



# CORNWALL CHRONICLE



VOLUME 22 : NUMBER 12 JANUARY 2013

## Chronicle Receives Grant for Website

The *Chronicle* is happy to report that a website is in design and production and should be up and running by early spring.

Each month the issue then current will appear online. The website will feature a searchable archive of more than 250 back issues, along with other pages that will make it easier to contact the paper. News about upcoming events may now be posted to the *Chronicle's* Calendar Editor Louise Riley. (See page 4.)

The website project was made possible by a generous grant from the Cornwall Foundation, now in its tenth year of supporting local institutions. —*The Editors*

## The Year of the Dragon

When Cornwall began 2012 the town was still recovering from the smash-up delivered by storms Irene and Alfred. Lower River Road had a beautiful new bridge (made even lovelier by the 75 percent cost reimbursement from federal and state funds). Sandy came through as the year ended but this time Cornwall was better prepared.

The emergencies the town has experienced have demonstrated the need for

trained volunteers. The Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been trained as communications, basic medical, and shelter workers. With the CVFD EMTs, CERT brings the total of trained personnel to about 40.

This would have pleased the late Fred Bate whom Jeremy Brecher profiled in the February *Chronicle* as a constant volunteer and good citizen. "Well, my father used to say," Fred said, "you've got to do more than sleep in a town and pay your taxes."

Volunteers filled up the seats on two new town committees, one for economic development and the other to support senior citizens. The Cornwall Energy Task Force, declaring that the Year of the Dragon is auspicious for new projects, launched a sustainable organic vegetable garden outside the Cornwall Library's back door. Townspeople were invited to learn and build their own gardens.

CCS Boys Basketball had another stellar year. One of the smaller schools in the Region 1 league, Cornwall beat Sharon 52 to 42 in the finals to take home the championship. Later in the year a naming contest for CCS mascot produced a new name for the hoopsters—the Cornwall Coyotes.

On the winter sports scene, Mohawk Mountain Ski Area celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> year

of operation during a nearly snowless winter. Manufactured white stuff made up some of the difference. The Town of Cornwall, however, was pleased to know that \$25,000 in snow removal funds went unspent.

The Cornwall Library found itself in the midst of an uproar as the town reacted to the late June dismissal of Amelia de Neergaard from her job as children's librarian. Her supporters filled the chat room at yahoo.com with comment and letters of support. The library's trustees, limited by law and ethics, said little. Bart Jones, president of the board, commented, "We have focused on fundraising and delivering programs and not enough on personnel." In late July the trustees announced that de Neergaard would rejoin the staff as children's program coordinator working fewer hours.

Another anniversary! The Yelping Hill Association was 90 in 2012.

Ground was broken October 17 for the Bonney Brook Senior Housing project, the outcome of more than a decade of planning and organizing by the Cornwall Elderly Housing Corporation. Located next to the Cornwall General Store, the new facility promises its ten or more residents a village setting and lots to do.

Storm Sandy showed up almost exactly

(continued on page 2)

