



Suwanee connects

suwanee.com | November 2022

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CITY RE-LAUNCHES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR

PUBLIC ART



The City of Suwanee has announced the re-launch of the Art for All capital campaign for public art. The campaign originally launched in June 2019, raising over \$550,000 before being temporarily suspended during the pandemic crisis of 2020.

“The city recently celebrated the groundbreaking of the new Town Center on Main & DeLay Nature Park,” said Suwanee Assistant City Manager Denise Brinson. “With that, it’s time to resume raising money for the icing on the proverbial cake!”

In 2018, the city competed a fundraising feasibility study and embarked on a capital campaign to raise \$1.25M in private contributions to support the inclusion of three new public art pieces to be located in Town Center on Main. These pieces – an interactive, signature installation, a gateway entrance piece, and a mural installation in the railroad underpass – will provide the margin of excellence above and beyond the basic infrastructure of the park, and act as a catalyst to transform the project from a park to a place.

“What is so remarkable about the success of Suwanee’s art program is that it has been accomplished primarily with private funding,” said Brinson. “While the city provides the infrastructure of new parks and green spaces, it is the support of private citizens and businesses that provides the public art that has played such a significant role in what Suwanee does, what Suwanee is, and how Suwanee is viewed.”

Those interested in making an end-of-the-year donation towards the capital campaign should contact Denise Brinson at denise@suwanee.com or **770-904-3385**.

Scan for more information regarding Suwanee’s capital campaign for public art, or visit Suwanee.com.



THE **GREATEST IN THE GALAXY**
SUWANEE
FEST 2022

THANK YOU
to the **GREATEST** Sponsors
in the Galaxy!

PRESENTING

THRIVE ▲
INITIATIVE | COWORKING

PLATINUM



GOLD

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- Free Chapel
- Friday Health Plans
- Kennon Heating & Air
- Northeast Georgia Health System
- Purifi IV
- Quantum National Bank
- Road Atlanta
- Solis Reynolds Place
- True Source Chiropractic

SILVER

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| AKA Tree Service | LeafFilter North, LLC |
| AlignLife of Sugar Hill | Level Minds CBD |
| Atlanta Extreme Volleyball Club | Mitsubishi Electric |
| Atlanta Falcons | Trane HVAC |
| Bath Planet of Atlanta | Pink Energy |
| Capital Vacations | Pre-Press to Printing |
| Club Wyndham | Puppy Haven |
| Comparion Insurance Agency | Johns Creek |
| Hayloft Cottages | Renesant Bank |
| Jacuzzi Bath | Rugby Atlanta |
| Remodel of Atlanta | Smile Doctors |
| Jeremiah's Italian Ice | State Farm |
| Kelly Kim Real Estate | Walmart Health |





2022 PARADE WINNERS

Best of Show

Cub Scout Pack 518
NGHS and NGMS Orchestras

Most Entertaining

1st - Stayin' Alive Crew
2nd - Nexus Drumline
3rd - All Stars Performing Arts Academy

Most Creative

1st - North Gwinnett High School Air Force JROTC
2nd - Geekspace Gwinnett
3rd - The CHQ Group

Best Reflection of Theme

1st - Peachtree Ridge High School Robo Lions
2nd - North Gwinnett High School
Bulldog Marching Band
3rd - Ignite Robotics



2022 SUWANEE FEST OUTSTANDING VENDORS



Best of Show

Marvelous Moosey

Best of Show

Justine Dahl

Best of Show Sponsor

Solis Reynolds Place

Mayor's Choice

Arnie's Beercap Art

Parker's Choice

Purifi IV



OUR OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD SUWANEE FEST COMMITTEE

A volunteer committee works hard all year long to make sure that Suwanee Fest is the best it can be, year after year. Thank you, Suwanee Fest Committee members, for sharing your time, enthusiasm, creativity, energy, dedication, and hard work!

