

September//October 2022

An electronic newsletter for
residents of
The Commonwealth:
Bridgewater,
Commonwealth Estates,
Commonwealth Park,
Oxford, Sutton Forest,
Sutton Park and
Sweetwater XII

COMMONWEALTH COMMENTS

**School's Back
Drive Safely -
Watch for children**

Inside this issue

**Underwritten
by The
Commonwealth
Civic Association**

Board Meetings

Board Meetings are held at the Clubhouse at 6 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month.

For more information, contact **Heather at HeatherE@crest-management.com or 281-945-4630.**

Visit the Crest Management website for:
Exterior Modification Requests, Contacts, to Access Account information, pool tags, meeting dates, etc.

www.crest-management.com

The Commonwealth Board of Directors

President
Jim Levermann

Vice President
David Bristow

Treasurer
John Frenzel

Secretary
Jennifer Vance

Member At Large
Sarah McCoy

To send an email to any board member, click the envelope below.



Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Modifications and Deed Restrictions Committee meets at the Clubhouse at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month.

For more information, contact **Katie@crest-management.com | 281-945-4663**

Our Landscape Committee meets on an as needed basis. Contact Crest Management for the next meeting time and date.

First Colony LID #2 meets the **FIRST** Tuesday of each month at the Commonwealth Clubhouse starting at noon.
www.fclid2.com
For more information, call Ron at 281-265-0137.

Board Member Liaisons

Clubhouse, Marquee, Pool and Swim Team – Dave Bristow

Communications: (newsletter, website, eblasts and marquee) – Sarah McCoy

Enhancement Committee – John Frenzel

Landscape (including electrical, fountains and sprinklers) – Jim Levermann

Modifications Committee – Jim Levermann and Dave Bristow

Playgrounds – Jim Levermann

Tennis Courts (tennis leagues & tennis court reservation system)- Jennifer McCoy

To reach a Board Member, click on the envelope below:



CREST MANAGEMENT Company, Contact Information

P. O. Box 219320, Houston, TX. 77218

Heather Esteban,
Property Manager
281-945-4630

(After Hours Emergency
713-935-7331)

HeatherE@
crest-management.com

Katie
Assistant Manager
281-945-4663

Katie@crest-management.com

Deed restriction and architectural matters; Clubhouse Scheduler/Tennis Reservations

Tammy
Account Representative
281-945-4658

TammyA@Crest-Management.com

For accounting matters such as account information, account balances and payment information

Activity Directory

If you don't see an activity group that appeals to you, start one!
The Association promotes approved groups.

Commonwealth Chinese Club - CCC Darcy at: 847-800-2889 or email her at: danli2013@gmail.com.	Uniting Chinese-speaking families, promoting community news, events and spirit, engaging non-English speakers in community activities and mingling at social/informative events.
Commonwealth Women's Club Namita Asthana, Acting President asthana.namita@gmail.com	This group of Commonwealth Women meets monthly for Fun and Friendship! Get on our email list for meeting details.
Mommy and Me Play Group Katy Weimer aggiekaty@hotmail.com	For our youngest residents. Join other neighborhood moms and their small children for play dates at one of the area parks, or in each other's homes. Get on the notification email list.
Men's Golf Group	This group is in need of a leader! The guys are always looking for players for last minute pairings on various golf courses in the area. Let us know if interested.
Special Events/Activities	Our residents LOVE participating in fun activities. If you are interested in helping organize and oversee future community events, please let us know.
Tennis: Men's Dave Bristow dgbristow@windstream.net	If you are interested in playing tennis with other Commonwealth residents, this group is for you. BUT.....the group needs a leader! Let us know if you're interested.
Tennis: Women's Jeanne 713-385-4097	Ladies time on the court! Play tennis with other Commonwealth women.
Yoga & Guided Meditation Varsha zestandzen1@gmail.com	Will not be held at the Clubhouse until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Contact Varsha directly if you wish to join her elsewhere.

To learn about working with the Association to start a group; anything from a book club to a bridge group, to a cooking class, contact Jennifer Vance or Sarah McCoy and let them know of your interest.
The Association will help publicize your group and attempt to help you grow.