## JANUARY 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Every Week This Month:</b> <b>Mondays:</b> Yoga, 5:45–7 pm CCS <b>Tuesdays:</b> Adult Volleyball, 7:30 pm CCS gym <b>Wednesdays:</b> Tai Chi, 6–9 pm Town Hall; Karate, 6:30–7:30 pm CCS; Women's Basketball, 7:30 pm CCS gym		<b>1</b> ♦ Annual New Year's Day Pancake Breakfast 9:00 am–noon UCC	<b>2</b> ♦ Inland Wetlands 7:30 pm Town Hall	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  4th Q	<b>5</b> ♦ Artist Reception Jane Worthington-Roth 4–6 pm Library
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Park & Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall	<b>8</b> ♦ Economic Development Special 8:30 am Town Hall ♦ Senior Luncheon 11:30 am–1 pm Cornwall General Store ♦ P & Z 7 pm Library	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  NEW ♦ Park and Rec 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament CCS ♦ Library Board of Trustees Meeting 3 pm Library	<b>12</b> ♦ Park and Rec 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament CCS ♦ Puppet Workshop with Joe Brien 10 am–1 pm Library
<b>13</b> ♦ Park and Rec 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament CCS	<b>14</b> ♦ Cornwall Democratic Town Committee 7 pm Library	<b>15</b> ♦ <b>Deadline:</b> February <i>Chronicle</i> Copy	<b>16</b> ♦ Board of Education 3:30 pm CCS Library	<b>17</b> ♦ Cornwall Conservation Commission 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Board of Finance 7:30 pm CCS Library	<b>18</b>  1st Q ♦ Friends of the Cornwall Library Meeting 4 pm Library ♦ Family Night Movie <i>October Sky</i> 7 pm Library	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  FULL
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> ♦ ZBA* 7:30 pm Library	<b>29</b> ♦ First Day of Paintings by Edward Boulton Library ♦ Cornwall Committee for Seniors 7 pm Library	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Every Week This Month:</b> <b>Thursdays:</b> Toddler Play Group, 10:30–11:30 am Library <b>Saturdays:</b> Park & Rec Skating, 7–8 pm Hotchkiss School Schmidt Rink <b>Sundays:</b> Meditation, 1–2 pm, call Debra for location, 672–0229	

\*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

one year after Storm Alfred. She did less damage than the 2011 snowstorm, but power wasn't restored to some houses for a full, chilly, autumn week. First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, quoting a broadcast weatherman, said, "Climate change is weather on steroids." It's the new normal.

—Lisa L. Simont

## Evaluate and Save

Winter, with its higher heating bills, tends to concentrate the mind sharply on where energy savings might be found. The Cornwall Energy Task Force's Katie Freygang hopes that you will have your home evaluated for energy usage by one of the two firms she has vetted to work with Cornwall residents.

I attended the evaluation of Pastor Micki Nunn-Miller's home last month. Two evaluators came with their equipment, which included a huge fan and a door-sized frame. They drew the air out of the house, creating a 20-mile-an-hour wind; feeling around the window frames or doors you could immediately determine where the drafts and leakages were. They checked Pastor Micki's furnace for CO venting and proper functioning. They looked in the attic, basement, and closets for proper ventilation and insulation.

The evaluators use sophisticated programs to determine how tight your house is and what more is needed to tighten it for maximum savings. While they work in the house, the evaluators will change your incandescent bulbs to compact fluorescents, weatherstrip around doors and windows, insulate vulnerable pipes, and change showerheads and sink aerators to save water. Pastor Micki had at least 25 light bulbs replaced, for a two-thirds saving over what it costs to run incandescents.

At the end of the visit, the evaluators will sit down and have a "kitchen table wrap-up," where they recommend specific steps you can take in your own home to save even more energy. They then send you an eight-page report, in which they set out the cost of their recommended improvements versus the eventual savings to you. If you need the services of insulation contractors, for example, they will recommend reputable firms around the area.

Katie Freygang points out that if you had to pay for this four-hour house checkup it would cost \$750, but you pay only \$75. CL&P is actually taking money out of your bill for these evaluations so you definitely should get what you've paid for.

I've had my house done. You do have to put aside four hours and endure two people looking through your closets, but it's well

worth it. To sign up for the program: <http://bit.ly/cornwallhes>. To find out more about energy conservation in Cornwall: [www.cornwallctenergy.org](http://www.cornwallctenergy.org). —Jill Cutler

## Gallery Hopping

Cornwall is known for its abundance of artists and writers, and recently two new galleries have opened to enrich the artistic community here.

The Wish House unveiled Souterrain Gallery on Thanksgiving weekend in the freshly renovated space below the store, with a show of colorful works by Jane and Nan Bevans.

Bianca and Richard Griggs, owners of the Wish House, have regularly shown local artists in the store. In the new downstairs gallery space, they will have room to show more artwork, as well as hold art workshops and demonstrations. According to Bianca, in her native Germany, basement space is called "souterrain"—French for underground.

The Griggses plan to have about four exhibitions a year, centering on the major holidays. The next show will feature the paintings of Shawn MacDavid and Polly Cook, and will open February 16.