Sponsorship - Paul Beavin

Entertainment - Michelle Budd

Family Fun Zone - Donna Copeletti

Parade - Kate Fanale

Vendors - Janis Beavin, Robin Sullivan, Cathy Karlick

Transportation - Mauro Marcillo

Volunteers - Tracy Mason

At Large - Matt Savitt, Jerry Weisfogel, Andrea Bridges, Oscar Rodriguez, Kelly Rodriguez





From THE DESK of

ROBYN O'DONNELL
CITY OF SUWANEE CITY CLERK
AND ELECTION SUPERINTENDENT

Since the City of Suwanee **does not have a municipal general election in 2022**, now is a good time to take a deeper dive into the minutiae of how the election process usually works!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ HOW TO HAVE A MUNICIPAL ELECTION IN EIGHT EASY STEPS

It all seemed so simple when we were voting for our 8th grade class president: check the name on the ballot, put the ballot in the box, count the ballots. But as you have probably ascertained from the last few years, the reality of elections is a little more complicated.

A few things that are helpful to know: Municipal general elections are held on odd-numbered years (no municipal elections in 2022!). The Suwanee Mayor and City Councilmembers serve four-year terms, and are elected on staggered years - for example, three seats were elected in 2021 and the other three will be elected in 2023. The Mayor and Council serve at-large (serve the city as a whole) and are bipartisan.

The exception to the odd-numbered year elections would be a special election. This would be for electing someone to complete the term of an existing councilmember that needs to resign, or if the city needs to bring a special referendum to the residents earlier than what a general election would allow.

Now that all of that is cleared up, it's time to have an election! Just some paper ballots and a box, right? Well....

STEP 1 LEARN THE RULES

The election superintendent's role is to understand and adhere to state laws, as well as changes to those laws during the election cycle. During an election cycle, I am responsible for meeting deadlines for advertisements and filings, as well as reporting to the Secretary of State's office.

STEP 2 START EARLY

While the public starts to notice election happenings beginning with the qualifying period in August, for an election superintendent the process begins in January! In Suwanee, the election superintendent is sworn in during the City Council's January meeting. The election superintendent must be certified by training conducted by the Secretary of State's office, and then must complete recertification every election cycle thereafter.

The council must issue a resolution to conduct the election, set the qualifying fees, and to set the dates for the qualifying period at their January meeting. By law, the election qualifying period and qualifying fees must be advertised no later than February 1 of the General Election year. Speaking of qualifying....

STEP 3 QUALIFYING

The qualifying period is when candidates "throw their hat in the ring" and have their name appear on the ballot. Would-be candidates must provide a Notice of Candidacy and payment of the qualifying fee. Now that we have candidates, it's time to...

STEP

4

COORDINATE AND MAINTAIN ELECTION MATERIALS

Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act requires jurisdictions with certain population numbers to provide bilingual voting materials in the language of the minority population. As of 2017, Gwinnett County and its municipalities have been required to provide for voter registrations and elections in both English and Spanish. The election call, website verbiage, election results, advertisements, forms, applications, envelopes, and signage all must be translated in order to ensure that bilingual voters with limited-English proficiency can effectively and actively participate in the election process.

STEP

5

COORDINATES ADVANCED VOTING

Next, the election superintendent coordinates and holds three weeks of advanced voting, as well as voting on election day, which is the Tuesday after the first Monday in November (so complicated!). We have to hire, train, and schedule poll officials for the entirety of the voting period.

STEP

6

ELECTION DAY

Hooray, it's here! After trouble-shooting throughout the day, I coordinate and assist poll officials in hand-counting paper ballots once the polls close. This includes advanced in-person ballots, absentee ballots, and ballots cast on election day. These findings are announced as "uncertified results."

STEP

7

THE NEXT FIVE DAYS

The election superintendent spends the next five days reviewing and completing all summary forms necessary for official submittal, cross referencing the number of ballots printed to the number of ballots cast for accuracy, and preparing documents and reports to be sent to the County Registrar's Office and the Secretary of State's office. After five days, final certification of the election is announced.

STEP

8

SEVEN WEEKS LATER

At their December meeting, City Council ratifies the election certification, and the new candidates are sworn in at the January Council meeting.

And that's it! Eight simple steps - and 11 months - later, you've successfully elected a council to help cast a broad vision for the city and fashion and adopt policies and ordinances that forward that vision (**but not this year - there are no elections at City Hall in 2022**). A lot more complicated than electing an 8th grade class president, but arguably much more rewarding as well.