The Commonwealth Website:
www.commonwealthcivic.com

SIMPSON'S TREE SERVICES

SimpsonsTreeService.com ~ 281.980.0095

Present this coupon and receive \$50 OFF All tree services over \$500 ** \$25 OFF All tree services under \$500	Mention this ad and receive FREE Lighting Design Services
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Classy Ad - Commonwealth Resident



**Custom Building &
Remodeling:**

Greystone Builders
P. O. Box 1868
Sugar Land 77487
281-728-7360

For information on advertising in
this newsletter contact:
news@commonwealthcivic.com

The Holidays Are Coming! The Holidays Are Coming!

We may not want to think about it just yet, but the holidays will be here before you know it!

If you are planning a family/friends get-together this holiday season, you may want to consider renting out our Clubhouse. The decor has recently been updated and it's perfect for small --> midsize affairs. Rates are reasonable.

Our Clubhouse has a kitchen equipped with a stove, oven and refrigerator. We have plenty of tables and chairs.

Residents in good standing with the Association can check availability and rent the Clubhouse by contacting Katie, our Assistant Manager, with the information on page 2 of this newsletter.

Feral Hog Update

Sugar Land's Animal Services staff continuously operate three hog traps which are deployed based on reported damage and access to a suitable site for placement. Reported damage is key to determining where efforts need to be focused. Staff is also testing new technology to assist in tracking. A permanent pen trap is operated by the Parks Department at Brazos River Park.

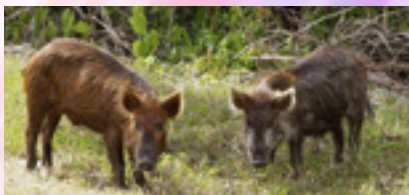
Please report feral hog activity to the City. Residents are also encouraged to treat their lawns for grubs, which is a food source for wild boars. As you probably know, City ordinance prohibits the discharge of weapons within the city.

Like many other wild animals, wild boars will usually only attack if they are cornered or feel threatened. Female wild boars are very protective of their young and can easily be provoked.

What to do if I encounter a wild boar?

- Be calm and move slowly away from the animal.
- Do not approach or attempt to feed the animal.
- Keep a safe distance and do not corner or provoke the animal, such as by using a flash while taking pictures of it.
- If you see adults with young piglets, leave them alone. These are potentially more dangerous because they may attempt to defend their young.

provided by
Carol K. McCutcheon
Sugar Land City Council Member
District 4



If you will be making improvements to the outside of your home this fall, please do not forget to submit your MDR application **BEFORE** beginning the work. Unapproved changes can be costly to the homeowner.

For timely approval, applications should be in the office of Crest Management on or before the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Questions? Reach out to Crest at 281-579-0761.

**You are
NOT
alone!**



9-8-8
is now a national
entry point for people
(located anywhere
in the U.S.) to easily
access 24/7 emotional
support. Trained, caring
counselors are on
the other end!

Please share this
information.

Buy your next home with me and I will list your current home for 1%*! Not buying locally, I will still list your home at an industry low commission rate!

Full Brokerage Services without the Full Service Price.
Call me for more details. 281-744-9237



John Benevides, Broker
Benevides & Associates
6530 Greatwood Parkway, Unit C
Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-744-9237
john@teambenny.com

***Does not include Buyer's Agent Commission**



If you have a business you would like to advertise in our bi-monthly (electronic) newsletter, from January through December of 2023 (6 issues), please send an email to news@commonwealthcivic.com and we will send the rate information. Ads range from business card sized to half page and we now offer the Classy Ad (sample below) which is merely a listing of your business and a link to your business web page.

Classy Ad - Commonwealth Resident



Window Coverings

**[Sienna Shutters & Blinds](#)
[713-419-3862](#)**



For information on advertising in
this newsletter contact:
news@commonwealthcivic.com

Beefing Up Commonwealth Group Activities

In the past, The Commonwealth had two activities exclusively aimed at male residents!

We know that people are always looking for fellow golfers to play at various golf courses in the area.

