

# The Echo

## The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



April 2005

### GREAT ST. PAT'S DAY PARTY

Honorary Glen Echo citizens Kate and Jim Horwitz once again mounted an enjoyable St. Patrick's Day celebration on Saturday, Mar. 19 at the Glen Echo Town Hall.

Residents donned shamrock "antennas" and green bowler hats placed at the tables and feasted on corned beef prepared by Kate and Jim and Jan Shaut. Guests brought pot luck contributions of bread, potatoes, cabbage, green beans and dessert.

After reading their limericks, they were treated to Irish coffee that packed a wallop.

Decorators for the event were Patrick Hooper, Dan Macy, Debbie Beers, and Eve Arber. Clean-up was carried out by on-the-spot volunteers.

The town contributed the costs of the corned beef, libations and decorations.

### WELCOME, LITTLE NEWCOMER!

**Audrey Diana Bohi** is the new resident at 6108 Bryn Mawr Ave. She was born Feb. 24 at Sibley Hospital weighing seven pounds six ounces and 20 inches in length. She joins parents Kelly and Jim Bohi and her 22-month old sister **Emelia**. Welcome to Glen Echo, Audrey.

### RESIDENTS TO ELECT MAYOR, TWO COUNCILMEMBERS MAY 2

A town election for mayor and two council members will be held on Monday, May 2, at the Glen Echo Town Hall, from 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Current mayor, Debbie Beers, and current town council member Eve Arber have declared their candidacy, as has Wellesley Circle resident Steve Matney. Councilman Tim Maloy has said he does not intend to run.

Anyone wanting to run for office must file a written declaration of candidacy no later than April 12. Candidacy letters should be delivered to Susan Grigsby, Supervisor, Board of Elections, or Cathie Polak, Clerk-Treasurer, at the Glen Echo Town Hall.

All candidates must have resided in the town at least one year prior to the election and be registered Glen Echo voters. Mayoral candidates must be at least 30 years of age; council candidates must be at least 25. U.S. citizenship is not required.

Candidate declarations have been received from Mayor Beers and Steve Matney and are published in this issue.

#### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 11—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda

## THE ECHO

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**EDITOR** Carlotta Anderson 301-229-3748  
email: Carlotta.ra@verizon.net

**ASST. EDITOR** Diana Hudson-Taylor

**REPORTERS** Melinda Hennenberger

**DISTRIBUTION** Brockie and Jane Stevenson

Charlie Wells

Maire Hewitt

Isabelle Umpleby

Leland Schwartz

**CIRCULATION** Susan Grigsby

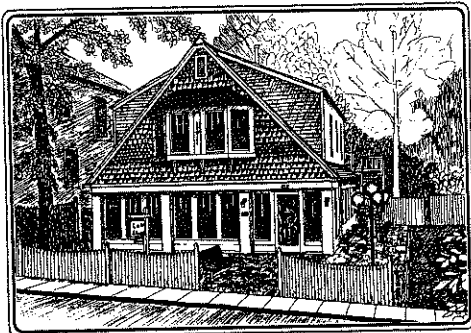
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Letters to the Editor are welcomed. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Any comments about *The Echo* may be addressed to the Editor, the Mayor or any councilmember. Volunteer reporters are always needed. Call the Editor at: 301-229-3748.

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## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

Town Office: 301-320-4041

Town Office Fax: 301-320-3639

E-Mail: [townhall@glenecho.org](mailto:townhall@glenecho.org)

6106 Harvard Avenue or Box 598, Glen Echo, MD  
20812

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, noon-3:00 p.m. and Friday,  
9:00 a.m.- noon or by appointment

### MAYOR

Debbie Beers 301-229-7308

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Eve Arber 301-263-0016

Tim Maloy 301-229-4745

Dan Macy 301-229-2122

Nancy Long 301-332-3823

### CLERK-TREASURER

Cathie Polak 301-320-4041

### TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.glenecho.org>

## FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

The following activities booked at the town hall are free for town residents:

**Sunday, April 3, noon-5:00 p.m.—C&O CANAL ASSN.  
BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, April 11, 8:00 p.m.—TOWN COUNCIL MEET  
ING**

**Monday April 18, 6:00 p.m.—WESTERN MONT. CO.  
CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**Saturday, April 30, 8:00 p.m. GLEN ECHO FILM FESTI  
VAL**

**Every Wednesday, 8:00-10:30 p.m. English Country  
Dance.** Live music. No experience or partner needed. Spon-  
sored by Folklore Society of Greater Washington.

## ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor occasionally receives anonymous letters intended for publication. *The Echo* policy is that such communications will NEVER be published.

# "EXTREME" ATHLETES CONVERGE ON GLEN ECHO

By Carlotta Anderson

## ENDURANCE BICYCLISTS DO 240 MILES IN 24 HRS.

Thirty bicyclists pedaled up to the Glen Echo Town Hall door as the sun was rising on Sunday, Mar. 27 after completing a 240-mile, 24-hour bicycle endurance event. Among them was Andrea Matney of Wellesley Circle, whose five-women team had started from Lexington, Va. at 5:45 a.m. the previous morning.

They were greeted by six other arriving teams as well as supporters who provided pancakes, waffles, and cream cheese and lox bagels for the elated finishers.

This type of long-distance, endurance bicycling is called Randonneuring; Andrea's team is named the "Randonnettes." Each team had a different complicated route designed by the mid-Atlantic Fleche Velocio organization; one team got lost and had to be picked up. In French, "fleche" means "arrow," so like an arrow flying to the bull's-eye, each team converges onto the bull's eye—in this case, Glen Echo.

The Randonnettes's route took them through heavy mist, for the most part. After 130 miles the women stopped for dinner at an Italian family restaurant in Steven City, Va. Otherwise they picked up food at convenience stores or gas stations and had their "passports" validated to prove where they arrived and at what time.

"A lot of fun," is how Andrea characterized it the next day, saying her favorite part was pedaling through the dark. After a four-and-a-half hour nap, she talked enthusiastically of attempting a long, more rigorous ride or 300 or 400 miles next time.

### FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

February 2005

Charles Wells (snow removal, sidewalks)	\$180.00
Chapel Valley (landscaping)	\$1,175.00
Allied Printing (Echo publication)	\$198.59

## HASH HOUSE HARRIERS FORGE TRAIL HERE

Around 50 bramble-scratched and haggard "trail blazers" ran or staggered to the Glen Echo Town Hall Saturday afternoon, Mar. 26 after following the toots of a bugle through several miles of uncharted territory.

As is done by "Hash House Harriers" worldwide, the local group followed markers of kitchen flour to discover their intended route from Glen Echo Park parking lot through the Cabin John creek area, across the canal and into the woods, and back to Glen Echo up the slope to lower Cornell Ave. Once a runner found a flour mark, the bugler blew his horn to alert others to the direction of the route.

Following a tradition established in the 1930s, Hash House Harriers might have to make their way through underbrush, cross streams, clamber over tree trunks, or intrude on strangers' yards to find their way. Anyone who thinks there might really be a path up Cornell Ave. from the parkway might want to go down to the end of the street to take a look.

Back at the Town Hall, they were fed sandwiches and, as is also the custom, lots of beer. It was procured by John Barrett of Wellesley Circle, a long-time member of the group, which started in 1972. This event was less raucous than most, since the beer passed from keg to lips without being thrown over shoulders or someone else's head, and the singing was muted. This may have been partly due to the fact that "everybody is getting older," according to John, and the median age of this group was 46.

Hash House Harriers runs were started by British Army officers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1932 and have been undertaken frequently in most countries of the world. There are eight such groups in the Washington, D.C. area alone.

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## TALK TAKES CAROUSELS BACK TO CRUSADES

By Carlotta Anderson

Author Debbie Lange enlightened and entertained visitors to her Mar. 20 Town Hall talk about her new book, "Restoring the Glen Echo Park Carousel." The book contains over 500 color photographs of the restoration process.