Cornwall Bridge Gallery opened in mid-November in the former Insider/Outsider Gallery at routes 7 and 45. After a substantial facelift, the new space is clean and bright, a minimalist background to the striking abstract and contemporary artworks on view.

The gallery, vacant for several years, was bought by David Meharg of Litchfield last year. Meharg, who grew up in a family of artists, is new to the gallery business. Trained as a landscape architect, he has a particular interest in outdoor sculpture. He sees Cornwall as being "an artist-driven community" and was impressed with the preponderance of artists on the town website.

Last August Meharg teamed up with Jessica Jane Perkel, a Litchfield artist. Together they assembled a group show of works by accomplished artists with ties to the area. The exhibiting artists helped curate the show, fulfilling the owners' aim to create an "artist-directed, community-based" art center, with local and professional guest artist curators.

They hope to eventually provide framing and photography services for artists, and to offer a place for concerts, lectures, and artist talks. In the planning stages for the spring is a scholastic art show of work by students from several area high schools.

Both galleries are open Thursday through Sunday from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. Please see their websites: [wishhouse.com](http://wishhouse.com) and [cornwallbridgegallery.com](http://cornwallbridgegallery.com).

—Amelia de Neergaard

## Welcome

Fallyn Kira Ward  
to Kathryn and Jeffrey Ward

## Land Transfers

Vivian Marie Gordon to Matthew Mejia and Annette W. Doskow, land with all buildings and improvements thereon, at 379 Town Street, for \$695,000.

Grant Hanessian and Anne Schwartz to Maureen A. Katz and Fred B. Glass, dwelling, all systems, and improvements thereon, known as 72 Barn Road, for \$300,000.

Estate of Natasha Eilenberg to Cornwall, LLC, property together with all improvements thereon at 104 Pritchard Road, for \$305,000.

## Hunting—the Art and Practice

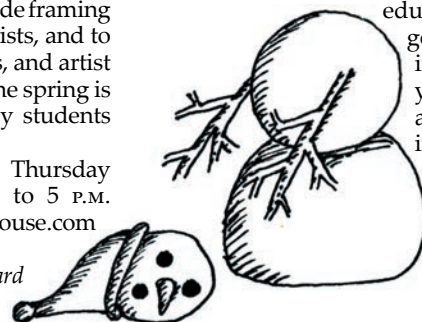
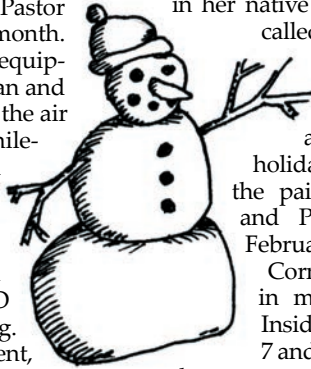
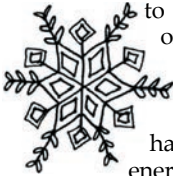
According to long-time hunter Tom Wolf, Cornwall has a rich history in hunting. Once plentiful, the deer population declined as the land was cleared for farming and charcoal manufacturing. Now, with more and more land under conservation, and second-home owners preferring to keep their acreage forested, deer habitat has increased. Despite this, Jean Bouteiller reports that "it is getting harder and harder to get a deer... Perhaps we can attribute this to the increasing coyote and bear population."

When asked why they hunt, the hunters' unanimous answer was "to put food on the table." It also seems that they genuinely enjoy being in the woods. Wolf described it as a "spiritual" experience. He prefers bow hunting as "it's more challenging, more immediate, and more humane."

Deer and turkey hunting is no easy task nor is it inexpensive. In the beginning you have to learn the craft. Most hunters and huntresses learn from their fathers starting at an early age. First and foremost they learn weapon safety. Then there's woodcraft, then more weapon safety, then tracking and an understanding of the wild woodland animals and their habits. Then still more weapon safety.

You need to know what to do when encountering a bear or a mountain lion or a moose—throw up your hands and shout loudly—or run like hell. Or, I suppose, creep under a rock. And which to do for what.

