



## Key zoning variance will be discussed by CNI on April 8

A parking variance for a new restaurant proposed for the former book store space will be discussed by Coventry Neighbors, Inc., (CNI) on April 8.

The variance would allow Alton F. Doody, proprietor of Bistrot des Artistes, 1825 Coventry Road, to build a new, 141-seat restaurant at 1824, directly across the street from Bistrot. [See the March *Coventry Village News* for details of the proposal.]

As usual, the CNI meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of the month (April 8) at 7:30 PM in the meeting room of Coventry Village Library, 1925 Coventry Road. All comers are welcome to participate in the discussion, but only dues-paid members will be allowed to vote. CNI is likely to take a formal position on the variance request. Any such position will be expressed to the Board of Zoning Appeals at its April 16 public hearing on the matter.

Also on the agenda for the April CNI meeting is a report on the doings of City government, presented by Mayor Alan J. Rapoport. There will be a report on progress toward this summer's Street Fair. Representatives of community organizations will report on a wide variety of issues.

Everyone is welcome at CNI meetings. CNI meetings are an ideal opportunity to meet your neighbors and to participate in shaping the future of Coventry Village.

Join us. It's fun. And rewarding.

If you can't come, support CNI with dues and other contributions. We can be effective only with your support. Our phone number is 371-6095.

## City and merchants seek to cooperate on new commercial parking

"Let's do it." Those words were the response of Richard Weigand to a proposal that could add significantly to the supply of parking in the commercial area here. Weigand is Chairman of City Council's Planning and Development Committee, and lives on Euclid Heights Boulevard, near Coventry.

The key new element in this proposal is the apparent willingness of Coventry's private sector to participate in the costs of the project. Under the proposal, commercial property owners would be assessed for most of the costs of new parking. That process would work much as the familiar assessment processes often used to finance street paving and curb replacement. The City would issue bonds to pay for the project; these would be retired by additions to the real property taxes of owners whose properties benefit from the project.

Coventry Merchants Association (CMA) has several times expressed the willingness of its members to pay the higher rents implied by these added costs imposed on their landlords.

Other parking projects built recently in the apartment district here were financed with federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money. CDBG, like other forms of federal aid to cities, is dwindling rapidly.

The project is now in its earliest planning stages. The site is the relatively flat land behind (east of) the Pick-n-Pay parking lot. Three houses now stand on that land, but some new parking could be added there even if the houses were to remain.

Plans for the project were first  
[Continued on page 4]

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**ANYONE** wishing to submit copy for the April issue may do so by sending it to The Editor, *Coventry Village News*, 2776 Hampshire Road #1-B, Cleveland Heights, OH 44105, no later than April 16. While no unsigned items will be published, your name may be withheld on request.

PHONE: (216) 371-6095.

Coventry Village . . .  
where we all get along together  
pretty well.

## Meeting notes

### March regular meeting

CNI voted its formal support for certain zoning variances sought by Larry Fisher for a parking lot to serve his building at 2450 Overlook Road.

CNI will lend its name and support to a move to amend the City Charter in such a way as to allow a wider selection of Council candidates.

CNI will support a local option question which will allow sales of beverage alcohol on Sundays for consumption on premises in certain parts of the commercial area.

*CVN* Editor Larry Beam was again authorized to shop for printing equipment costing CNI not more than \$1,500.

Concern was expressed over the disinterest exhibited by some building owners to remove graffiti from some buildings.

The Planning and Zoning Committee was reinstated, and F. David Gill was appointed its chair.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

I read with interest your article in the February *CVN*, on rezoning the S-2 Special Development Districts.

The City Planning Commission intends to undertake the development of a comprehensive plan for the City of Cleveland Heights. Development of that plan will entail a substantial review of the City's zoning code.

Modifications in the current S-2 districts rank high on our agenda. We intend to solicit extensive citizen participation in the planning process. I hope we can rely on the residents of Coventry Village to make their views known with their usual rigor and enthusias

John M. Kolesar, Chairman  
City Planning Commission

## New phone numbers for City Hall

Most phone numbers for the offices of our local government changed on St. Patrick's day, when the new City Hall opened at 40 Severance Circle.

The City's main switchboard number is now 291-4444. All departments can be reached through that number.

