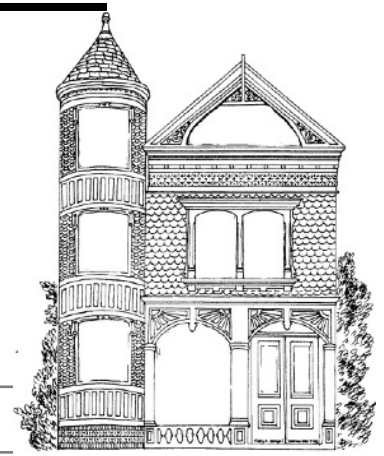


# WEST MIDWOOD NEWS

## Special Viral Edition



Volume 1

Number 1

March 25, 2020

### **Spring Arrives, Despite Covid-19! What's Blooming in Your Part of the Neighborhood?**



On my short dead end block in Brooklyn, there are already a number of plants in springtime bloom. Yellow daffodils are of course symbolic of spring...

— *Robert Brannon*

#### **In This Issue:**

**News!**

**Birds!**

**Flowers!**

**Things to do!**

**Things to bake!**

**Things to Watch!**

**Other cool stuff!**

**And the next issue will have an actual table of contents... Promise!**

### **Note from the Editor**

Hello West Midwood –

This is the first special ‘viral’ edition of the West Midwood News. We are all staying home to try to help ‘flatten the curve’ and do our bit to help keep the pandemic from overwhelming our health care system. It’s part of protecting ourselves and each other, and that’s what we as neighbors want to do. We are all also looking for ways to stay engaged, spend our time, entertain ourselves and our children, help each other through this, and hang onto at least a sliver of our sanity in these very weird times.

The West Midwood News is not the best source of information about the pandemic (although we are including some reliable places to get that information). And it’s not a news outlet – the news moves far too quickly for us to keep up with that! But we can be a place to keep our connections with each other and our neighborhood strong.

So, in this initial issue, you’ll get news about some of your neighbors, stories about how they are keeping themselves occupied, some hints for activities, and some lovely pictures – of our neighborhood as Spring arrives and of places we can dream of visiting ourselves when we are on the other side of this mess. These special editions will be in an electronic only, not printed on actual paper. But they are real, even if printed only in pixels and not in ink.

This is a work in progress. I hope we’ll be able to send out an issue each week. Let us know what you like, what you want, what you need. This is your newsletter – so please send your thoughts, poems, reports on your activities, drawings, paintings, and ideas for future issues.

We are all in this together, and we’ll come out of it together. Wash your hands!

*Tori Rosen*

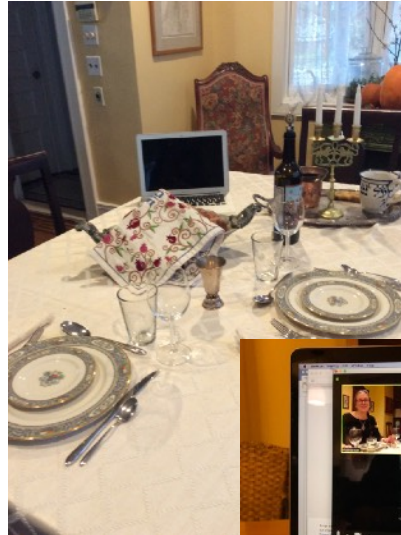
# Neighborhood News — What's Happening in Your Life?

**Bria Goldberg** of Waldorf Court received the honor of Student of the Month for February 2020 in Ms. Dvorkin's second grade class at PS 217. The ceremony was moved from the PS 217 auditorium to Bria's kitchen, which her parents hastily decorated with pink



balloons and banners. It was noted that Bria worked very hard for the honor, and that she showed great focus and strength in her studies during the past month. Bria said of the makeshift ceremony "can I play with the balloons now?"

**Tori and David Rosen** have been experimenting with keeping in touch with friends using Zoom. Here's a screen shot of their first Zoom dinner. It was great fun, and they have scheduled several regular get togethers for dinner, schmoozing or simply catching up with friends and family .



