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December 2023





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### VENETIAN PARK ESTATES 8885 S Tamiami Trail

Sarasota FL 34238



Office: (941) 966-4622 website: www.VPEonline.com

IN Paradise

email address: venetianparkestates@comcast.net

### **BOARD OFFICERS:**

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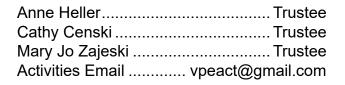
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Amy DeBruin	Secretary
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### **GONDOLIER STAFF:**

Submissions	Cassie Dionne
Anniversaries/Birthdays	Gina Miller
Sunshine Reporter	Cassie Dionne
Activities	Deb Cinco
Getting To Know You	Amy Newman
Recipes	Cheryl Smith

Please note – call Community Media – 941-375-3699 for ALL ADS, or e-mail darin@communitymedia.com



Couriers.....Pat Olsen McGee Sheila Bacon Gina Miller Paul Miller Debby Steele, Sally Ruebesam, Pat Morales. Dorrene Moser



### **Weekly Activities**

See monthly calendars and watch the bulletin board and our FaceBook page for changes.

### **NOTARY PUBLIC:**

Denise Achin is offering FL notary services to anyone in the park. These are free of charge to park residents. Contact her at 321-369-8635...

### **DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR JANUARY GONDOLIER:**

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR JANUARY GONDOLIER IS: DEC 4 FOR JANUARY 2024

Send articles as a document attached to an email to: cassie dionne@yahoo.com

### Page 4 2023-2024 VPE BOARD



We miss you Tracy Clay, welcome Irv Rubin as Vice President and Dennis Callan as a trustee.

Activities Meeting: 12/8/23 at 11 AM Members Meeting: 12/20/23 at 9:30 AM Board Meeting: 12/20/23 at 10:30 AM

All meetings are open to the residents

### CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT VPEONLINE.COM

Our website has a wealth of information... a list and schedule of our weekly activities, our financial reports, our governing documents, the minutes of our Board of Director meetings, real estate requirements for buying or selling in VPE and the website committee has now added a Safety page with tornado and hurricane safety guidelines. In the near future, we will be adding a Standing Committee Charters Page. We also have a new password for protected portions. Contact the office for the password.

### JUST WONDERED

When Christ was born...how much did He weigh? Did He really know the price He would pay? Was His weight God's perfect number seven? Just a little tot, yet He left His Dad in Heaven. When He slept, did He dream of His home up above? Or was His mind on the souls. He came to love. What color eyes did God give His baby boy? Brown, green, or blue? Did they sparkle brightly, thinking of me and you? Was His hair shiny dark, or blond with soft curls? I wonder...when Jesus came, how He appeared to this world. Our Father sent this special Gift for all mankind to know. There was no fancy wrapping, yet flawless from head to toe. Certainly, He grew hungry, did He ever raise a fuss? I so wonder about this breath of innocence, who came to redeem us. The star that led the shepherds, shone brightly in the sky. They came to see the Infant, who would save you and I. Times are quite different now, since the first Christmas story. We're busy people, rushing around, and at times forget God's glory. So, when you hear the bells this season, and view the dazzling lights. Pause...for Christ is whispering, I love you child...you definitely, were worth the price.

by Pat Waites

## Venetian Park Estates GETTING TO KNOW YOU

by Amy Newman



Jim and Carol Tomes are the ambitious owners of 2292 Gondola. They purchased their Florida home sight unseen from their primary residence of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada in 2015 from Barbara

Cordona. Their interest in acquiring a home in VPE was initiated by Kevin Boughton, a woodshop teacher of whom Carol was his teaching aide, who suggested looking in VPE as his parents are owners here (yes, that's Ken & Linda)! Ironically, not long after purchasing their home, Jim was attending a Winnipeg Jets game and was visiting with a previously unknown nearby seatmate who said he owns in Sarasota too, and in VPE, too, and his name was Banash, (yes, that's Dennis and Diane)!

Carol and Jim were born and raised in Winnipeg (the third coldest city in the world), with Carol one



of seven children and Jim with one sibling. Similarly, both went on to become educators and met each other while working in the same high school; a diverse

definition of high school sweethearts! Jim's affinity to many different types of sports was the impetus to becoming a physical education teacher/coordinator and later transitioned to an elementary and then middle school principal. He also worked at the university level supervising new teachers. Carol also spent a decade as a realtor.

