

June 2006 General Meeting

The next General Meeting of the Willow Meadows Civic Club will be at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 13, in the Chapel at the Willow Meadows Baptist Church. Please join your neighbors at this meeting!

Willow Meadows News

www.WillowMeadows.Org

June 2006

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From The President

It is the beginning of summertime. It is time for vacations and pool parties, shorts and mosquito spray. It is also as good a time as any to reflect on a year half gone by.

The Willow Meadows Civic Club continues to provide the basic services you pay for and we are committed to providing. Our security patrols with off-duty HPD officers are ongoing, and we continue to monitor it for improvements or changes we think can help. We have begun the mosquito spraying that will continue for many months. The only time it is interrupted is if the wind is too strong on a Friday evening to make it worth it. If that happens, it is reattempted on Saturday night. Deed Restrictions continue to be enforced, with letters, phone calls, and consultations with legal counsel as necessary.

A fair question to always ask is "What more can we do?" The answer to that question generally lies with you. As a volunteer-run organization, what we can accomplish in any given year, above and beyond our hired vendors or employees, is directly related to the number of projects people volunteer to accomplish. Is there something more you would like to see done in the area of security, beautification, or Deed Restrictions? Do you feel like the Civic Club is not responsive in some way to a need?

If so, I invite you to tell us about it at a General Meeting, during a phone call, or even an email. However, if you really feel passionate about something being done in our neighborhood, and it is something within our purview, then I will also encourage you to volunteer. Join a committee that reflects your interest and help get it done. This way you not only see something dear to you accomplished, you also give something back to your community right around you.

Enjoy your summer!

Ken Anttil, President

Willow Meadows Civic Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 35551, Houston, Texas 77235

2005 Willow Meadows Civic Board Members and Committee Chairs

President Ken Anctil	(713) 320-1462	At-large Pos. 1 Stephen Polnaszek	(713) 721-8425
Vice-President Charles Rusciano	(713) 721-3136	At-large Pos. 2 Emory Glover	(713) 729-0445
Treasurer Benjamin Adler	(713) 283-7222	At-large Pos. 3 Sandi Peters	(713) 721-6429
Secretary Shari Mauthner	(713) 721-8313	At-large Pos. 4 Margo Barvin	(713) 728-3053
Security Stephen Polnaszek	(713) 721-8425	Beautification John Macon	(713) 726-9070
Deed Restrictions Charles Cohen	(713) 885-0883	Architecture Garry Weisman	(713) 721-1250
Newsletter Editor Marc Bernabo	(713) 726-1973	Webmaster Benjamin LaGrone	(713) 723-9358

Political Directory

These are the phone numbers of the elected officials most frequently contacted about state and local government issues:

County Commissioners:

Precinct 1, El Franco Lee
(Outside the Loop) (713) 755-6111
Precinct 3, Steve Radack
(Inside the Loop) (713) 755-6306

Houston City Council:

Mayor Bill White (713) 247-2200
Anne Clutterbuck, District C (713) 247-2004
Michael Berry, At Large (713) 247-2006

Texas State Representative (512) 463-0518
Al Edwards, District 146 (713) 741-8800

Texas State Senator (512) 463-0113
Rodney Ellis, District 13 (713) 236-0306

HISD Board of Education

Diane Johnson, District 5 (713) 892-6121

Useful Phone Numbers

Emergency	911
WM Security Patrol	(713) 447-0200
Animal Control	(713) 238-9600
Dead Animals	(713) 669-7900
Garbage Pickup	(713) 551-7300
Heavy Trash Pickup	(713) 551-7320
Odor Hotline	(713) 837-0600
Street/Light Maintenance	(713) 837-0600
Water/Sewer Repairs	(713) 837-0600
Weeds Blocking View	(713) 525-2525
Harris County Flood Control	(713) 684-4197
Other City services	311

Security Report

By Stephen Polnaszek, Security Chair

Security Committee in Transition

At the Willow Meadows Civic Club Board meeting on April 23rd Jonathan Quander informed the Board that he was stepping down from his position as Security Committee Chair, effective May 1st. As a result, the Executive Committee of the Board asked me to take over that position; and I accepted. Jonathan chaired his last committee meeting on April 29th. We all thank Jonathan most heartily for his admirable service to the Civic Club as Security Committee Chair. He will indeed be a very hard act to follow. We will miss his diligence, clarity, graciousness, and charm.