Through a series of slides, the Wellesley Circle resident traced the history of carousels from the 1600s to the present elaborate one in Glen Echo Park. She devoted most of her talk to the history of the restoration of the Glen Echo Park Dentzel carousel from a dark and decaying remnant of amusement park times to the brilliantly colored object of admiration it is today.

The idea of riders circling a central pole is universal, she said, but word "carousel" derives from a word used by the Crusaders to describe a game they observed in Turkey, in which riders threw perfumed balls at each other. By 1680, the concept took the form of riders on wooden horses suspended from a center pole, attempting to spear a ring with a lance. Earlier carousels were powered by man or animal, and musicians provided the tunes using violins, guitars, bells, and drums.

In 1864, Gustav Dentzel arrived in the U.S. and began manufacturing the country's first carousels, in Philadelphia. His carousels were known for their realistic animals. American carousels ran counter-clockwise to leave the right hand free to grab for the brass ring. The band organ was added in the 1880s.

There were two earlier carousels at Glen Echo Park before the one made by the Dentzel factory arrived in 1921. The Wurlitzer band organ dates from 1926. After the park closed in 1968, the carousel was sold to a Virginia man for \$55,000. He in turn sold it to a California carousel operator for \$70,000. A Save the Carousel Committee headed by Nancy Long and Frank Corder negotiated with the Californian to buy

## COUNCIL ALLOWS RESIDENT TO PLANT ON RIGHT-OF-WAY

By Melinda Hennenberger

Betsy Carpenter asked the Town Council at its March 14 meeting to approve her plan to plant four shrubs in the right of way next to her house on Princeton Avenue. She said she wanted "to get a little bit of screening without some kind of hostile Leland Cypress wall."

"I think it's an unfriendly face to have some huge 20-foot hedging," Ms. Carpenter said, but she does hope to get a little more privacy by partially blocking the view from MacArthur Blvd.

Council members had a number of questions, particularly about whether this would encourage others to follow suit. The right-of-way is town property and is intended as a green buffer to the town.


"We didn't want to screen the whole town off because someone could drag someone off the bike path," Mayor Debbie Beers said. Still, no one on the Council voiced an objection after Carpenter promised to maintain the plantings herself.

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it back, which he agreed to do if they could raise \$80,000 in a month. The Committee raised the money within that period through individual contributions and funding from foundations.

The book documents the painstaking and time-consuming restoration carried out over a 20-year period by Rosa Regan at her studio in North Carolina and on site at the park. Wearing gear to protect herself from lead paint, she stripped each animal to the original paint, then recorded the original colors and designs. After necessary repairs, she repainted the animals in the original colors. The restoration process took six weeks for each animal, most of which was spent in the preparation.

The book is priced at \$39.95 and is available at Glen Echo Park or from <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/carrousel/>.



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## CANDIDATE STATEMENT FROM CURRENT MAYOR DEBBIE BEERS

Dear Neighbors,

With this statement, I am announcing my candidacy for Mayor of Glen Echo. I ask for your support.

I have served three full terms as Mayor, and was a member of the Town Council from 1981-1992. During my tenure as Mayor, we acquired the former trolley right-of-way, undertaken a major (and ongoing) street repair program, persuaded WSSC to reline Town water pipes, renovated the Town Hall and made it handicapped accessible, and, most recently, have successfully celebrated the Town's centennial. We have also rewritten and modernized the Town Charter. If elected, I hope to complete the same process for the Town ordinances in my next term. I am also grateful to the many volunteers, including members of the Town Council, who have worked so hard to realize these goals.

I also serve as an ex officio member of the Board of the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture. I continue to believe that the Town should have a voice in the

new management structure of the Park, and should lead the fight against any over-commercialization or other erosion of the Park's cultural and environmental mission.