As to weapon safety, the state weighs in on that. You must take a hunter safety education course and get a firearms hunting license before you can buy a deer and turkey hunting license. Weapons are restricted to rifles, shotguns, muzzle loaders, and bows and arrows.



Hunting for deer and turkey is between September 15 and December 31, generally speaking, and from just before sunrise to sunset. These are just some of the rules and regulations. There are many more.

As to expense: a good rifle with scope or a good bow can easily cost \$1,000. Jim Vanicky told me other necessities, such as blinds or tree chairs, and efficient clothing and camouflage, plus licenses could cost up to another \$1,000.



In the woods before dawn it is usually uncomfortably cold. Once you get to your station, whether in a tree or a ground blind, or on a warming pillow leaning up against a tree as Bouteiller does, you sit quietly for hours and freezing hours. Hunters know when the deer move and where. Vanicky also knows when the sun will move around to his tree and provide welcome warmth. Not until the deer have accepted his presence and relaxed can he take a shot.

When deer are finally harvested they have to be dressed in the field. That means skinned, and eviscerated. The offal is buried and Vanicky puts the remaining unwanted parts on top of the mound in the transfer station for any wild animal (or Coby, transfer station Manager Steve O'Neil's dog) to find and eat. Vanicky says the meat from one doe "fills a grocery bag about three-quarters full. It feeds a family of four for about 15 days."

The Town of Cornwall issues about 30 hunting permits a season. The hunters, largely unseen, appear to be responsible, ethical, and they serve us well.

—Celia Senzer

### What's To Do with Trinity?

West Cornwall's Trinity property could become the town's sale of the century—and that would be the 21st century—and we asked for some thoughts on the subject from several interested parties.

We are referring to 464 acres, a long stretch of riverfront, lovely wooded trails and hills, a large conference center, several homes, and camp-like cabins. All this plus a little stone chapel that Tim Prentice suggested could be turned into "a cozy bar" whose patrons could "pray for redemption in the next life." (More from Tim later.)

One must keep in mind that the owner, Trinity Episcopal Church on Wall Street, has not yet put the property up for sale or even indicated it is planning to do so. Trinity is apparently considering several options and we don't yet know what they are. With all this in mind, we looked for ideas from members of the community, and

(continued on page 4)

## Letters to the Chronicle

### FINDING TROOPER

My husband, Jim, our dog Earl, and I are taking our daily walk in the woods on our property at 340 River Road. We pause because the leaves crunching under our feet are so loud and I think I hear a turkey. But it's not a turkey. It sounds more like a coyote howling. Jim thinks that something is stuck in the abandoned foundation on the state property to our north. He suggests we set out to find it. I think he is crazy. What will we do if we come upon a coyote stuck at the bottom of a foundation? But Jim convinces me and we head downhill on the state trail connecting Gold Road to River Road with our Rhodesian Ridgeback Earl in the lead. I am nervous. Jim is ahead of me with the dog. The baying gets louder as we approach the foundation. I still think it's a coyote. Jim gets to the foundation first and looks inside. I clearly hear growling. Jim smiles and says, "Oh, it's a puppy." The "puppy," growling and wagging its tail, is stuck at the bottom of an eight-foot-deep stone foundation. The foundation has water running through it but has a high muddy spot for the dog to stand on. We immediately run back to the house for the ladder we will need, feeling guilty for leaving the poor guy behind. I call the Little Guild and then Brad Hedden, our local dog warden. He asks if the dog is black with a white blaze and when I tell him yes he says, "I know the owner!" Her name is Erica. Jim gets the chainsaw and ladder on the ATV and heads out to clear the trail. I head down to River Road to meet Brad and walk the owner up from below. I watch Erica's skirt (she has come directly from work) get hung up on brambles and I assure her that it will clear up soon. Erica tells me that Trooper ran into the woods five days earlier chasing a deer. She looked and looked for him until finally giving up and placing posters announcing Trooper's disappearance around town. When we arrive at the foundation, Erica falls to her knees (skirt and all) and reaches down toward Trooper with some kibble in her

hand. Jim arrives with the ladder and Brad goes down to Trooper and lifts him to Erica. (Asking Trooper nicely, "Please, don't bite me!") Erica, now with muddy skirt, is ecstatic. Erica, Brad, and Trooper walk back down to River Road. Jim and I walk up the trail back home remarking how different our walk in the woods was today!