## Mark Your Calendars Neighborhood Events West Midwood Yard Sale

April 26, 2020

Rain date: May 3, 2020

~~POSTPONED~~

*So now you have lots of time on your hands to REALLY clean out the garage or the basement and be ready for the yard sale when a new date is set*

## Vote by Mail

Don't miss the chance to vote in the New York State Democratic primary scheduled for April 28th. You need to apply for a mail in ballot NOW! Use the attached link to download the application and the address of the Kings County Board of Elections where it needs to be sent. Then you will be sent the actual mail-in ballot before the Election Day.  
<https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingabsentee.html>

## How are you doing, West Midwood?

## What are you doing, West Midwood?

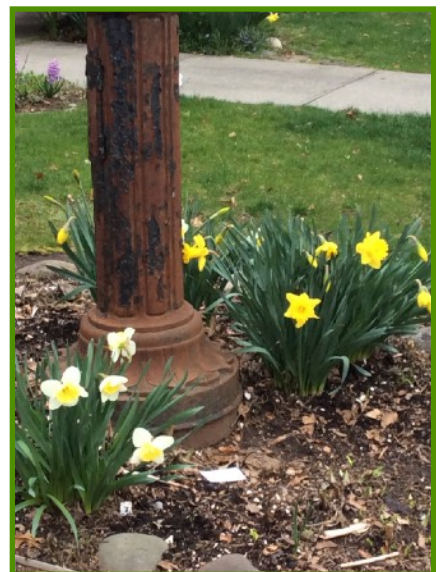
Send us your drawings, pictures, doodles, ideas, stories or poems. We'll publish this every week or so, so that we can stay a bit more connected. Let us know about new babies, great recipes you've tried, good video games, bad jokes, naughty puppies, or goldfish that jumped out of their bowl — whatever is happening at your house while we are waiting out this awful pandemic.

## Mary S. Nofi

**Mary S. Nofi**, 77, a longtime resident of Westminster Rd., passed away in Austin, Texas on Sunday March 8, 2020. Although she and her husband Alfred had been back to Brooklyn for extended periods a number of times, Mary hadn't accompanied him for several years, but still kept in touch with a number of people in the neighborhood. Alfred plans to return to Brooklyn more or less permanently later this year.

West Midwood News Special Edition  
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© 2020 West Midwood Community Association  
Editor: Tori Rosen  
Copyeditors: Ellen Bilofsky. Kathy McDonald

# SPRING Comes to West Midwood



What signs of spring do you see near your home? Let us know and we'll publish your updates on Spring in a future edition of West Midwood News.



## West Midwood Cooks (and Bakes!) *by Allidah Muller*

Now that we're all staying close to home, we have time to try out some of those recipes that you've wanted to try 'some day'. Cooking with your kids is also a good way to keep them entertained, and learn some useful skills at the same time! Here's a link to a NY Times site for cooking with kids <https://cooking.nytimes.com/68861692-nyt-cooking/930565-51-recipes-to-cook-with-your-kids>.

### Whole Wheat Banana Bread

This recipe comes from the King Arthur Flour Cookbook. There are so many flour/bread cookbooks out there, but I love this one because its recipes are relatively simple and there are so many of them! It has everything from hot cross buns to soft pretzels to a section on how to begin cultivating your own sourdough starter.

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup mashed bananas (2 or 3... I usually do 3)
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Cream the butter and sugar. Add and beat together the eggs, bananas, and vanilla.

In another bowl, mix together the flour, baking soda, and salt. Blend the liquid ingredients into the dry ingredients. At this point, add the 1/2 cup of walnuts if you wish. Pour this mixture into a greased 9x5-inch loaf pan and bake for about 60 minutes. (I start checking after 50 to see if it's done.) You can also make muffins, but I would bake them for about 30 minutes instead.

### Ragu Bolognese

This recipe comes from the women at Canal House. If you don't know them, their recipes are wonderfully simple and delicious. As they say in their description, this sauce is more flavorful and balanced the following day. It also freezes beautifully, so I almost always make a double batch.