If you are willing to organize and manage a roster of interested players, please reach out to Jennifer Vance or Sarah McCoy via the contact form on our website: www.commonwealthcivic.com

Additionally ----

Our formerly active Men's Tennis group is in need of a leader. If you are interested in organizing and managing a roster of intrested Men's Tennis players, please let Jennifer and/or Sarah know: www.commonwealthcivic.com

**Don't feel slighted ladies,
we will be addressing the ladies'
groups next month (or, you can reach out
via that contact form on the website).**

The Glory Crafts Team SOLD over \$34 MILLION in 2021



GLORY CRAFTS

832-265-7355 (SELL)

glorycrafts@hotmail.com

We have Buyers! We need Listings!
Call for a FREE Market Analysis



Over 133 5-Star Zillow Recommendations

**38 Years
In Real Estate**

**Integrity & Experience
Sugar Land Resident**

The Glory Crafts Team is Proud to sponsor the Commonwealth Piranhas



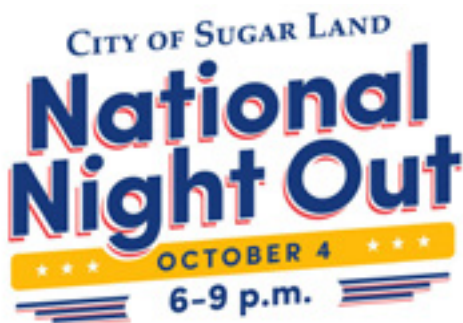
RE/MAX Fine Properties

**The Glory Crafts Team - #1 TOP PRODUCING SMALL TEAM for
Re/Max Fine Properties for 2021**



National Night Out

Due to the always oppressive heat of August, Texas celebrates National Night Out in October. The date this year is **Tuesday, October 4th**.



The point of NNO is for residents to meet their neighbors, know their names and get contact information. This is a crime fighting step. We will all take more notice of what's happening in our neighborhood if we have relationships with those living close to us.

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The Commonwealth HOA encourages you to gather on the evening for the 4th with the people living on your block. Whether you simply stand in a driveway, sit by a neighbor's pool or actually

party in the backyard of a resident, the relationships you forge will be meaningful.

The City of Sugar Land supports this undertaking by hosting a registration form on their website. Sign up here: <https://www.sugarlandtx.gov/516/National-Night-Out>. Sign up and you might receive a visit from our Crime Prevention officer, our City Council Representative, and/or even the Mayor.

Once you sign up, you can request a visit from a Patrol Officer, Motorcycle Officers and/or a Fire Truck.

Sugar Land Police and Fire-EMS Departments do their best to fulfill National Night Out visit requests, dependent on the number of requests received. You might even score a t-shirt!

We encourage you to plan something with the neighbors for that evening. A dessert party, an icecream social, a pizza party, whatever calls to you. Bring-a -dish or have it catered. Create a reminder flyer and make sure everyone on the block is aware. Then have some fun.

Share your photos to: news@commonwealthcivic.com.

Sugar Land News

**The more things change,
the more they remain the same!**

**It is imperative that we remember to secure our
vehicles.**

**Always keep the doors locked.
If possible, keep them in the garage.**

**No matter where you are, always be sure to
hide ANYTHING left in the vehicle when you
leave it. Take possessions with you or lock in the
trunk.**

**We are getting out more, but so are the perpetrators.
They WILL search unlocked vehicles looking for
any valuables you may have inadvertently
left unsecured. (i.e. guns/jewelry/wallets, etc.)**

**SLPD is also seeing a resurgence of thefts of
rims AND tires, and of course, catalytic converters!**

TRASH TALK -

There will be announcements made regarding your
Sugar Land Solid Waste in the Spring of 2023.

While we believe there is no MAJOR change, you will
want to be on the lookout for updates.

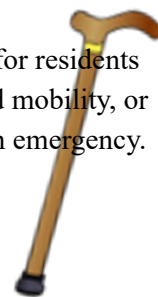
Please keep up with our newsletter and share this link
with your Commonwealth friends and neighbors!

STEAR -- Emergency Assistance

The State of Texas offers a free registry for residents
who experience a disability, have limited mobility, or
may need additional assistance during an emergency.



[Register now-click here](#)



The City of Sugar Land
invites residents to
download the
[MySugarLand App](#).

This app will help you stay abreast of
important Sugar Land information.