Effects of Hurricane Katrina, continued

As Jonathan Quander noted last quarter, the *Houston Chronicle* had written articles linking increased crime in Houston to displaced New Orleans residents, with some of that increased crime being located to the west of us in the 77035 zip code. He also stated that our Willow Meadows officers and HPD officers assigned to our area had not identified any specific crimes in Willow Meadows committed by displaced New Orleans residents. That appears to still be the case despite even more recent *Chron* coverage and subsequent national media attention. Nonetheless we ask that you maintain your vigilance in noting any suspicious activities in the neighborhood and encourage you to call 911 and then Willow Meadows Security at (713) 447-0200.

Willow Meadows Crime Analysis Figures

The following incidents have been reported to Willow Meadows Security and/or to HPD between February 1 and April 30, 2006. After a rather uneventful February the following two months have shown an unfortunate, significantly continuing, trend upward. Some crimes have come to my attention that have occurred during this interval which have not been reported or were reported but somehow did not correctly get entered on the lists kept either by our patrol officers or HPD. Instances of guns being used in one of the reported and one of the previously unreported robberies is indeed cause for concern. So too is the report of the upset husband of the reported robbery victim, with a shotgun, in a vain search for the transgressor, moving around the neighborhood in the wee hours. That resident may have been in danger of being harmed by yet another vigilant neighbor.

On my nearly daily walks through the neighborhood I see so many cars that are "regulars", that most likely belong to residents (many, but not all, do display our Willow Meadows Security stickers), and are parked on the street, easy targets for smash and grab burglars. I realize that many households have quite a fleet of vehicles, and it is aggravating to keep shuffling cars around depending upon who needs to go where, when. But I've seen the aftermath of those smashed driver's-side windows on Cliffwood and O'Meara, and it is not pretty. Keep your vehicles out of harm's way in your garage or at least in your driveway as far from the street as possible; those residents with short driveways are in a bit of a bind here.

That leads me to one of my pet peeves. I've seen ca. \$100,000 worth of vehicles parked in shallow driveways that could have been put in the double or triple garages--if the garages had not been occupied by what I reckon to be several hundred to a few thousand dollars worth of "stuff". Where's the sense in that, especially with the occasional criminal/burglar cruising by?

Security Committee Criminal Incident Report for the June 2006 Willow News				
Date	Time	Offense	Block	Street Name
2/1/2006	1930	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	4400	Cheena
2/5/2006	2300	Auto Theft	4300	Osby
2/12/2006	1900	Drug Possession	4600	Waynesboro
3/7/2006	0130	Aggravated Robbery	4300	Silverwood
3/15/2006	1024	Assault	10400	Cliffwood
3/18/2006	0953	Burglary of House	9000	Greenwillow
3/27/2006	1220	Burglary of House	9600	Cliffwood
3/29/2006	1700	Burglary of House	4400	O'Meara
3/30/2006	1243	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	4400	Osby
3/31/2006	0700	Injury to a Child	4400	Waynesboro
3/31/2006	2151	Drug Possession	9700	Greenwillow
4/6/2006	0110	Family Violence	4800	Knickerbocker
4/6/2006	0130	Criminal Mischief	4400	Woodvalley
4/6/2006	0758	Criminal Mischief	4300	Woodvalley
4/6/2006	1221	Credit Card Fraud	4500	Waynesboro
4/6/2006	1730	Forgery	4700	O'Meara
4/7/2006	2230	Auto Theft	4300	Osby
4/11/2006	0806	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	10300	Willowisp
4/11/2006	2130	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	10400	Willowisp
4/13/2006	2230	Family Violence	4800	Knickerbocker
4/19/2006	0830	Burglary of House	4400	O'Meara
4/21/2006	1357	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	9400	Cliffwood
4/26/2006	1415	Assault-Family Violence	9700	Cliffwood

WM Security Patrol Staffing

The Committee, mainly through the efforts of Coordinating Officer Mike Barrow, continues to search for additional HPD personnel to increase patrol hours from their current level. The recent increase in crime in the neighborhood, despite its traditional lag behind surrounding neighborhoods, has heightened the urgency of this staffing increase. We have not received word yet on how much any extra contributions made by generous and concerned residents will support increased staffing (or fuel costs).