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 celery rib, finely diced

- 1 carrot, peeled and finely diced
- 2-3 thin slices of prosciutto
- 2 chicken livers, finely chopped
- 3/4 lb ground chuck
- 3/4 lb ground pork
- 1/4 - 1/2 whole nutmeg, finely grated
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 cup hot whole milk
- 1 28-oz can tomato puree
- 1 cup chicken, veal or beef stock

Heat the butter and oil together in a heavy large pot over medium heat. Add the onions and cook, stirring frequently with a wooden spoon, just until soft and translucent, 3-5 minutes. Add the celery and carrots and cook until they begin to soften, about 3 minutes. Add the prosciutto and chicken livers and cook until the livers are pale pink, about 1 minute. Add the ground chuck and pork, season with nutmeg and salt and pepper, and cook, breaking up the meat with the back of a wooden spoon, until there is still a little pink, about 5 minutes. Avoid frying or browning the meat.

Add the wine to the pot and cook until evaporated, 10-12 minutes. Add the milk, and cook over medium-low heat, stirring occasionally, until absorbed, about 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat the tomato puree and stock in a medium saucepan until hot, then add it to the meat. Reduce heat to low and gently simmer, stirring occasionally, until the meat is tender, 6-7 hours. Add water, if needed, to keep the ragu loose and saucy. (This is one of my all-time favorite descriptions of how food should be!) Season with salt and pepper.

I like serving this with a pasta shape that can capture some of the sauce like a fusilli, but it also pairs well with pappardelle. You could also spoon it over a thick piece of toasted crusty bread. And if you were really looking for a project, you could put it in a lasagna.



## Brooklyn Sports

By Argyle Art Rhine

## BEST SPORTS MOVIES

Given that we are indoors, Brooklyn Sports columnist Argyle Art Rhine recommends the following greatest sports movies of all-time to while away all the time. The list was comprised many years ago by the readers of *Bowling News*. It is sort of in a descending order of votes received but has been tampered with by Argyle Art's editorial team.

**Go Man Go** -- the story of the Harlem Globetrotters; Marques Haynes, Abe Saperstein, Goose Tatum

**Wee Geordie** -- British movie circa 1954 about a Scottish hammer-thrower; funny, charming, memorable for all ages

**Hoop Dreams** -- two Chicago high-school basketball hopefuls

**Remember the Titans** -- High school football team integrates, led by Denzel

**When We Were Kings** -- Muhammad Ali, The Greatest

**A League of Their Own** -- Women's Baseball League; now you'll know where all those great quotes come from

**The Sandlot** -- Beloved youth baseball story

**The Hustler** -- Paul Newman and pool, enough said? This is Ames, Mister

**Breaking Away** -- Bicycle racer grows up (so does his family) in Indiana; charming, feel good

**Cool Runnings** -- The Jamaican bobsled team; no kidding

**The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner** -- long before the running boom; alienated youth

**Raging Bull** -- boxing and DeNiro; not for the squeamish

**The Jackie Robinson Story** -- can't have a best movies list without one about our Bums yes 70 years ago.

**Bend it Like Beckham** -- soccer? a surprise here

**Field of Dreams** -- baseball in Iowa, beloved by many

**The Big Lebowski** -- can't have a best movies list without one about bowling

**Kingpin** -- can't have a best movies list without two about bowling

**Horse Feathers** -- beyond funny with the Marx Brothers

**The Bad News Bears** -- another really funny one

**The Harder They Fall** -- boxing the way it really is; Humphrey Bogart's final film

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**Dream A Little** — We'll be able to travel again soon. In the meantime, enjoy this beautiful image of MtMount Rainier by West Midwood photographer David Newman.



copyright David Newman Photography

## How to Use Your Time at Home

There are lots of suggestions, lists, websites making the rounds with great ideas for how to stay connected, engaged, entertained or simply distracted. There's almost too much information! So in each issue of the *Special Viral Edition of West Midwood News*, we'll suggest just a few of them. If you have good additions to these, let us know, and we'll include them in the next issue.