**Law Enforcement stresses the importance of:
Leaving nothing visible in your parked vehicles
Locking your car doors every time you leave the
car AND
If you see something, say something!**

**Did you know that if you are buying or selling
something on-line, you may ask the
other party to meet you in the Designated Area
of the Sugar Land Police Department parking lot?**

WWW.SUGARLANDTX.GOV

**Sugar Land Police
Non-Emergency Line 281-275-2020 - Questions? 3-1-1
Call 911 for EMERGENCIES**

RESIDENTS:

Do you have an idea for stories or information you'd like to see included in our newsletters?

Please let us know at:
news@commonwealthcivic.com

If you are interested in starting an HOA supported community group, please speak with a Board Member and see how you can work together to make it happen!



Event Ideas!

If you and your friends are willing to organize and chaperone any of the following community events, please reach out to Jennifer Vance and/or Sarah McCoy to bounce your idea.

A Teen Party for our Middle/High Schoolers

A Neighborhood Halloween Party

The Annual Holiday Party | Movie Nights | Speakers

Spring Fling | Pot Luck Suppers | Game Nights

Community events approved by the HOA will be publicized via our newsletter and Email Alerts!

Sugar Land Police Department House Watch Program

The holidays are fast approaching. You may wish to consider this Sugar Land PD Program.

The House Watch Program is designed to provide Sugar Land homeowners a means of having their residence checked periodically by an officer when they are away from home on vacation or an extended weekend.

In order for a residence to be placed on a house watch, the following criteria should be met:

- ◆ Your house must be located within Sugar Land city limits
- ◆ The residence must be vacated for more than 72 hours
- ◆ No other people may be going into or around the residence while it is unoccupied
- ◆ The occupant must have established residency at the

location

- ◆ The residence may not remain on the watch for more than three weeks

The program is intended to be a deterrent to illegal entry of the residence. It is a good crime prevention tool. The department cannot, however, place homes which are vacant or are subject to be shown by a real estate agent on house watch.

In order to participate in the program, the homeowner either stops by the Police Department or completes the on-line form. For more info click the button below.

[House Watch](#)

The Commonwealth Women's Club

The Commonwealth Women's Club is the oldest club/group in our community. This group has been active for decades.

If you are looking for a way to meet some neighbors, connect with old friends, or just have a wonderful evening of fun, be sure to get on their email list so you will be notified of all future get-togethers.

They are working on their plans for 2022-2023. Be sure to get on the email list to remain current on the socializing status!

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To get on their email list, shoot an email to
Namita Asthana at:
Asthana.Namita@gmail.com

Birds, birds, and more birds. They're everywhere—well, almost everywhere. Guam may be the only place on earth where there are no birds. It is estimated that there are over 10,000 species of birds in the world and a total of 50 billion total wild birds! There are big birds, tiny birds, and birds of all colors. You can find them on land, on the water, from mountains to deserts. Some people are afraid of birds and that's called ornithophobia. Some people like them so much that bird watching is their hobby.

With so many birds sharing our world, how much do you really know about them? Let's test your knowledge. Challenge your spouse or significant other or get the kids to play. It'll be fun!

1. What is the largest bird in the world?
a. Eagle b. Ostrich c. Hawk
2. Scientists believe that birds evolved from what creatures?
a. Dogs b. Dinosaurs c. Bears
3. How many chambers does a bird's heart have?
a. 2 b. 4 c. 6
4. What creature kills as many as 4 billion birds in the USA each year?
a. Hawks b. Fox c. Cats
5. What do you get if you cross a male cat with a bird?

6. Which one of these birds doesn't fly?
a. Ostrich b. Pelican c. Swan
7. Which bird can kill a human?
a. Eagle b. Falcon c. Emu
8. Which bird's eyes change color as they reach maturity?
a. Cardinal b. Red-tailed hawk c. Robin
9. Which bird is intelligent enough to create and use tools?
a. Hummingbird b. Woodpecker c. Crow
10. What is the most common bird in the world?
a. Sparrow b. Robin c. Chicken
11. What do you call a bird who doesn't know the lyrics to a song?
12. What is the only bird that can fly backwards?
a. Hummingbird b. Blue Jay c. Starling
13. What bird can sing up to 200 songs?
a. Mockingbird b. Purple martin c. Mourning dove
14. What is a group of owls called?
a. Flock b. Parliament c. Gaggle
15. What is a duck's favorite ballet?