Robyn O'Donnell has been with the City of Suwanee since October 2013 and was sworn in as City Clerk in January 2021. She obtained her Municipal Election Official Certification in December 2016 and was recertified in 2019 and 2021. Robyn became a Certified Georgia Municipal Clerk in September 2020 and is currently completing the Masters Education Management Development Program at the University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government.



Please note: The City of Suwanee does not have a Municipal General Election in 2022. Suwanee City Hall is not a location for voting in 2022 county, state, or federal elections; you may vote at City Hall in municipal elections only.

Information and polling locations for 2022 elections can be found at the Gwinnett County Board of Elections and Voter Registration.





CITY OF SUWANEES

BREAKS GROUND

ON TOWN CENTER ON MAIN + DELAY NATURE PARK

The City of Suwanee broke ground September 26 on the highly anticipated Town Center on Main and DeLay Nature Park. Mayor Jimmy Burnette, the City Council, representatives from Reeves Young, Clark Patterson Lee, the Gwinnett County Library, and other community members were on hand for the ceremonial groundbreaking.

The 25-acre site was purchased in 2002 as an early acquisition of the community-driven open space initiative. The Suwanee City Council unanimously approved a master plan for a future city park in 2019.

The dual parks will transform the area, creating a campus-like environment that encompass the Suwanee library, PlayTown Suwanee, and Fire Station 13. The rerouting of Main Street and closure of the median on Suwanee Dam Road is a key part of bringing these elements together into one cohesive space.

Town Center on Main is designed as an urban-style greenspace with a unique character, personality, and purpose, similar to but separate from the existing Town Center Park. The Suwanee

library will serve as the anchor for this new space much like the way City Hall relates to the existing park. The majority of the site - roughly 15 of the wooded 25 acres containing the Brushy Creek Greenway - will remain largely undisturbed as the DeLay Nature Park.

Once completed, Town Center Park and Town Center on Main will function as a unified space, linked by Station Park (located next to the police station) and the pedestrian tunnel under the railroad. The topography of the new park will allow it to overlook Town Center, further enhancing the relationship of the two spaces.

A big change this area will see is the realignment of Main Street, which will shift around the park and exit onto Suwanee Dam Road at the traffic signal in front of Shadowbrook Baptist Church and the new Gwinnett County fire station (currently under construction). This shift will allow for the closing of the median break on Suwanee Dam Road at Main Street, greatly improving safety and traffic flow.

Scan for more information regarding the Town Center on Main + DeLay Nature Park project





City of Suwanee Wins Two

Downtown Excellence

AWARDS

from Georgia Downtown Association

The City of Suwanee won two Georgia Downtown Excellence Awards in the categories of Creative New Event for Glow in the Park with the Atlanta International Night Market and Outstanding Promotional Campaign for the 2021 Annual Report. GDA presented the awards to the city on August 24 at its annual conference in Macon.

Now in its fifth year, Glow in the Park lantern parade and concert is an established event that was elevated with the addition of the Atlanta International Night Market. The partnership capitalized on the unique and popular aspects of each event, resulting in a record 55,000 attendees, second only to Suwanee Fest.

GDA recognized Suwanee's 2021 Annual Report as an Outstanding Promotional Campaign. Much like the beloved 'The Game of Life,' *LIFE in Suwanee* follows the road through the city, past community landmarks, navigates around issues, and hits all the highlights along the way. (Read more about the 2021 Annual Report on page 8!)

The Downtown Excellence Awards recognize and promote the outstanding achievements of local downtown development and revitalizing organizations in Georgia's communities. Sixty-four nominations were submitted across four categories in 2022.



Partnership Gwinnett and Council for Quality Growth Honor Suwanee Redevelopment

Partnership Gwinnett and the Council for Quality Growth recognized Solis I and II - a Suwanee Town Center mixed-use development - as the Large Redevelopment of the Year at the 12th Annual Metro Atlanta Redevelopment Summit on October 13.

Solis I and II (now Siena and Skye, respectively) are the result of a public-private partnership between Terwilliger Pappas and the City of Suwanee.