### Go To A Museum

These 12 Famous Museums Offer Virtual Tours You Can Take on Your Couch (Video) [travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours](http://travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours)

### Attend a Concert

**The Boston Symphony.** [www.bso.org](http://www.bso.org)

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** [www.duo.org](http://www.duo.org)

### Listen to Some Live(ly) Music

**A new Facebook Live series called "Stay the Folk Home!"**

Bringing live performances streamed from a responsible distance from your favorite Jalopy Theatre regulars. We will have donate links in the description and all proceeds will be split between Jalopy and the artists, to help keep us afloat in this new era. This Friday, March 27th - join us for a special performance from Mamie Minch! Just go to our facebook page [facebook.com/jalopytheatre](https://www.facebook.com/jalopytheatre) at 8:00pm EST on Friday for the stream!

### See a Play

**15 Broadway Plays and Musicals You Can Watch On Stage From Home** [playbill.com/article/15-broadway-plays-and-musicals-you-can-watch-on-stage-from-home](http://playbill.com/article/15-broadway-plays-and-musicals-you-can-watch-on-stage-from-home)

### Attend A Lecture

**THE BEST OF ROOSEVELT HOUSE**  
An online encore of public programs presented at The Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute, Hunter College  
[www.roosevelthouse.hunter.cuny.edu](http://www.roosevelthouse.hunter.cuny.edu)

### Color a Masterpiece

[https://d1lfxhazugu3d4.cloudfront.net/exhibitions/docs/2020\\_March\\_Coloring\\_Book\\_Bierstadt\\_re.pdf?utm\\_source=Brooklyn+Museum&utm\\_campaign=f4a5b3bab4-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_02\\_21\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3771b5e704-f4a5b3bab4-276093933&mc\\_cid=f4a5b3bab4&mc\\_cid=dd3a3c9b92](https://d1lfxhazugu3d4.cloudfront.net/exhibitions/docs/2020_March_Coloring_Book_Bierstadt_re.pdf?utm_source=Brooklyn+Museum&utm_campaign=f4a5b3bab4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_02_21_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3771b5e704-f4a5b3bab4-276093933&mc_cid=f4a5b3bab4&mc_cid=dd3a3c9b92)

### Learn to Doodle

**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts — Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems! (free video series)**

<https://www.kennedy-center.org/>

### Go to the Botanic Gardens

CherryWatch at [bbg.org/cherries](http://bbg.org/cherries).

Follow BBG online at [bbg.org](http://bbg.org) and at @brooklynbotanic on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, where we will be sharing daily bloom photos, virtual tours of the spring collections, and ideas for families and home

Have an idea for this newsletter? Let us know! Email us at [Editor.WestMidwoodNews@gmail.com](mailto:Editor.WestMidwoodNews@gmail.com)

## What's Happening in Your Back Yard?

Steve Weingarten spotted this interesting item in his back yard last week. Do you know what it is? It's an eggsac for praying mantis. When the weather gets warmer, the sac will hatch, and many tiny praying mantises will come out, ready to help keep your garden free of hungry insects. Look them up in wikipedia! They are fascinating creatures. Steve is going to keep an eye on this egg sac and try to get a picture of them hatching!



Peter Pan decided to continue his adventures in the Rosen's back yard. He was recently spotted in the Chive Forest! We'll keep you posted on future sightings@

**What do you see in your yard? Send your pictures, poems, essays and descriptions to editor.WestMidwoodNews@gmail.com and we'll publish them in future issues.**

## Who is Visiting Your Back Yard?

### The Birds are Returning to West Midwood

*Editor's note: We might all be under travel restrictions right now, but the birds are not. Spring migrations back to our neighborhood are happening now! So we asked West Midwood's amateur ornithologist Bob O'Neil to give us a guide to the birds we are likely to see in our neighborhood. Here are some of the most common ones:*

**House Sparrow** - The bird that will most likely wake you up in the morning with its constant singing is the house sparrow. These small birds are the most common birds in our neighborhood. 16 birds were brought from Europe in 1851 to Brooklyn and now they are everywhere.