Their retirement has been a happy balance of adventure and sweat equity. For the first thirteen years they traveled abroad for a month each year, with their favorite destinations being rural England and Santorini, Greece in the Aegean Sea (near Crete). They own a summer cabin in Lake-of-the Woods, a shared lake between Canada and US/ Minnesota, about 3 hours from Winnipeg. There at the lake many memories have been made with their children and 6 grandchildren (5 of whom are boys) running the gamut of fun including swimming,

fishing and exploring. At home in Winnipeg in December, Jim and Carol play Santa and Mrs. Claus for their grandchildren and neighborhood children. The Tomes work well together on construction



projects large and small. Their cabin on the lake and home on Gondola have benefited from their labors. When not working, they enjoy kayaking in the mangroves, walking the shops at St. Armand's, and watching their Winnipeg sports teams too. Additionally, Jim heads up the golf league here.

They appreciate VPE for its perfect size, a community that lends itself to getting to know people, often from their screened-in porch. They enjoy Siesta Key and many other beaches secondarily. Take an evening stroll or ride and while rounding the corner wave to the Winnipeggers in their veranda under the mango tree.

### **FLEA MARKET**

ON SEPT 15 AND 16 WE HAD A BOOK SALE AND ALSO CHRISTMAS ITEMS, WE MADE A WHOPPING \$65.76.



MY OPINION IS TO DROP THE SALE OF BOOKS FROM NOW ON AS THE WORK WE PUT INTO IT DOESN'T ACCOUNT FOR WHAT WE MAKE. WE ALWAYS NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP LOAD UNSOLD BOOKS ONTO VEHICLES AND TO UNLOAD THEM AT THE GOODWILL DONATION CENTER..IN SEPTEMBER WE HAD NO VOLUNTEERS TO UNLOAD.

WE ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTING BOOKS, CDs, 8 TRACKS, CASSETTES FOR THE FLEA MARKET. SEE THE LIST POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OF THE CLUBHOUSE FOR ITEMS ACCEPTED FOR OUR ANNUAL FLEA MARKET, TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY 2024.

### FLEA MARKET COMING SOON, FEB 2024, NEED TO GET VOLUNTEERS

WE NEED A CAPT. FOR KITCHEN ITEMS. PLEASE CALL ME IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.

ALSO PREVIOUS CAPT. PLEASE CALL ME SO I WILL KNOW THE POSITIONS ARE FILLED AND GIVE ME A LIST OF YOUR HELPERS.

ANYONE NOT ON A COMMITTEE AND WOULD LIKE TO HELP PLEASE CALL ME. THANK YOU, PAT MORALES 941-451-8680.

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### Page 6 MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR TRACY CLAY :

Please join us for a memorial service to celebrate the life of Tracy Clay.

We will gather together on November 29 in the Clubhouse at 1:00PM to remember our wonderful



friend who will be greatly missed. Please bring your fondest memories of Tracy to share with family and friends.

### FROM THE OFFICE:

Many of our "snowbirds" are returning to VPE. Also, with the Holidays coming, many of you will have guests and family that might not know that we maintain our own sewer system. Please make your guests aware that they should not flush baby, facial or any other so called "flushable" items down your toilet. They have fibers that are not biodegradable that can destroy our pumps. Repairs to our sewer system can be very expensive!

The only thing that should go in the toilet is what comes out of your body and toilet paper! Yes, some say "flushable", but so are wedding rings, hot wheels, and other small objects, etc. Also, please don't use Charmin Toilet Paper. Our septic system is not designed to handle the coarser, stronger fibers. Please do your part!"

Thank you

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Looking for volunteers to join committees... VPE has vacancies on the Welcome Committee (x2), Activities Committee (x2) starting in the Spring. Feel free to contact JoEllen Wuerzburger (wuerzjo@ gmail.com) or Tony in the office if you have any interest or any questions.



DECEMBER ACTIVITIES



We would like to say welcome back to those snowbirds that have returned to paradise. We would also like to welcome any new people to our park. We had a very nice Halloween party at

which about 40 people attended. Everyone had a good time and several danced to the music provided by Amy DeBurin. We had several in costume and a prize was given to Flip DeBruin for most original and Jeff Fischer for best costume. Would like to say thank you to Mike Anderson and Phylis Buechner for being our judges. Our stunning carved pumpkin was created by Deb Winans. We also had \$115.00 donated for the Resurrection House and \$115.00 for the All Faiths Food Bank. Thank you everyone who donated.

Bingo will be starting back up. Deb Cinco and Jan Coble are going to be running it every Tuesday night at 7:00pm. We are still in need of a couple of callers. If we have 4 callers you would only have to call once a month. Please contact myself or Jan Coble if interested.