Here are the new numbers for some key offices: City Manager's Office, 291-3737; Animal Control, 291-4949; Planning Department, 291-4878; Housing Service, 291-5959; Housing Preservation, 291-4877; Commercial Programs, 291-4885; Income Tax, 291-3978; Inspectional Services, 291-5900; Office on Aging, 291-2737; Community Relations, 291-2323; Municipal Court, 291-4901; Office on Aging, 291-2737; and Water Department, 291-5995.

Only the emergency numbers have not changed. They are still:

Police: 321-1234, and  
Fire: 321-1212.

## Letters welcome

The Editor of this newsletter likes to get letters from readers. He especially likes letters which disagree with points of view expressed in these pages, or which bring attention to problems previously ignored here.

Letters may sent to the Coventry Village News, 2776 Hampshire Road, #1-B Cleveland Heights OH 44106. We'll print nearly anything that fits, won't get us in too much trouble, and isn't obscene.

## Fire Dept. offers free CPR classes

The Cleveland Heights Fire Department offers classes in cardiac-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The next session begins April 29 and ends on June 17. Call the Department's administrative offices at 371-6575 for more information.

## Selling City Hall . . .

### Honda, Jaguar bid on Hall again; neither will save building

Motorcars Honda and Jaguar Cleveland have again submitted proposals to purchase the old Cleveland Heights City Hall. No other proposals for the property were received.

Both proposals call for the demolition of the municipal building at 2953 Mayfield Road. A group of Cleveland Heights citizens is meanwhile pushing to get the building on the National Register of Historic Places.

A City Council decision on the sale is expected late this month.

Motorcars Honda has offered essentially the same project that was selected by Council the last time.

Jaguar's proposal is substantially different. Last time, Jaguar proposed to save the City Hall building, though they made no definitive statement as to what they'd do with it. The Jaguar proposal calls for building a used car lot where the Hall now stands. A building housing service activities would be built where the Annex building is now. A circular show room cap the corner of Mayfield and Superior Roads, and a wing of the building would extend a bit north along Superior.

The Honda proposal again calls for saving some key architectural elements of the old Hall; these will be made decorative features of the new dealership. The Jaguar proposal would save nothing of the old municipal building.

Jaguar Cleveland has offered \$400,000 cash for the property. Honda offers \$307,000 cash.

Honda's proposal calls for a more expensive investment and a larger payroll than does Jaguar's. Total City revenues may be larger from Honda's proposal, because of the larger property and income taxes it expects to pay.

--L. B.

**New parking plan . . .** from page 1 developed in 1980 by architect Phil Hart, who is now a member of City Council and Vice Chairman of its Planning and Development Committee. Richard Robinson, then City Manager, had dreams of a huge, new building, which would have replaced the food store and some other buildings on that block. Robinson refused to allow Hart's plans, for which the City had paid, to be made public. Now Hart's "underground" plans are at the center of attention.

The City's Planning Department has begun to develop several alternative variations of plans for the project. That work will yield cost estimates and clear understandings of how many parking spaces could be created.

Negotiations among landlords, merchants, neighbors, and the City will begin in earnest when those plans are in hand. While it is quite unlikely that the new lot will be built this summer, it is possible that at least some temporary new parking will be created before fall.

#### Merchants form committee

The Coventry Merchants Association has formed a committee to work on all aspects of the commercial area's parking problem. The Committee will study plans and financing programs as these are developed.

That CMA committee, headed by Tommy Fello, proprietor of Tommy's (1820 Coventry Road) intends also to press for some relief from present parking enforcement policies of the Cleveland Heights Police Department.

Merchant leaders believe that present ticket-writing policies are unnecessarily aggressive. Every merchant has stories of trade lost due to what they see as over-zealous ticketing. They are seeking ways to focus police energy on other problems here. --Larry Beam

## Dog owners: pick it up.

It is more than rude to allow your pet to defoul public space, like the sidewalks and green spaces of Coventry Village. It is an insult to the environment and a telling insight into your own value system. It is also illegal.

People who walk their dogs in Cleveland Heights must pick up after their pets. According to local law, no one who walks a pet "shall fail to pick up and properly dispose of any fecal matter left by his animal on *any public or private property.*"

Note the inclusion of *private property* in this official statement of community standards. That means you must *always* pick up after your dog.