Finally, I believe that we should remain vigilant against changes in zoning laws or interpretations that would be inimical to the historical character of this community as a cohesive neighborhood that is welcoming of families of all types of economic and social make-ups.

In all of this I ask for your assistance and your vote.

We are fortunate to live in a small community that nevertheless has managed, through its status as a municipality, to maintain control over many aspects of our civic life. I look forward to the opportunity to continue this tradition. I welcome any questions you may have concerning any issues facing the Town and hope personally to meet and speak with all of you about them in the coming weeks.

Deborah Beers

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT FROM STEVE MATNEY FOR TOWN COUNCIL

By way of introduction, I am Steve Matney. My wife Andrea and I moved into 48 Wellesley Circle in January 2003. I am currently employed as a Technical Director & Project Manager at SRA International in Falls Church, Virginia. Outside of work, I am an avid bicyclist, kayaker, backpacker, and occasional musician.

After Andrea and I got married in 2001, we looked for over 14 months before buying our house in Glen Echo. The criteria we had (i.e., a community not just a neighborhood, nearby trails and parkland, inside the beltway) kept bringing us back to the MacArthur corridor and specifically Glen Echo. We were delighted to find our house and with every new neighbor that we get to know even more delighted with the town and its people.

The first memory I have of "living" in Glen Echo is bringing the initial load over in my pickup. It took all afternoon to unload that one truck load as numerous neighbors dropped by to say hello and welcome us to town. I love it that a walk to the Post Office on a Saturday morning can take 2 hours as I get stopped at each house along the way.

Every since we moved in, we have tried to be an active part of the community. I have attended most of the town council meetings and have observed the town council and its proactive approach to addressing the challenges the town faces both lo-

cally and as a part of Montgomery County. I have been very impressed by the abilities and dedication of the Mayor and council members. During these town council meetings, I have tried to be an active citizen voice in some of the issues that have arisen. I have also covered several town council meetings as a reporter for The Echo.

I have helped organize and/or run numerous town events since moving to Glen Echo. These include the actual Glen Echo One Hundredth Birthday Party, other centennial activities, the Glen Echo film festival, the annual Halloween parties, the Glen Echo art show, and the town picnics.

Having enjoyed the benefits of living in this town for the last 2 ½ years, I feel that it now time to start giving something back to the town. Thus I have decided to run for town council. From attending the town council meetings, I know the Mayor and council members well, am familiar with how the town council operates, and am aware of the issues facing the town. Thus I will be able to come up to speed very quickly.

I pledge if elected to do my best to keep Glen Echo the special place that it is and to always be willing to listen to the concerns of its citizens. Thank you for your support.

## AROUND TOWN

**Willem Polak** was honored by *The Washingtonian* magazine in January as a "Local Hero" for his work transforming the decaying Fort Dupont ice rink from a building scheduled for closure into an ice arena that is booked from dawn to midnight. He started a non-profit group to renovate the rink in 1995, and after hard labor by the parents involved, gifts from retailers and fund-raising that totaled nearly \$5 million, turned it into a safe place to skate and play hockey for a multicultural, multiracial neighborhood. As one of the 16 "Washingtonians of the Year," he was feted at a Jan. 18 luncheon...

Glen Echo is not the only local community to have a **rat problem** (see *March Echo*). Last summer brought the most rat complaints to county officials in more than a decade, *The Gazette* reported Mar. 16. The almost 1,200 reported sightings were apparently a result of an abundance of rain, mild temperatures, and a steady food supply from the 17-year cicadas. The Town of Chevy Chase decided to hire a private pest control firm, which placed baited poison traps in the town's parks and other public areas. Residents can "rodent-proof" their yards by not leaving dog food bowls outside and making sure garbage containers are tightly closed...

The town has received a **matching grant of \$2,500.00** from the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission for the publication of a history of Glen Echo. The history, which is being written by Carlotta Anderson, must be completed by the end of the year. The grant is to be matched by a contribution from the town, which can be in the form of time spent in producing the book...