Home Security Suggestions, Crime Prevention Tips, and Alarm Systems

See Jonathan Quander's excellent treatments of these issues in previous editions of the *Willow News*.

Willow Meadows Patrol Car Maintenance & Repairs

Minor repairs notwithstanding, both vehicles have operated without major downtime. However, we are planning to replace the older vehicle shortly. If you are aware of a vehicle suitable in size, power, etc., for police patrol service that has in excess of 50,000 miles of service (but preferably less than 80,000) please let us know, and we will have our preferred mechanic evaluate its suitability for WMCC patrol service. Escalating fuel prices are taking a bite out of our budget, just as they are out of yours. Who would have predicted roughly \$3/gal gasoline last fall when we were doing the budget?

Security Committee Membership

Our modest sized committee is always looking for active participants. The wide range of responses to last year's survey is hardly reflected in our core committee membership, which tends toward the more militant types. We would welcome those with divergent viewpoints and would especially encourage a member or two from the north section since all of the other sections have produced Security Committee members. Perhaps even a pacifist from any section of the neighborhood would be an interesting addition to the committee in order to provide creative tension for our militant members.

Lamentably, I am going to be out of town for the June General Meeting. I hope to have another committee member provide a verbal report then along with Officer Barrow, and that person will be available to discuss committee matters and listen to your concerns about and suggestions for the Civic Club's Security Program.

Security Committee meeting dates may move to early in the month to provide more timely reports for the Board and General Meetings. The meetings may also be relocated from Annie's Hamburgers to my residence to avoid the background noise and provide PC and internet access during the committee meetings. It is hoped that these changes will be communicated in a timely fashion via the Civic Club website at www.willowmeadows.org.

Even if you cannot come to the meetings, the committee would like to hear from you by whatever polite means you prefer.

FYI: Newsletter Distribution Information

By Charles D. Rusciano, Vice-President

We would like to welcome two new block captains in the South Section. William and Joan Scott will now deliver the 4400 – 4500 blocks of Silverwood. Karen Wolz will now deliver the lower section of Cliffwood (10302 – 10418) We certainly appreciate these new additions to the distribution chain. If anyone would like to volunteer for the 4300 block of Silverwood, we could use the help. Call me at 713-721-3136. Delivering 14 newsletters takes less than 10 minutes at a brisk walk. You will be asked to deliver 4-5 times per year.

A Special Note in Passing

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many years of service **Norma Hageney** has given to Willow Meadows. She was always a valued volunteer, serving as a block captain and Board member for many years. She passed away earlier this year. Norma voiced concerns on a variety of issues and always placed a high regard for maintaining property values in the neighborhood. She was a professional realtor and spent many hours of service making Willow Meadows a better place to live. We will miss her.

Treasurer's Report

By Benjamin Adler, Treasurer

Willow Meadows Civic Club Inc. 2006 Budget vs. Actual Income & Expense January - December 2006