Correct Answers can be found at the bottom of Page 11.



Commonwealth pick up days are
Tuesdays and Fridays

Recycling: Friday **Green Waste:** Tuesday
Bulky Waste: Fourth Monday of the month



Attention Tennis Players

If you are a tennis player, we encourage you and your family to sign up for court time. This step was taken to ensure that only Commonwealth residents and their guests have access to our courts and encroachers are displaced.

The website URL:

www.sites.onlinecourtreservations.com/reservations.

**The Sugar Land Animal Shelter is
always in need of volunteer help!**



MASKED BANDITS IN YOUR ATTIC?

By Cheryl Conley (May 2022)

You're sitting in your recliner watching TV and you hear noises in your attic or walls. What could it be? What do I do? First of all, don't panic. Chances are you're dealing with critters and there are humane ways to get rid of these freeloaders. For this article, let's talk about raccoons which seems to be the biggest problem this time of the year. The first thing you need to do is walk around your house and find out where the entry point is. The entry point is usually an unsecured grate, a hole in your siding or a small gap in a vent. Look for shredded paper or insulation on the ground around your home. This may help you find where they're getting in. Raccoons are very opportunistic and if there's a way to get in, they'll find it. By identifying the entry point, you'll know what you need to repair once they're gone. Make sure you get the critters out before you do any repairs.

Why have they taken up residence in your attic? They are not evil animals, they're not there to cause you aggravation. During spring, pregnant raccoons are looking for a protected place to give birth. What good mother wouldn't do the same? Normally they will nest in a hollow tree trunk, cave or crevice but if they happen to find a way into your attic, the pregnant raccoon will temporarily move in. My suggested solution to ridding your property of a mother raccoon and her babies is to do nothing. Yes, I said it—do nothing. When the babies are old enough, mother and babies will leave on their own. Be patient. It will take a few weeks. Now you need to repair the entry point or this will be a problem again in the future.

If you can't tolerate the thought of wild animals in your attic, there are some things you can do to encourage them to leave. These are very humane solutions and I highly recommend them.

- Mama raccoon is in your attic because it's a dark and quiet place for her and her babies. So, make it light and noisy! Making sure it's not a fire hazard, place a high wattage light in the attic. You can also try using a spotlight at the entry point if you know where that is. Now, place a radio in the attic tuned to a talk radio station. Music doesn't seem to bother raccoons but the sound of human voices has more of an effect. Play it LOUD. This may bother you for a day or two but you have to be persistent for this to work.
- Smells. Depending on what website you're looking at, you'll find several suggestions on smells that will encourage raccoons to move out. One site suggests soaking rags in ammonia or apple cider vinegar, putting them in plastic bags with holes punched in the bag and placing them in the attic. Other sites suggest putting cotton balls

soaked with peppermint oil in the attic. You can purchase something called raccoon eviction fluid but I can't vouch for its effectiveness.

One site I looked at suggested an ultrasonic sound emitter. It emits a high frequency noise that only they can hear. Again, sounds good but does it work? I don't know.

I must emphasize, once again, to be patient! These tactics can take several days to work.

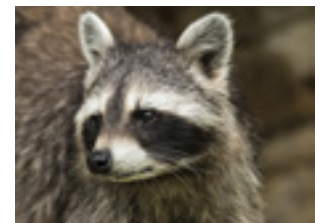
Now, what NOT to do. Do not set up a live trap. Raccoons can be dangerous especially if you are dealing with a mama. It's inhumane as well. When I worked at one of the wildlife centers in Houston, we heard horror stories about mama raccoons chewing off their own limbs to try to escape the trap and get to her babies. Trapping the mom and leaving the babies doesn't solve your problem. If you trap Mom, you now have orphans that need to be taken to a wildlife center. Remember, too, that Texas Department of State Health Services states that it is illegal for a person to transport animals such as fox, skunk, coyote or raccoon within Texas so you can't relocate the trapped female raccoon or the babies. Please note that relocated raccoons will have to fight with established raccoons for survival in the new territory. For those of you that think trapping and relocating animals will help rid your property of critters, relocating them solves nothing. New ones will move in when one leaves.