—Libby Mitchell

### GOOD BYE, OLD FRIEND

On December 8, Coltsfoot Cottage's Cudgie breathed her last. She was one of the two milking Devon heifers Dan Gracey brought to Cornwall almost 12 years ago to manifest his vision of bringing cows back to the Valley. Today, whether looking into Coltsfoot Valley or out a library window onto the bucolic scene of Dan's cattle, our lives are graced both by Dan's dedication and Cudgie's progeny. We'll miss her rich red hair, her magnificent horns, her wild stare, and her insistent bellows for more hay.

—Debra Tyler

### NO SALE

The name of Jay Rowe came up the other day. He was something of a legend when I was a kid. I was reminded of the time in the mid-forties when Billy Walker and I went to visit his place. We had heard that he owned an ancient Model T and we thought we might buy it from him. We looked around his ramshackle place but it seemed quite deserted.

Sure enough the car was there surrounded by weeds in the decrepit facsimile of a former garage. It clearly hadn't been driven in some time since between the front bumper and the radiator was a tree with a trunk the size of my leg which had begun to work its way through what remained of the roof.

Jay Rowe was nowhere in sight so we called out and shouted for him. Eventually there was a creaking sound and the door on the privy swung open. Without getting up he informed us that the car was not for sale.

—Tim Prentice

### Cornwall Briefs

•**Rumsey Finale?** We are generally advised never to say never. However, it looks like the last chapter in the Rumsey saga has gone to press. Town Hall tells the *Chronicle* that the Rumsey owner of record, Andrew Hingson, has paid up to the tune of \$58,268.34 and that Cornwall has released its certificate of lien on the property. Hingson had owed the town for the demolition of Rumsey, plus considerable legal fees and more than \$7,000 in interest on the original debt. Cornwall had paid the cost for the state-mandated demolition.

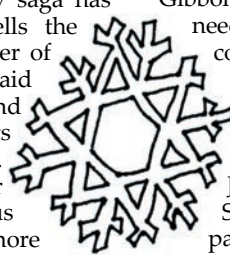
•**Cell Tower News:** You know, the one proposed that's uphill from Popple Swamp Road, and on property belonging to Ralph Gulliver, Jr. The state Siting Council has approved Verizon's plan and so, barring some new problem such as bad drainage,

Popple Swampers may have a new, very tall neighbor this time in 2013.

•**Food & Fuel Bank:** It's an emergency fund run by Social Services Administrator Jill Gibbons and exists to anonymously help needy members of the Cornwall community with their fuel and food bills. And it depends in part on donations. Checks made out to the Town of Cornwall (Food & Fuel Account) should be sent in care of Jill to POB 97, Cornwall, CT 06753. So far this fiscal year the fund has paid out over \$20,000.

•**CVFD Truck:** It's sitting out front of the Cornwall Bridge Firehouse with a "for sale" sign. For the record, it was a former town ambulance that had been converted into a truck that carried rescue equipment. It was replaced by a trailer that now carries the same equipment used for rope rescue and high-water rescue situations. You want it? Make an offer!

—John Miller



(continued from page 3)

our first thought was talking to Maggie Cooley who heads the Cornwall Housing Corp.

Mag called it "a wonderful opportunity." She said, "most of the acreage is difficult-to-develop raw land due to slope and access and the fact that it's bordered on several sides by state and land trust holdings that should become permanently protected open space available to the public." She added that money to purchase the land could be sought from state and local conservation organizations.

What about the conference center and its immediate surroundings? Maggie suggested this could be developed as a retirement community like Geer Village "or better still, a mixed-income establishment. The existing single-family houses could be given or sold cheaply to Habitat or the Cornwall Housing Corporation."

More from Tim Prentice: "The irony is that the most logical use for the complex is as a conference center. Other options would be a seasonal camp or training center of some kind. It suggests a small size version of the Omega Institute which is a yoga retreat near Rhinebeck, N. Y."