	Actual	Budget	Total \$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Advertising Revenue		2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.00%
Annual Dues	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	
FY05 Assessments	675.00		675.00	
FY06 Assessments	94,006.00	117,000.00	-22,994.00	80.35%
Prior Years Collections		3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.00%
Total Annual Dues	\$ 96,181.00	\$ 120,000.00	-\$ 23,819.00	80.15%
Court Filing Fee	257.74		257.74	
Late Fees	195.51	0.00	195.51	
Services	4.00		4.00	
Transfer / Refinance fees		4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.00%
Refinance fees	225.00	0.00	225.00	
Transfer Fees	1,525.00	0.00	1,525.00	
Total Transfer / Refinance fees	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 4,000.00	-\$ 2,250.00	43.75%
Total Income	\$ 98,388.25	\$ 126,000.00	-\$ 27,611.75	78.09%
Expenses				
Accounting/Bookkeeping Services	1,600.00	6,900.00	-5,300.00	23.19%
Bank Service Charges		300.00	-300.00	0.00%
Braes Bayou Association		200.00	-200.00	0.00%
Enforcement/Support Services		10,924.00	-10,924.00	0.00%
Deed Restriction Delegate Pay	3,574.40	0.00	3,574.40	
Delegate Mileage Reimbursement	392.86	0.00	392.86	
Total Deed Restriction Delegate Pay	\$ 3,967.26	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,967.26	
Delegate Cell Phone	226.00	0.00	226.00	
Forced Mow	-1,450.00	0.00	-1,450.00	
Title Reports (O & L)		0.00	0.00	
Total Enforcement/Support Services	\$ 2,743.26	\$ 10,924.00	-\$ 8,180.74	25.11%
General Meeting Marketing		200.00	-200.00	0.00%
General Printing	726.68	3,000.00	-2,273.32	24.22%
Houston Homeowners Association		50.00	-50.00	0.00%
Insurance for Board	818.00	1,600.00	-782.00	51.13%
Legal Services/Filing Fees		8,500.00	-8,500.00	0.00%
Mail/Postage Expense	269.51	2,000.00	-1,730.49	13.48%
Monument Planting & Foliage		2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.00%
Mosquito Spraying	414.00	4,140.00	-3,726.00	10.00%
Mowing	2,080.00	7,400.00	-5,320.00	28.11%
Neighborhood Night Out		3,200.00	-3,200.00	0.00%
Office Supplies		300.00	-300.00	0.00%
PO Box Rental		85.00	-85.00	0.00%
Red Elementry PTO		300.00	-300.00	0.00%

	Actual	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Security			0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Reimbursements			0.00	0.00
Security Insurance Costs		9,724.00	-9,724.00	0.00%
Commercial Auto Ins Security		0.00	0.00	
Security Liability Insurance		0.00	0.00	
Workers Comp Insurance		0.00	0.00	
Total Security Insurance Costs	\$ 0.00	\$ 9,724.00	-\$ 9,724.00	0.00%
Vehicle & Laptop		8,104.00	-8,104.00	0.00%
Patrol Car Fuel Expenses	2,148.72	0.00	2,148.72	
Patrol Car, Vehicle Registration		0.00	0.00	
Security Cell Phone	646.25	0.00	646.25	
Wireless Data Card Service for Security		0.00	0.00	
Laptop				
Total Vehicle & Laptop	\$ 2,794.97	\$ 8,104.00	-\$ 5,309.03	34.49%
Vehicle Maintenance	680.88	4,000.00	-3,319.12	17.02%
Wages		96,716.00	-96,716.00	0.00%
Bonus	250.00	0.00	250.00	
Commission		0.00	0.00	
FUTA Expense	257.66	0.00	257.66	
Holiday		0.00	0.00	
Medicare Expense	467.01	0.00	467.01	
Mileage Reimbursement		0.00	0.00	
MILE REIMB		0.00	0.00	
Total Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
Payroll Outsourcing Fee	448.00	0.00	448.00	
Regular Hours	30,180.51	0.00	30,180.51	
Social Security Expense	1,996.77	0.00	1,996.77	
Salary	2,025.00	0.00	2,025.00	
Texas SUI Expense	186.80	0.00	186.80	
Total Wages	\$ 35,811.75	\$ 96,716.00	-\$ 60,904.25	37.03%
Total Security	\$ 39,287.60	\$ 118,544.00	-\$ 79,256.40	33.14%
Security Stickers		650.00	-650.00	0.00%
Storage	296.00	850.00	-554.00	34.82%
United Orthodox Synagogue		300.00	-300.00	0.00%
Website Hosting		1,200.00	-1,200.00	0.00%
Welcome Packages		500.00	-500.00	0.00%
Willow Meadows Baptist Church		300.00	-300.00	0.00%
WMCC - Other		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%
WMCC Annual Directory		1,272.00	-1,272.00	0.00%
Yard of the Month		300.00	-300.00	0.00%
Total Expenses	\$ 48,235.05	\$ 176,515.00	-\$ 128,279.95	27.33%
Net Operating Income	\$ 50,153.20	-\$ 50,515.00	\$ 100,668.20	-99.28%
Other Income				
Interest Income		3,600.00	-3,600.00	0.00%
Other Income	691.85	0.00	691.85	
Total Other Income	\$ 691.85	\$ 3,600.00	-\$ 2,908.15	19.22%
Other Expenses				
Other Expenses		0.00	0.00	
Total Other Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
Net Other Income	\$ 691.85	\$ 3,600.00	-\$ 2,908.15	19.22%
Net Income	\$ 50,845.05	-\$ 46,915.00	\$ 97,760.05	-108.38%