The community of Cabin John has expressed concern to the county about the possibility of giving the owners of the **Sycamore Store** on MacArthur Blvd. a new type of zoning that would allow them to run a business out of a building now zoned residential. The Cabin John community was worried that approval of such a request might lead to similar requests at other locations along MacArthur Blvd., according to *The Village News*...

### GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES

15 Vassar Circle

\$1,095,000

## RESIDENTS AT CHURCH ANNEX? By Melinda Hennenberger

The Glen Echo Town Council on March 14 took up the topic of some recent disturbances reported at the Baptist Church annex, which is located at Harvard and University Aves.

Mayor Debbie Beers said she had discussed the matter with the pastor, Dr. Ed Curtis. "We went back and forth and he said, 'Oh, they're harmless' and I said, 'Not always.' He said it was 'out of consideration for the town that they haven't sold it to some other church which would bring in more traffic.'"

She added that Rev. Curtis noted that their insurance company has said they "had to get them (those living in the annex) out of there" soon in any case.

Mayor Beers, Councilmember Nancy Long and others thought the town might be interested in buying the property, which has an assessed value of \$163,000, with the possibility of razing it and using it as open space.



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## JOHN WILLIAM "BILLY" PEYTON

Glen Echo residents were saddened to hear of the death of Billy Peyton, 59, on March 9. For about thirty years he worked together with his brother, Mark Peyton, to keep the town streets and right-of-way property in good condition. Known as a very hard worker, Billy helped with the snow removal, sanding, leaf pick-ups and other chores that the Peyton company has been responsible for.

A Cabin John resident, Billy Peyton leaves his wife Eileen ("Sissy") and children Brockie Peyton and Amie St. Angelo. He is also survived by his mother, a sister and two brothers as well as five grandchildren.

### BANNOCKBURN SCHOOL HOLDS MAYFAIR SUNDAY, MAY 1

Bannockburn Elementary School invites its neighbors in the Glen Echo community to come to its annual Mayfair on Sunday, May 1, from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. There will be lots of fun for the young and young at heart. Music, food, a moon bounce, a book sale, a plant sale, an obstacle course and games are some of the offerings of this event.

The Mayfair will be held in the back of the elementary school at 6520 Dalroy Lane. Admission is free, but games and food will involve a reasonable charge. Contact Anne Lebeau (annelebeau@hotmail.com <mailto:annelebeau@hotmail.com> or 301-320-7717) for more information.

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## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

March 14

No action was taken on the two bids Council member Dan Macy had received, from Mason & Mason and Miller-Dodson, for proposals for a **condition assessment and reserve fund plan** for the town. The bids were similar but Councilman Macy said he had not yet had a chance to check the references of either company or determine what other municipalities had paid for similar surveys. He said he would do so and report back next month...

Cathie Polak asked about **refinishing the Town Hall floor** this spring for \$1,830 – a bit more than the \$1,500 originally budgeted for varnishing and sanding it. The Council approved the expense. Mayor Debbie Beers also asked that an exterminator be called to address the problem of the box elder bugs that swarm Town Hall this time of year.

The Council discussed the possibility of Montgomery County **property tax relief**. The existing county plan for relief to those who qualify is so minimal as to be "laughable," Council member Dan Macy said, and others agreed. Mayor Beers said she would approach the county about the idea of capping the percentage of income owed in property taxes as one possible alternative. "I'm not a tax cutter as you know," Mayor Beers said. "I'd rather see schools funded when I know the class sizes are what they are. But some people in the town are really hurting" as a result of the new assessed valuations.

--Melinda Hennenberger

### FAMILY DAY AT PARK APRIL 30

The annual opening of the carousel at Glen Echo Park will take place on Family Day, Saturday, Apr. 30 from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Visitors can enjoy free entertainment and learn more about the carousel through tours and photographs. The carousel will operate from noon to 6:00 p.m.