Deb Cinco: <u>debcinco@gmail.com</u> Jan Coble: <u>janieceac@gmail.com</u>

With Christmas right around the corner we are still looking for someone to chair this event. Contact our activities committee to volunteer at vpeact@ yahoo.com. There is also a sign up sheet in the clubhouse.

The next Activities Meeting is December 8, 2023 11:00 AM, all are welcome to attend. Watch the Bulletin Board and Neighbors Helping Neighbors on Facebook for information on upcoming events (Christmas Party, Christmas Dinner, New Years Eve Event, Lisa Ridings Duo Band, Welcome Back Party).



Bobbi Clay has resigned, we welcome Anne Heller to the Activities Board.

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### SUNSHINE NEWS

by Cassie Dionne



Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas. As we close another year, we look forward to more good times with our friends here in Paradise.

We send sunshine and best wishes for full recoveries to our neighbors who are having health

issues now. May each day find you closer to returning to good health:

Anne Click 226 N Macomb Monroe MI 48162. Email: paclick01@comcast.net

Linda Boughton PO Box 66 Rennie Manitoba Canada Roe 1R0. Email: lgb@mts.net

It is with sadness we say good bye to Bill and Della Merritt, who for health reasons will not be coming to Florida this winter. 1166 Redfield Dr Colmbus, OH 43229.

Natalie and John Fortin are also spending this winter in NH with their family, but hope to visit sometime in the 23-24 season. jacknat52@gmail. com

### **CHRISTMAS SIP AND SHOP**

Ladies Event, Friday Dec 8th 2:30 PM at SAS (Sail Away Studio), Gulfgate. Sign up sheet in the clubhouse after 11/20/23. You can also contact me at: <u>cassiedionne@yahoo.com</u>. As the shop is cozy, there will be a limit of 15 women for this event. Rather than the whole event, some who sign up can feel free to drop by anytime between 2:30-5:30. Carpooling for the event can be discussed if desired; email me about this.

SAS is a women's boutique that has been open for about a year, carries a large selection of ladies clothing, hats, scarfs, belts, purses, some shoes and bathing suits. They also have a selection of locally sourced jewelry. Much of the merchandise is from European countries like Italy. They also carry items made in North America. Martha, the owner has just returned from a buying trip in Europe. She tells me she brought home lovely items for that Christmas/New Year social, and for gifting at the holiday. She is now carrying some plus sized clothing. Many accessory items and some novelty items that are great for gifting adorn it's Florida style decor. Colleen and Shannon will take really good care of the ladies and they think you will love coming here.

No cover fee, no obligation to buy. SAS will provide champagne, hors d'oeurves, and shopping assistance. There will also be non- alcoholic beverages served They require a minimum of 10 ladies to attend to hold this Sip and Shop. I will let everyone know if we have enough interest by Wed Dec 6. Sign up by Dec 5 or email me to count you in. SAS is located at 6612 Gulfgate Dr. We can discuss carpooling if there is a need.

### **RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

by Cheryl Smith



Buttermilk blueberry breakfast bake is a fun thing to make ahead and have on hand for busy mornings during the holiday season (or, in fact, anytime!). It is a delicious treat to take

to friends or family when visiting them. You could make blueberry muffins but this recipe is easier and faster and a little more special.

### **Buttermilk Blueberry Breakfast Bake**

- 2 C. flour, divided
- 2 C. fresh blueberries
- 1 C. sugar, plus extra for sprinkling on cake
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> C. buttermilk
- 1/2 C. unsalted butter, softened
- 1 lemon, zested
- 1 egg
- 2 t. baking powder
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1 t. salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a square 8 or 9-inch baking dish with butter or nonstick spray. In a medium bowl, whisk together 1 <sup>3</sup>⁄<sub>4</sub> cups flour, baking powder and salt. In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar and lemon zest for 3 – 5 minutes, or until fluffy and a lightened color. Add in egg and vanilla and beat until combined with butter mixture. Start with the buttermilk, take turns adding it with the flour mixture until everything is just combined. Toss the blueberries in remaining 1/4 cup flour until coated, then fold blueberries into batter. Pour batter into baking dish, then top with 1 - 2 tablespoons sugar. Bake for 40 minutes or until an inserted toothpick comes out clean.

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### Page 10 **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Lee Kohlmeier Kathryn Tregler
- 3 Sue Mertz
- 5 Gary McGee
- Chris Friedrich 9
- 16 Anita Wood
- 17 Manny Lejeune
- 19 Nick Mallos
- 28 Roy Walker
- 31 Donna Lejeune

### **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Gary and Pat McGee Allen and Ellen Alexander December 18,1965 **Bill and Joyce Hayes** 

December 16, 2000 December 24, 1966



### DO YOU PLAY POKER? WOULD **YOU LIKE TO LEARN?**

You're invited to play Texas Hold'em (no limit) every Monday and Friday from 1:00PM to 3:30PM in the Clubhouse.