There are many exterminating companies out there that claim to be humane. BE VERY CAREFUL if you decide to hire one. Ask questions about what they do with the animals. Many of them kill the animals.

At this time of the year, please try to refrain from cutting down trees. Many trees are home to spring babies including birds, squirrels and raccoons. If you find yourself with animals needing help, contact a wildlife center or rehabilitator. Do not try to care for the animal yourself!

Download this free application to find rehabilitators in your area: [ANIMAL HELP NOW](#)

Wildlife Centers:
Friends of Texas Wildlife –
281.539.0039
TWRC Wildlife –
713.468.8972
Wildlife Center of Texas –
713.861.9453



Please encourage your neighbors to sign up for our Commonwealth Email Alerts.

While, occasionally, (bad weather/traffic alerts) you may receive a number of emails in a short period of time, we make every effort to AVOID cramming your inbox with emails.

Most of our emails contain information important to quality of life in The Commonwealth, the City of Sugar Land and/or Fort Bend County.

Email Alert Sign Up:

Shoot an email to news@commonwealthcivic.com

Include your name and address.

We do NOT share your information with anyone.



End of Summer

Our recent "pop up" End of Summer Party was a big success.

We hope those who attended enjoyed meeting new neighbors and renewing friendships.

A huge thanks to Sarah McCoy and her volunteers for her efforts on behalf of The Commonwealth community!

Great first social event Sarah!

There is an election on Tuesday, November 8.

Early voting will take place in October.

The deadline to register is Tuesday, October 11.

It is hoped that the Commonwealth Clubhouse will be a voting location.

We will send out election information via the Email Alert System.



Commonwealth Comments
is the official newsletter of The Commonwealth Civic Association

It is published bi-monthly news@commonwealthcivic.com

Newsletter/Email Alerts/Facebook
the write idea: news@commonwealthcivic.com

Just For Fun Quiz Answers:

1. b 2. b 3. b 4. c 5. Peeping Tom 6. a 7. c 8. b 9. c 10. c 11. Hummingbird 12. a 13. a 14. b
15. The Nutquacker

So, how did you do? If you didn't get them all right, don't feel bad. I learned a few new things just putting the questions together. Now get out there and enjoy the birds!

NOTES and REMINDERS

Have something to celebrate?

Our beautifully redecorated Clubhouse is available for rent by residents in good standing with The Commonwealth Homeowners Association.

If you are interested in scheduling a small gathering, please contact Crest Management.

281-579-0761

Be sure to check out The Commonwealth website where you will find documents, forms, a link to pay your dues, newsletters, local information and more!

Visit:

commonwealthcivic.com

To get on our Email Alert list please shoot an email to: news@commonwealthcivic.com stating your name, email address and physical address.

We do NOT share your email addresses with ANYONE except Crest Management!

An Email Alert is sent out each time a new edition of the newsletter is posted.

REMINDER -- Please put trash cans (and recycling bins) at the curb on the morning of trash pick up days no earlier than 5 p.m. on the day prior to pick up. This also applies to lawn debris. If your landscape company habitually leaves grass and tree cuttings in front of your home each week, ask them to start taking it with them.

They should be happy to accommodate you.

The HOA will pursue this offense - it does frustrate your neighbors.

The City of Sugar Land regulations require that your dog be leashed, at all times while in front of your home, or walking the neighborhood. Your dog may not actually BE a threat to others, however, perception is reality!

AND -- we continue to ask that you pick up after your dog. We have the new dogwaste disposal stations throughout the community.

Call Katie at Crest Management - 281.945.4663

if you have any questions or need help downloading a Modifications Application from the website.

Useful Phone Numbers

Police (Non-Emergency)	281-275-2020
Animal Control	281-275-2596
Fire Department	281-491-0852
Water & Streets	281-275-2750
Trash Collection	281-275-2772
Public Works	281-275-2450
Street Lights (Centerpoint)	713-207-2222
<i>when calling about street lights, relay pole #.</i>	
CITY OF SUGAR LAND	3-1-1
POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY	9-1-1

Crest Management 281-579-0761

Pool Rentals: A-Beautiful Pools 281-376-6510

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