Located on Buford Highway near Town Center Park, the project features a combined 473 upscale apartment units and 22,000 square feet of ground floor retail space.

"With the addition of these two mixed-use developments to the downtown Suwanee scene, the city's vibrancy has expanded beyond Town Center," said Suwanee Downtown Development Authority president Kevin O'Brien. "This expansion of a walkable, live-work-play district continues Suwanee's reputation as a unique community in the Metro Atlanta area."

Other finalists in the category included Clayton County Public Schools Arena, Empire Zephyr, Hugh Howell Marketplace Center, and Westside Paper. The City of Suwanee was also a finalist in the Small Redevelopment of the Year category for StillFire Brewing and Station Park.



More than 200 business, community and industry leaders attended the regional redevelopment event that awards industry leaders, highlights current projects, and shares revitalization best practices and trends. The awards ceremony recognized exceptional projects that have a significant economic impact.

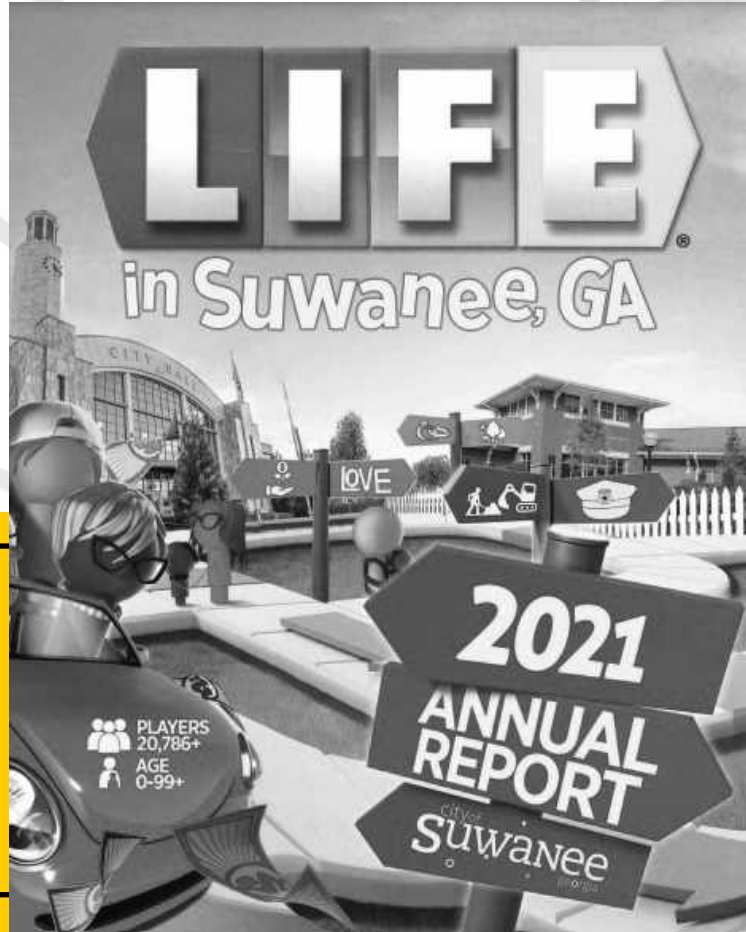
3CMA
ANNOUNCES
SUWANEE PUBLICATION AS

2022 Savvy Award WINNER

The City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA) announced the City of Suwanee 2021 Annual Report as the national Savvy Award winner in the category of Printed Publications at the 3CMA Annual Conference. This is the City of Suwanee's second Savvy Award, having previously won for the annual report in 2018.

The Savvy Awards recognize outstanding local government achievements in communications, public-sector marketing, and citizen-government relationships. The awards salute skilled and effective city, county, agency, or district professionals who creatively executed innovations in communications and marketing. Over 640 entries in 39 categories were submitted for Savvy Awards this year.

"Traditional annual reports tend to be graphs, numbers, and charts. They are interesting to a very small percentage of the population, and go largely unread. What good is that?" said Abby Wilkerson, City of Suwanee Public Information Officer and the author of the annual report. "Our version includes the vital information, but the board game format tells the story in a more engaging way."