If you'd like to learn to play, please come to the Clubhouse at 12:30PM for a short introduction. (We assume that you know how to play basic poker).

We also need Euchre players. See Activities Committee members to sign up for interest in Euchre.

### **BAD DAD JOKES**

- Q. Why does Scrooge love Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer?
- A. Because every buck is dear to him.
- Q. What is every parent's favorite Christmas song?
- A. Silent Night
- Q. Why did Rudolph have to attend summer school?
- A. Because he went down in history.
- Q. What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?
- A. "It's Christmas, Eve!"
- Q. What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas?
- A. "I'll never part with it!"
- Q. How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?
- A. Nothing...it was on the house.

We're looking for someone to write about your mom or dad for the Gondolier.

If you'd like to but are worried you don't know how to submit it, email it to me or hand write it and bring it to me and I'll transcribe it for you.

Anyone live here that inherited your home from your parent?

I'd like to hear about what VPE was like when they were here! (Just a suggestion.)

Gina Miller email: ginam245@gmail.com ph.260-246-3551

### THANK YOU CORNER

I want to thank everyone in VPE for the cards, calls, visits and meals during Tracy's illness and death. As I was reading through his Journal, I found this<sup>.</sup>

2/22/2022 - I am so thankful and blessed. It is a magnificent morning here in Sarasota. Bobbi and I are so happy and as we pray for our family, friends and neighbors here in VPE, May God

Almighty bless each and everyone!

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. I belong to Him! Amen. Bobbi Clay

Eight years ago we bought our place at 2292 Gondola Drive. We loved the idea that we would have fruit trees at our place. We had a beautiful Mango and couldn't wait to enjoy the sweet fruit from the tree. Our Canadian health insurance allows us to stay in Florida for three months.so we had to leave early April for the North. The fruit doesn't ripen until July so we would miss out. Luckily for us, Cassie and Ray Dionne froze some Mangos for us. This year Bonnie and Greg Ryan froze some more for us. Tonight we had Mango and ice cream, mm! Thank you to both families for thinking of us, we really appreciate your kindness and we really enjoyed the Mangos. Jim and Carol Tomes.

Once again, I am in need of any old tee shirts anyone can give me. I am making jump ropes out of them as toys for under privileged children. Drop them at my house any time..thanks. Ruth Beck.

P. S. A big thank you for the tee shirts you ladies gave me, I could cut out enough pieces to make 15 jump ropes for the kids. If anyone finds more shirts, I'll be happy to have them. Thanks Ruth Beck 2213 Piazza Dr.









### NOV 4, 2023

On behalf of the family of Judy Weber, both here and out of town, we'd like to express our gratitude and thanks for the love and support the Venetian Estates family had and has shown these past few weeks since Judy's passing. The cards, comments and expressions of love have been overwhelming. The turnout at her Memorial Service meant so much to all of us, and then this past weekend when we had her Estate sale, once again you showed up with incredible help and encouragement. God chooses interesting ways to bless us, and you certainly were a blessing to all of us. Thank you again, Joan Gregory and Weber family.

### MANY THANKS TO OUR GONDOLIER COURIERS:

Debby Steele, Sally Ruebesam, Pat Olsen McGee, Pat Morales, Dorrene Moser, Sheila Bacon, Paul and Gina Miller

### **DAVID AND HIS PARROT**

Submitted by Gina Miller

David received a parrot for his birthday. The parrot was fully grown with a bad attitude and worse vocabulary. Every other word was an expletive. Those that weren't expletives, were to say the least, rude. David tried hard to change the bird's attitude and was constantly saying polite words, playing soft music, anything he could think of to try to set a good example...Nothing worked. He yelled at the bird and the bird yelled back. He shook the bird and the bird just got more angry and more rude.

Finally, in a moment of desperation, David put the parrot in the freezer. For a few moments he heard the bird squawk and kick and scream...then suddenly, there was quiet. Not a sound for half a minute. David was frightened that he might have hurt the bird and quickly opened the freezer door.

The parrot calmly stepped out onto David's extended arm and said, "I believe that I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I will endeavor at once to correct my behavior. I really am truly sorry and beg your forgiveness."

David was astonished at the bird's change in attitude and was about to ask what had made such a dramatic change when the parrot continued, "May I ask what the chicken did?"