Maintenance & Beautification Report

by John Macon, Chair

Mosquito spraying has begun. We all need to make sure that we don't provide them a breeding ground. Please make sure that your property doesn't have standing or stagnant water.

Summer is here and now is the time to fix up, paint, to make repairs to damaged siding and leaking roofs, trim trees, prune shrubs and plant summer color. Good curb appeal by each homeowner will ensure a beautiful neighborhood in which to walk, ride and play. So we encourage each of you to make your home beautiful.

The following yard of the month winners have exhibited an outstanding effort in beautifying their yards.

March – 4419 Lymbar
April – 4427 Cheena
May – 9111 Cliffwood

The Beautification and Maintenance Committee would like to extend to you an invitation to become a member or volunteer to work on some our new and ongoing projects. If you are interested, please contact me at 713-726-8807 or any of the committee members listed in this newsletter.

Willow Meadows Baptist Church to Celebrate

Sunday, August 6, 2006, is going to be a big day for Willow Meadows Baptist Church located at 4300 West Bellfort. In addition to normal Sunday services, the church will spend the morning and afternoon in celebration and dedication of a new \$2.5 million renovation of their large facility. A new 1,400 square foot Welcome Center, a new 1,280 square foot library, a state-of-the-art renovated commercial kitchen, and a new youth-friendly lounge and gathering area are among the additions.

August 6 is also the 50th anniversary of the purchase of the land on which the church was built. Originally an offshoot of South Main Baptist Church, the two churches will celebrate together at a 5:00 p.m. worship service at Willow Meadows Baptist. All are welcome to the service and the reception in the gym which will be decked out like a 1950's living room. Grab an RC Cola and a moon pie and sit back and enjoy a big screen mock-up of an early TV set showing vintage comedy shows, or take off your shoes and get ready for the sock hop with music provided by The Spiffingtons, a '50-'60's band, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Come and celebrate the past with us as we step into an exciting new future!

For more information, call Willow Meadows Baptist Church at 713-723-2870.

We Need You To Attend and Assist in Service

By Charles Rusciano, Vice-President

Our average attendance at general meetings needs to improve. About two years ago, I published an article showing the attendance at general meetings in 2002 and 2003. The numbers showed an average of 38 attendees per meeting. Since that time, the numbers have not improved. Most households have more than one adult who could easily attend one meeting per year. Just think, if we could get one attendee per household to attend one meeting per year, we would have the Chapel at Willow Meadows Baptist Church packed with about 205 people. What a sight that would be!