"At first glance, it seemed like too much information crammed into a clever idea. But the more I read all the little stops on the game board and how witty they were, I got sucked in and soon found myself reading them all. Which was obviously the goal. And that makes this brilliant. Who says annual reports can't be fun? Certainly not the City of Suwanee."

- 2022 Savvy Awards Judges



POPULAR PARK SEEKING MULTIPLE SHORT-TERM RELATIONSHIPS

Suwanee Now Accepting Applications for 2023 Event Calendar

The City of Suwanee is now accepting applications for community events to be hosted at city parks during 2023. The deadline for applications is December 1. Once the event schedule is approved after the first of the year, no additional events may be added.

Each year, Suwanee hosts - primarily at Town Center Park - over 40 city- and privately-planned events, including concerts, festivals, races, food truck events, and more.

"Events are an important part of community-building in Suwanee," said Events and Outreach Manager Amy Doherty. "Each year, we love partnering with community organizations to bring great music, fun events, and unique engagement opportunities to our residents."

Applications and guidelines are available at Suwanee.com. Acceptance of an application does not constitute approval of an event. Applicants will be contacted regarding their submission by mid-January 2023; selected applicants are expected to attend the mandatory event planning meeting in late January.



North Gwinnett High School senior Ashlee Tam spent several months identifying Suwanee’s local cultural assets, researching and writing about them, and interviewing the “local legends” who impacted the people and places (and some place names) in Suwanee. The Suwanee Historic Downtown Preservation Initiative will serve as Tam’s Girl Scout Gold Award Project.



Visit **Suwanee.com** or scan the QR code to read more and view the videos. You might see a few familiar faces, and learn something too!



ADD A NEW PAIR OF **RUNNING SHOES** TO YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST!

The 9th annual Suwanee Half Marathon and Old Town 5K will run again on Sunday, February 19, 2023. Presented by Performance Race Services in conjunction with the City of Suwanee, the half marathon will kick off at 7:30 am in front of City Hall. Old Town 5K runners will begin running at 7:45 am.

The 13.1-mile course will bring runners up to and down Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, in and around George Pierce Park, on the greenway to McGinnis Ferry and Suwanee Creek Park, and back to a glorious finish at City Hall.

The course includes a great mix of flats and hills to challenge all runners. Race finishers will receive a medal and long-sleeved technical shirt. Five-time Suwanee Half Marathon finishers qualify for a special commemorative jacket.



For more information, including route, registration, and volunteering, visit **SuwaneeHalf.com**.



UPCOMING

Fall and Holiday

EVENTS

Suwanee Wine Fest

November 5 | Noon

The 9th Annual Suwanee Wine Festival offers unlimited samples of over 150 delicious wines from all over the world, plus a Georgia winery section offering tastings of their favorites.

Suwanee Classic Car Show

November 6 | 10 am

Join us as 175+ absolutely beautiful classic cars roll in to Town Center! Benefitting the Suwanee Arts Center, the Classic Car Show also features music, a 50/50 drawing, and a veteran appreciation ceremony. Admission is free to the public.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Part of the Suwanee Running Series!

November 12 | 8 am

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is full of flowers, each carried by someone committed to ending this disease.

Suwanee Chili Cook Off & Music Festival

November 12 | Noon

Sample and vote for your favorite chili! The Suwanee Chili Cook Off is an International Chili Society-sanctioned event. The festival is a fundraiser for Project Green, a local children's non-profit and has free admission. Wristbands for tasting are available for purchase.

Jolly Holly Day

December 2 | 6:30 pm

Ring in the holiday season with festive performances by local schools, help us light the big tree, and get a photo with Santa himself! Enjoy food trucks and free crafts while supplies last.

HappyFeat's Run Run Rudolph 5K

Part of the Suwanee Running Series!

December 3 | 8 am

Dress in your fun holiday Rudolph attire, jingle bells, or Christmas PJs for this festive race! This event benefits HappyFeat, a nonprofit 501(c) 3 that gives individuals with special needs the chance to work and be a part of a variety of special events.

Gwinnett Relay for Life Luminaria Lights to Remember

December 10 | 6 pm

An event filled with music, story-telling, and presentations to honor and remember those whom we've lost to cancer. It will culminate with a walk around a luminaria-lit path in the park, led by a bagpipe player with family & friends following.