A flier recently distributed by the Community Relations Department reminds pet-owners of these and other requirements.

Other regulations include prohibitions against allowing animals to run free; having more than two of them; and permitting "such animal to bark, yelp, howl, or bay in such a manner . . . as to disturb the peace and quiet . . ."

## Register kids now for fall kindergarten

Parents of children expecting to begin kindergarten in the fall should register with the Board of Education as soon as possible. Only if children are registered now can the school plan its staff requirements accurately.

Registration is held during business hours at the Board's offices at 2155 Mirmar Boulevard.

Some evening and Saturday hours are planned; call the Board at 371-7171 for hours and dates.

Anyone needing transportation should call PTA President Susan Glazer at 932-2080.

## AROUND COVENTRY . . .

**GOURMET . . .** Alton Doody, proprietor of Bistrot des Artistes (1825 Coventry Road), has signed a lease for the shop just to the south of his restaurant, where Coventry Village TV is now. Doody plans to replace the TV shop with something along the lines of a gourmet bakery and food store. Doody is studying his options as to the design and offerings of the shop. He won't say when it will open, but points out that he'll soon begin paying rent, so he wants to get started.

Despite several difficult impediments, Doody is moving ahead on plans for another restaurant in the former book store space, at 1824 Coventry.

That site is now being used as a studio by an artist who's finishing murals which will be hung on walls inside the Bistrot.

**PASSPORT II . . .** Passport to Peru, the popular clothing shop at 1806 Coventry Road, has opened a branch downtown, at 146 The Arcade. That's on the Euclid level, near the bridge.

**REMODELING . . .** Lee Allen Salon, 1797 Coventry Road, has been remodeled. The stage-like platform that once held the barber chairs is gone. The cosmetics retailing and application aspect of the business has been moved to the front. Lee Allen says the changes will give him and his staff more room to work, and will bring increased attention to the cosmetics offerings.

Allen did most of the work himself, in the evenings, while keeping the shop open in the day. The re-done facade and new sign of Allen's shop were part of a project that won a Community Improvement Award recently. Allen has been one of the strongest supporters of clean-up efforts in Coventry Village.

**SIGNS OF APRIL . . .** A playful mole at City Hall sent us this note, dated April 1:

"Our designer at City Hall is working on new signs which will proclaim

the new prohibition of skate boards on the sidewalks of Coventry's commercial area. He is trying to cook up a design for one of those international symbols, the red circle with slash mark, to be part of the sign.

"His next assignment will be to design a sign announcing the requirement that people who walk dogs pick up after their pets. The design of graphic elements for both these signs is a difficult challenge, especially since the City wants its new signs to convey messages clearly, with taste and class.

"There are many, many more rules and regulations of this community which, in fairness to potential violators, should be posted on signs.

"With this proliferation of public signs comes the problem of where to put them all. We know that there are too many signs on the street already.

"So the schemers here have devised a policy they call the Commercial Areas Public Signage Centralization and Unification Program (CAPSCUP).

CAPSCUP calls for leaving just two public signs on Coventry. These two signs will direct folks who want to know the rules to the large wall at the rear of Municipal Lot #20, next to Coventry Beverage and Pizza. All the rest of the signs will be placed on that wall.

"That wall was selected as the site for all the signs because it is falling apart, and badly needs to be covered up with something. The tactic of covering-over worked for more than a decade to hide the deterioration of the City Hall Annex building, and it can work again with the wall, keeping keeping maintenance spending to a minimum and the public happy.

"Officials here think CAPSCUP will resolve social problems in the parking lot, because the trouble-makers who hang out there now will be replaced by people who want to be good."





Here are a few addresses there wasn't room for last month:

**Garrett Wade Co., Inc.**, 161 Avenue of the Americas, NYC, NY 10013

I got my first copy of the Garret Wade catalog after seeing an ad in the New York Times a couple of years ago. The catalog costs \$3, but is well worth it. The company has the widest selection of quality woodworking tools and supplies I've seen, including many items that aren't available from other sources. I bought a set of moulding scrapers from them when we stripped the paint from our fireplace mantle and living room woodwork, and have been a fan of the company ever since.