(Author unknown...found in my mother's papers.)

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Have questions email me | tomesj48@gmail.com

### CHINESE TAKEOUTS RECOMMENDED BY VPEERS

Tuesday. We'll work it out 🤐

My favorite has always been next to the Publix. That is east of honore and north of Clark. Carolyn Wood

<u>https://www.newchinanokomis.com</u> New China - Nokomis. Pamela Seitz

We have gotten great carry out at Yummie House, across from the Sarasota Hospital on rt 41. Lee Kohlmeier

Right down next to Publix at Central Sarasota Pkwy, they are good Carol Anderson and Roberta Hanna

### Page 14 VETERANS DAY

Nov 11, Veterans from our park were honored by their neighbors at the Saturday coffee. Pat McGee welcomed the 79 of you in attendance, 19 of whom are veterans. Cal Fladzinski said the blessing, Len Pagano led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Bonnie Ryan read a poem. Memorial badges were awarded each veteran. Gordon Gregory shared carvings of an eagle with it's wings unfurled and 2 Fallen Soldier Battlefield Crosses. Jay Andrews brought memorabilia from his time of military service. Many of the veterans stood and told stories of their deployments during a time of war or conflict. We are reminded of our debt to those who answered the call of a grateful nation, whether in peacetime or at war. We also salute those from Canada who served their nation in the Armed Forces.





















### 2023 HALLOWEEN PARTY













### HALLOWEEN DECORATING CREW



from left Sis Gavin, Amy DeBruin, Cassie Dionne, Jan Coble, Deb Cinco, Cathy Censki



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With legendary poker champion Irv Rubin at Walts's Fish Restaurant, Celebrating his new book-'WHAT WOULD IRV DO?', sort of a bible on how to play Texas Holdem. Jeff Palumbo



Puzzle enthusiasts, took Bonni and I two and a half months to complete this Puzzle, 2000 pieces,!!!!! Any one interested in trying to do it in less time?? Jay Andrews

### SHOUT OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS!

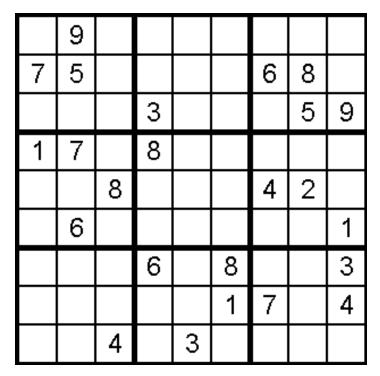
We are looking for volunteers to chair the following events:

- December Coffees (Dec 9th and Dec 23rd)
- Christmas Party on December 16th
- New Years Eve Party on December 31st If interested, please contact Deb Cinco, any





# DECEMBER





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Page 18						Venet	ian Park Estat
MATUARY 2024 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1011 12 13 14 15 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Saturday	2	9:30 Coffees in clubhouse, bring a cup. Sign up sheet in clubhouse so we can order enough donuts	Christmas Party 16	23 9:30 Coffees in clubhouse, bring a cup. Sign up sheet in clubhouse so we can order enough donuts	30	
	Friday	10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texas Hold-em 6:30 PM Hand & Foot	10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texas Hold-em 6:30 PM Hand & Foot 11:00 AM Activities Meeting open to all	10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texas Hold-em 6:30 PM Hand & Foot	22 10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texas Hold-em 6:30 PM Hand & Foot First Day of Winter	10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texas Hold-em 6:30 PM Hand & Foot	
2023	Thursday		5 PM Holdem sundown; Start of Hanukkah Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	5 PM Holdem 14	5 PM Holdem 21	5 PM Holdem 28	
CEMBER 2023	Wednesday		10 AM Water Aerobics 6:30 PM Mexican Dominoes	10 AM Water Aerobics 6:30 PM Mexican Dominoes	20 10 AM Water Aerobics 6:30 PM Mexican Dominoes 9:30AM Members Meeting 10:30AM Board Meeting	27 10 AM Water Aerobics 6:30 PM Mexican Dominoes	
DECI	Tuesday		7 PM Bingo	7 PM Bingo	7 PM Bingo	7 PM Bingo	
	Monday		10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texas Holdem 6:30 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers	10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texas Holdem 6:30 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers	10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texas Holdem 6:30 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers	10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texas Holdem 6:30 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers Christmas	
NOVEMBER S M T W T F S A T W T F 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Sunday		3 First Sunday of Advent	10	17	24 Christmas Eve	31 New Year's Eve Party New Year's Eve

### Venetian Park Estates



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