**European Starling** - These birds are bigger than the house sparrows. They were first released in Central Park in the late 19th century in an attempt to replicate all the birds mentioned in Shakespeare here. Most of the different bird species didn't survive but the starling thrived and its population exploded.



**Northern Cardinal** - This bird, at least the male, is easily recognized. Partners are usually together and his call can be described as a whistle. Beautiful to look at as opposed to the sparrow and starling, which are brown and bland.



**Blue Jay** - If you're sitting in your backyard, and hear a bird scolding you, or maybe, unfortunately, divebombing you, that's a blue jay. Big and blue and brassy. I've seen them go after a red tailed hawk if it's too close.



**Red Tailed Hawk** - We have had fledglings in our neighborhood in recent years. They have become very common and can be seen gliding over our neck of the woods.



**American Crow** - These birds have made a comeback after many died from the avian flu. Now flocks can be seen flying over West Midwood while loudly cawing. They are intelligent birds and also chase hawks out of their territory.



**Red-bellied Woodpecker** and **Downy Woodpecker** - If you hear rhythmic tapping, chances are its one of these two neighborhood woodpeckers. The red-bellied is larger, as opposed to the Downy. Despite its name, the red belly is not easy to see.



### Be A Neighborhood Bird Watcher

Let us know what birds you've spotted, and we'll start building an Aviary Inventory for West Midwood. Send an email to:

editor.WestMidwoodNews@gmail.com

Include the following information:

Your name:

Bird you spotted:

Location



**Dark-eyed Junco**

- This bird can be found on the ground in the backyard eating seed. It has a pink bill with white outer tail feathers which you can see when it flies away.



**Warblers** - The real stars are about to show up. Migration is starting. I have seen at least four species of warblers in the backyard. Black and white warbler, American redstart, Magnolia and Common yellowthroat.



**Mockingbird**

- This bird is a songster. It likes to perch on an antenna and sing at any time. Late at night, it can be a nuisance. Haven't heard one singing for some time now but might still be in the neighborhood. It can be identified by its white wing patches.



**American Robin**

- I'm sure everyone's seen one of these, though, since it's a ground feeder, it must contend with the feral cats.



**Which birds have you spotted?**

Bird	Where?	Date and Time
— House Sparrow	_____	_____
— European Starling	_____	_____
— Northern Cardinal	_____	_____
— Blue Jay	_____	_____
— American Crow	_____	_____
— Red-tailed Hawk	_____	_____
— Red-bellied Woodpecker	_____	_____
— Downy Woodpecker	_____	_____
— Dark eyed junco	_____	_____
— Mockingbird	_____	_____
— American Robin	_____	_____
— Black and White Warbler	_____	_____
— American Redstart	_____	_____
— Magnolia Warbler	_____	_____
— Common Yellowthroat	_____	_____
— Other (Name it!)	_____	_____

## Who You Gonna Call?

When you need help, it's important to call the right number. Here's a list of useful phone numbers with an explanation of when to call which number. It's not a bad idea to cut out this list and stick in on your refrigerator or by your phone.

**911**— The number to call for emergencies, such as fire, medical emergencies, accidents of any type, a crime in progress, violent behavior, or a person in trouble. Remember to stay on the line until the operator tells you it is okay to hang up. The operator will also ask you your location, so note the nearest house number and street address.

**311**—Call this number for non-emergencies such as noise complaints, animal control, air quality, blocked driveway, dangerous tree situation, or to find out where to get other information. For a complete list, see [www.nyc.gov/311](http://www.nyc.gov/311).

If you're unsure, call 911. The operator will either take your information or redirect you to 311. Remember to get a complaint number and write it down.