Cheyenne's Ugly Christmas Sweater 5K

Part of the Suwanee Running Series!

December 17 | 8 am

Join EmpowH3R in an Ugly Christmas Sweater 5K benefitting Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. There will be prizes, so get your ugly on!

Winter Farmers Markets

9-11 am

November 12	December 17
November 19	January 14
December 10	January 28

For up-to-the-minute information regarding Suwanee events, visit Suwanee.com.



HIDDEN SUWANEЕ: The Berlin Wall



Like the rest of post-World War II Germany, the capitol city of Berlin was divided for administrative purposes among the Allied victors. East Germany became a totalitarian police state, and in 1961, the communist government built a wall dividing the city. 100,000 people attempted to safely defect between 1961 and 1989; 5,000 succeeded. Between 125 and 200 lost their lives in the attempt.

The Berlin Wall was opened in November 9, 1989; demolition began in June 1990, making way for German reunification later that year. Euphoric citizens and souvenir hunters chipped away parts of the Wall; industrial equipment was later used to remove most of what was left.

Today, an authenticated piece of the Berlin Wall stands in Suwanee Town Center. Purchased at an auction in 2013, owners Ray Stanjevich and Suzanne Cartwright donated the 12-foot-tall, 7,000-pound piece to the city's permanent art collection in August 2018.

Originally discovered in an East Berlin work camp, the once-western-facing section features graffiti depicting an American flag, a silhouetted figure, and three buildings. The side that once faced East Berlin is mostly devoid of graffiti. The piece has a certificate of authenticity after tests on the concrete and rebar confirmed its materials consistent with those used in Germany in the early 1960s.

"I was born in a communist country, and Suzanne's mother immigrated from Germany after World War II," said Stanjevich, a Serbian immigrant. "We think it's important to remember the past and not forget that many still live without the basic freedoms that we enjoy in the United States."

Won a spelling bee in the 3rd grade? Did your kid's team come in last place in Little League? Was your husband riding the bench during rec basketball? Do you really need plastic symbols to remind you of those glory days?

Instead of letting all those trophies, medals, and plaques clutter your home, donate them to something meaningful:

The City of Suwanee's Ultimate Participation Trophy!

We're building one giant trophy out of many, and we want yours!

No trophy is too small, no amount of trophies are too few.

Drop off your old trophies at Town Center Park on November 13 from 1-3pm and feel like a winner. True to the nature of the participation trophy, **everyone wins** - your house gets decluttered and we get a new piece of temporary public art.



UPCOMINGEVENTS

official newsletter of the city of suwanee, georgia

NOVEMBER22

1	Planning Commission	6:30 pm
4	Red Cross Blood Drive (City Hall)	10:00 am
5	Suwanee Wine Fest	Noon
6	Suwanee Classic Car Show	10:00 am
8	Downtown Development Authority	7:30 am
8	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 pm
9	Suwanee Public Arts Commission	6:00 pm
12	Walk to End Alzheimer's	8:00 am
12	Winter Farmers Market	9:00 am
12	Suwanee Chili Cook Off & Music Festival	Noon
13	Ultimate Participation Trophy Drop-Off	1:00 pm
17	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
19	Winter Farmers Market	9:00 am
24	CITY HALL CLOSED	
25	CITY HALL CLOSED	
29	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm

DECEMBER22

2	Jolly Holly Day	6:30 pm
3	Happy Feet Run Rudolph 5K	8:00 am
6	Planning Commission	6:30 pm
8	City Council Workshop	5:30 pm
10	Winter Farmers Market	9:00 am
10	Relay for Life Luminaria	6:00 pm
13	Downtown Development Authority	7:30 am
13	Zoning Board of Appeals	6:30 pm
14	Public Arts Commission	6:00 pm
17	Cheyenne's Ugly Christmas Sweater 5K	8:00 am
17	Winter Farmers Market	9:00 am
20	City Council Meeting	6:30 pm
23	CITY HALL CLOSED	
26	CITY HALL CLOSED	

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**CITY OF
SUWANEE,
GEORGIA**

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