Our needs continue. This Board must have more help, more people to volunteer to serve, and more people to relieve the few who have stepped up time and time again to run this corporation we know as Willow Meadows Civic Club, Inc. Folks, this is your neighborhood. I dare say that the majority of complaints about any single issue have been expressed by persons who have never served one term on the Board, one year on an active committee, or volunteered to help on one volunteer project in 5 years. That is not a good thing. As continuing challenges face us, the complexities of maintaining a functioning civic club increase. Many of you have vital skills that you could bring from your business and professional experience to assist in our efforts to maintain vital services to our neighborhood – YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

We must accept any and all help. Sometimes the Board is more active in certain areas than others. Much of that depends on the amount of volunteer time we can obtain. If you think we have a weakness in one area, come forward and volunteer to assist in that area. We appreciate any and all help, even if it comes with limitations. We must, however, have a Board that will give of their time – about 5 - 7 hours per month – to help us function. Is that too much to ask? Although we are months away from the next election, now is a good time to plan for the future needs we will have.

If you have any suggestions about what we could do to obtain more leadership and volunteerism, I, and the entire Board, would like to see them. Please take a moment to write or send an e-mail to me. Calls would not be a convenient or productive method of communication, as these suggestions need to be circulated and viewed by the entire Board.

What's your excuse? Ask yourself. Your home is generally the most valuable thing you own, in combination with your personal security. Can you afford to neglect your civic responsibilities? Folks, I will say it again: "We need more help."

Helping Hand Network

By Shari Mauthner, Secretary

I am interested in starting a committee the purpose of which will be to create a network of support for those Willow Meadows residents who might occasionally need a "Helping Hand".

I envision that this group of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" will be available to provide assistance to our older and possibly less able neighbors -- support such as taking out the trash, recyclables, or lawn clippings; moving that heavy box or piece of furniture; giving a ride to the pharmacy to pick up a prescription; or other inconsequential task which may seem minor to us but might be a major obstacles to someone else.

If you are interested in being on the committee to form the network, or if you would like to volunteer to be one of the "Helping Hands," please contact me at 713-721-8313 (evenings), 713-221-2786 (days), or e-mail me at smauthner@houston.rr.com.

Architectural Control Report

By Garry Weisman, Chair

New home plans have been submitted and approved for 4846 McDermed. Plans also have been submitted and approved for a carport addition to 4819 Waynesboro. The replat of the property at 9203 and 9119 Cliffwood is waiting on final plans from the architect, which I have not received yet.

As always, if you would like more information, email me at architecture@willowmeadows.org.

For those who prefer the best...

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Willow Meadows Civic Club Meeting Schedule

June 13, 7:00 pm	General Meeting, Willow Meadows Baptist Church chapel
July 9, 5:00 pm	Board of Directors meeting, United Orthodox Synagogue library
August 13, 5:00 pm	Board of Directors meeting, United Orthodox Synagogue library
September 12, 7:00 pm	General Meeting, Willow Meadows Baptist Church chapel

Trash Collection Schedule



Outside Loop 610 regular weekly garbage pick-up day is **Monday**.
 Inside Loop 610 regular weekly garbage pick-up is **Tuesday**.

June 5	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
June 6	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
June 6	Heavy trash (outside the Loop)
June 19	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
June 20	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
June 22	Heavy trash (inside the Loop)
July 3	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
July 4	City holiday, trash collection delayed 1 day
July 5	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
July 5	Heavy trash (outside the Loop)
July 17	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
July 18	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
July 27	Heavy trash (inside the Loop)
August 1	Heavy trash (outside the Loop)
August 7	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
August 8	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
August 21	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
August 22	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
August 24	Heavy trash (inside the Loop)
September 4	City holiday, trash collection delayed 1 day this week
September 5	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
September 6	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
September 6	Heavy trash (outside the Loop)
September 18	Green-bin recycling (outside the Loop)
September 19	Green-bin recycling (inside the Loop)
September 28	Heavy trash (inside the Loop)

Trash cans and yard clippings are NOT to be placed at the curb more than 24 hours before scheduled pick-up. Heavy trash may be placed out no earlier than 6 p.m. the Friday before pick-up. Stickers for garbage bags put out in addition to your wheeled container are available at Sellers Brothers Grocery on Stella Link. Call ahead to check for garbage bag sticker availability at (713) 666-4417.

DISCOUNT CONCRETE WORK

office: 713.723.1194
cell: 832.573.7492

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