## VERY LARGE GRIZZLIES SHOT BY JOHN MORROW

By Carlotta Anderson

Do you have a large empty wall that needs an eye-catching work of art? How about a four foot by five foot photograph of a grizzly bear?

Such exhibition-quality photos will be available in spring from Harvard Ave. resident John Morrow, an award winning professional photographer.

You can see John's portfolio of wildlife and landscape subjects on his website, [www.thewildasIseeit.com/](http://www.thewildasIseeit.com/). The pictures were taken during frequent visits to Wyoming, Alaska, and Canada, using Nikon equipment and 600mm lenses.

The limited edition prints are on fine art paper of exhibition quality as well as traditional Ilfochrome photographs and are sold with or without framing. For most photos the sizes available range from 5 x 7 inches to 30 x 40 inches.

John began taking photos in Mesa Verde, Colo. in the early 70s and moved to Glen Echo in 1989. He has taken no photography classes, learning entirely by the "empirical process." Turning professional four years ago, he now sells four to five 20" x 30" works each month either through his website or word of mouth.

John won last year's annual photo contest of "National Wildlife" magazine, the publication of the National Wildlife Federation. This year he'll be traveling with his camera to Wyoming in May, Alaska in July, and Hudson Bay for the polar bears at the end of October.

## WELCOME, NEWCOMERS!

Travel is the major hobby of newcomers **Ivan** and **Kathleen Kotcher**, who moved to 5 Vassar Circle earlier this year. Their favorite destination is Chile, where they spent two weeks in February at the end of the Chilean summer. They were in Puerto Montt in southern Chile, which they describe as "a very beautiful lake district." They celebrated the Millennium on Easter Island, a Chilean territory in the South Pacific Ocean. Chileans keep telling them that Chile is more beautiful further south, which will probably be their next destination, although if they go too far they will wind up in Antarctica. They plan on two big trips a year, adding scuba diving whenever it is available.

At their Glen Echo home they are joined by two Cairn terriers, Cuy, Peruvian for guinea pig, and Perro, Spanish for dog.

Kathleen grew up in Herndon, but Ivan is from Las Cruces, NM, which was a relatively small town in his childhood. Although the couple lived a few years in D.C., they were always hoping to move to Glen Echo because of its "small town feel," yet proximity to the city.

Kathleen is an editor of the magazine "James Taylor's Shocked and Amazed On and Off the Midway." This publication is about circus side shows or carnivals featuring sword swallows, and the like. This form of entertainment was probably never performed at Glen Echo Park, she says.

Ivan is a program manager for Nextel, dealing with projects associated with improving the quality of networks. He has his own consulting business as well, specializing in business planning for IT (Information Technology) initiatives.

A hearty welcome to you and your dogs!

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## LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

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16 Wellesley Circle*

*Wednesday, April 13, 8:00 p.m.*

*Please RSVP 301-229-2163*



## RESIDENT STARS IN IBSEN PLAY

In a glowing performance, Michele Wells played the lead role of Nora in Ibsen's "A Doll's House" with the Metro Players last month at the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. The group produces two shows there annually.

Last year Michele staged a one-woman show, "The Belle of Amherst," about the life of Emily Dickenson. She has performed at The Studio, Signature, Olney and Source theaters, as well as narrating books on tape for The Library of Congress.

She lives with her husband, John, and two children on Bryn Mawr Ave.

## SPRING ACTIVITIES AT LOCKHOUSE 8

Lockhouse 8 can be reached from Glen Echo by following the path to the canal from the Cabin John Bridge, crossing the small footbridge, and walking upstream about a half mile.

**Saturday, April 9, 2-3:30 p.m.--Spring Wildflower Walk**  
Naturalist Marijke Gate, Potomac Conservancy volunteer, will lead a walk on the towpath to identify early spring flowers. Free.

**Saturday, April 23, 10:00-noon**  
Earth Day program with hands-on activity and music

**Saturday, May 7, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.—GRAND OPENING Lockhouse 8 River Center**  
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