### Our Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs):

P.O. Konstantin Rakmonov, **929-294-5260** Email is: [konstantin.rakmanov@nypd.org](mailto:konstantin.rakmanov@nypd.org)

P.O. David Yegros, **929-284-0625** Email is: [david.yegros@nypd.org](mailto:david.yegros@nypd.org)

The NCOs are usually on duty Tuesdays to Saturdays from noon to 6:30 p.m. (Sometimes they are unavailable because they have been pulled for training or special duty.) Former West Midwood president Linda Howell reports that she relies on the NCOs for quality-of-life issues, especially situations "where I do not have complete details, only secondhand reports of events. I feel comfortable giving them as much information as I can and asking them to check into the potential problem." Examples include gatherings at the dead ends, abandoned cars, chronic parking violations, and patterns of package theft from porches. You can also contact them if you feel a 911 or 311 call was not handled correctly. Note that while they will make every effort to assist, they may also be handling other more time-critical issues.

### Community Board 14 (CB14), 718-859-6357

This office and its staff are a valuable resource that can be contacted for a myriad of situations. Call them to find out the status of a 311 complaint, why your recycling wasn't picked up, how you can get a tree planted in front of your home or a dead one removed, or what's going on with construction (or lack of it) at a specific location. They can also help you get in touch with the local representative for a specific city agency. This is by no means a complete list. If you're unsure of how to handle an issue, call them and ask. They are there to help.

### Coronavirus Symptoms

Here are the CDC recommendations for what to do if you are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

Call your doctor first, who will advise you as to what to do next. Most cases are mild, and can be treated at home. Do not go into your doctor's office without calling first, so that they can assure you get appropriate care without putting yourself or others at risk. If your symptoms are severe or you have difficulty breathing, call 911.

**Did You Know?**  
**West Midwood Trivia**  
*By Joe Enright*

*Why is there no E Avenue but two D Avenues (Ditmas & Dorchester)? Was Newkirk the E Avenue and initially spelled "Ewkirk" but it got corrupted to Newkirk?*

*Answer:* No. There was an Avenue E circa 1900 but part of it became Dorchester, part of it became Ditmas.

*Why is Newkirk Plaza an express station? Why not Cortelyou?*

*Answer:* Because the land alongside the right-of-way for the BRT between Foster and Newkirk was mostly vacant in 1903 when the BRT decided to build express tracks. The vacant land could be used to expand their right of way - they built the Plaza in return for easements by those land owners. BTW, Cortelyou lobbied the BRT to build the express stop there, arguing that street was the heart & soul of Flatbush. HaHa! Take that, Cortelyou!

*Who was Foster Avenue named after?*

*Answer:* This is one of the great unsolved mysteries of Brooklyn history. It was the boundary line between the Town of Flatbush to the north and Flatlands to the south for a good portion of its run, partly because down on its eastern end it paralleled the Paerdegat Creek that ended at Nostrand Avenue -- where the Flatbush Water Works were built (which served as our water supplier until the 1940s because its franchise was grandfathered in right before the 1898 consolidation - the water was so fouled most Victorian Flatbush home owners had filters on their water pipes as they entered their basements. But who this guy Foster was, nobody has been able to determine. If the Corona lock-down lasts long enough I can guarantee you I will solve this mystery by Jove!



**What Is West Midwood Online?**

Want to ask folks in the neighborhood whether they have any recommendations for a plumber or roofer or such? Or maybe what local eateries or merchants they like? Perhaps you'd like to be in the know about issues affecting our area? Then join the West Midwood Online email discussion group, aka the listserv.

Send an email to [joe@enright.com](mailto:joe@enright.com) with your street address, name, and the email address that you want to use to post and receive messages. He will add you to the group and send you the simple instructions. There are presently over 200 email subscribers representing about 125 households.

To join you must be a permanent resident of West Midwood and agree not to post messages of a religious, political, or spam nature. Insulting or crude language can also lead to revocation of the ability to post. Finally, new and existing members can also request a daily recap

**For NYC Updates on Coronavirus**

Social media and your best friend's brother-in-law who knows an epidemiologist are probably not the best sources of reliable information. Try these instead:  
 — Text COVID to 692-692 for alerts sent to your phone  
 — The CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>  
 — The NYC Department of Health. <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

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