Bart Jones, who chairs the Cornwall Conservation Trust, said his group would like to see Trinity protect most of the undeveloped property "for wildlife habitat, water quality, public recreation, and river scenery." Bart said CCT was prepared to "lead an effort to purchase that undeveloped land at a reasonable price."

He said he hoped the balance of the property "can be put to good use that would support the economy of Cornwall."

Deb Tyler, owner of Local Farm and director of Motherhouse, came up with a long list of interesting ideas such as putting the property to use as a home base for teaching old-style life skills, developing alternate energy sources, as well as summer camp projects involving types of farming,

## Fragile World

January's frozen landscape is bare, reduced to skeletal twigs and branches. Storm Sandy stripped the oak trees of their lovely auburn leaves so that only the somber pines color the woods. Cheer yourself up by writing the *Chronicle* a nice check. Thanks!

animal husbandry, art classes, or recycling projects.

Soon, we hope, Cornwall will hear from Trinity. We will not be short of ideas.

—John Miller

## Events & Announcements

**Art in Cornwall:** At the Cornwall Library the photographic exhibit, "Faces of India," by Jane Worthington-Roth continues through January 26. An artist's reception will be held on January 5 from 4 to 6 P.M.

On January 29 an exhibit of watercolors and oil paintings by Edward Boulton, 1866-1927, (grandfather of Cornwall's Emily Whitford) will go up and run through March 9.

At the Souterrain Gallery, an exhibit of works by Jane and Nan Bevans in oil, acrylic, and multi-media continues through February 10.

The National Iron Bank is hosting a show of photographs by Martha Loutfi in January. At the Cornwall Bridge Gallery a show of contemporary art titled "Caravan" continues through mid-February.

**The Board of Assessment Appeals** will hold hearings by appointment in March 2013. Applications to schedule a hearing will be available at the town clerk's office beginning January 2, 2013. Applications must be received by February 20, 2013. Applicants will be contacted to schedule hearings during March.

**Monthly Senior Luncheon:** Come on down to the Cornwall General Store on Tuesday, January 8, from 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. for a delicious lunch special. Amy Cady will talk about library senior services. No reservations necessary! Questions? Call Jane at 672-6101.

**Cornwall Park & Rec:** The first 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, to be an annual event, will be held January 11 to 13 at Cornwall Consolidated School. Trophies will be awarded. There will be three divisions: men's, women's, and coed. All participants must be at least 18 years old. Teams must be registered by January 4. Registration cost is \$20 per team. Contact Becky Hurlburt at pccornwall@gmail.com or 672-4071.

Skating at the Schmidt Rink, Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, will be offered for eight straight Saturdays from 7 to 8 P.M. starting January 5.

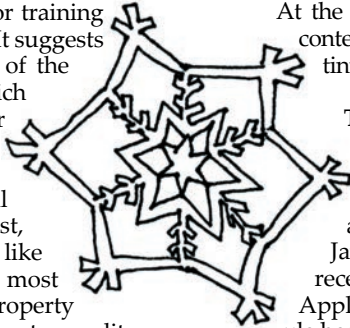
## At the Cornwall Library

A puppet workshop will be held on Saturday, January 12, from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. with Joe Brien of Lost Art Workshops. It is for children 6 years and up accompanied by an adult. Brien will instruct participants in the art of whimsical puppet making followed by a scripted performance. The workshop is limited to 12 children, so please register early by calling the library at 672-6874 or the Housatonic Youth Service

Bureau, which is co-sponsoring this family activity, at 860-824-4720.

Family Movie Night will feature *October Sky*, starring a young Jake Gyllenhaal and Laura Dern on Friday, January 18, at 7 P.M. The film is rated PG for minimal teenage misbehavior. Popcorn and drinks will be served. Donations welcome.

**Heifer Project Supper** on February 2 will be served from 5 to 7 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. Donations will be accepted and 100 percent of the proceeds will benefit the Heifer Project. Menu: pasta (including gluten free) with a variety of sauces (including vegetarian), salad, bread, dessert, and beverages. For more information call the church office at 672-6840.



## CORNWALL CHRONICLE

### THIS MONTH

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