:30am	20 Swansea Rotary Club Networking at 7:00am Mtg at 7:30; Thompson Center in Price Park Student of the Month - High Mount & Wolf Branch Schools	21	22 Community Wide Yard Sale 7:00am - 5:00 pm
23 30	24 Special Board Mtg FY 2018 Budget 6:00pm Govt. Center	25 Chamber of Commerce Chambemet GCS Ballpark 5:30-8:00pm	26	27 Swansea Rotary Club Networking at 7:00am Mtg at 7:30; Thompson Center in Price Park Program: Leadership Council of SWI Ronda Sauget, Exec Dir	28	29

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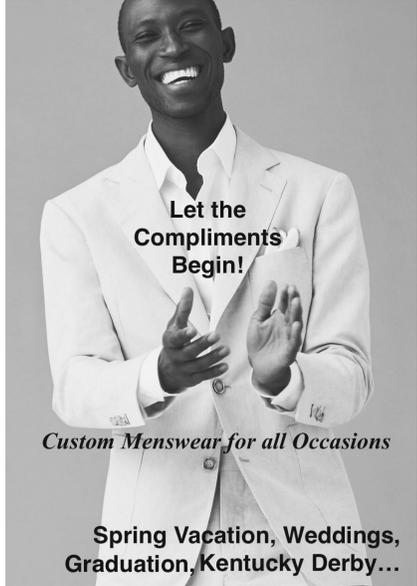
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