Excellent color photography and reproduction highlight tool features you may have never really appreciated before: saw teeth, chisel tips, drill bits, etc. Each section's introduction explains how to choose the right tool for the job at hand. A must for anyone who is considering even a minor wood-working hand-tool investment. The company recently published a new catalog of classic hardware: a wide line of solid brass handles, hinges, cabinet pulls, keyholes, keys and locks, screws, escutcheon pins, casters, etc.

**Brookstone**, 127 Vose Farm Road, Peterborough, NH 03460

"Hard to find tools and other fine things." Lots of unusual gardening tools, "miniature" tools, picture-framing supplies, knives, brushes, etc.

**Tremont Nail Company**, Elm St., Box 111, Wareham, Mass. 02571

A source for many varieties of "cut" nails produced using the original patterns. The ad I clipped offers a sample kit with 20 different nails, a history of nails in America and a price list ... for \$3.75.

**Charolette Ford Trunks**, Box 356, Spearman, Texas 79081

If you're a trunk collector, or just like the looks and functionality of the old monsters, you may want to check out this company's catalog of trunk hardware and other supplies. They are also a source for several issues of "Trunk Talk," a publication that gives instructions for restoring, lining, refinishing and dating old trunks of all types.

**Antique Trunk Co.**, 3706 West 169th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44111 (941-8618)

A source of brass corners, lid lifters, decorative pulls, stays, locks, rosettes, leather handles, etc.

**Cleveland Restoration Society**, 102 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115

This group has been salvaging items from properties in the Cleveland area since 1983, and opened up their storefront on Prospect Avenue last October. It's a good place to start if you're looking for a missing heater register, an old fireplace mantle, a piece of doorway moulding, or other items that were common when much of Cleveland's older housing was constructed. On a recent browse I saw a 20 foot, hardwood bannister with coiled ends just waiting to be refinished. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2:00 - 4:00 pm.

**Taft Wood Products**, 6520 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 (881-8937)

This shop is right next to Buddy Simon's Signs and specializes in making wood items to order. Not long ago, I needed to replace several ornate, missing pegs from a black walnut hat rack, and they easily made exact duplicates from the one I took down to them. Call first, they have unusual hours.

**Antiques in The Bank**, 3500 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113 (281-7440)

You have to visit this place to believe it. Four full floors of an old bank building, filled, wall to wall and floor to ceiling with the most amazing collection of THINGS you can imagine. A room full of doorknobs (glass, ceramic, brass, chrome, etc.) ... one full of leaded windows, one for hardwood doors ... lamps, furniture, bric-a-brac, etc. Once you start touring, it will take you hours just to understand the layout of the place. Call for their hours.

**Moore Tool Rental**, 2116 Lee Rd. Cleveland Heights, Ohio (932-2235)

The place to go to rent tools in the Heights area. Floor sanding equipment, ladders, scaffolding, mortar mixing boxes, etc.

For ideas ... keep your eye on Ken Goldberg's column in *Habitat*, the Cleveland real estate newspaper (he frequently discusses the architectural features of older homes in this area). And don't forget to tune into Public Television's *This Old House*, now showing on Channel 25 on Sunday mornings. Lastly, the New York Times published an extensive list of true restoration sources in the "Home" section of their Oct. 17, 1985 issue, and for hardware sources in the Dec. 6, 1984 issue. Check the issues out at the library if you get serious about this subject.

## Library goings-on

Coventry Village Library will offer a puppet show, featuring Bill and Cooper, on Tuesday May 6, at 2:30 PM.

You can learn to communicate with deaf people in a Learning for Life program on Saturday May 10 at 2:00 PM.

Toddler Storytime is a program for children two-and-a-half to three years old. It is an eight-week series, and registration is required. A new session begins in April, enrollment is limited to ten children and their parents.

Preschool Storytime is for children three to five years old. The half-hour sessions introduce children to picture books, simple songs, fingerplays, and rhymes. There is always a short time for children to select books to take home. Sessions are on Mondays at 2:00 PM, Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, and Wednesdays at 10:30 AM.

Storytime is an excellent introduction to a group situation. We hope it will foster a life-long love of reading.

The Coventry Village Librarian will be happy to provide more information. Call 321-3400.

Recently-received new titles include: *The Ambassador's Women*, C. Gaskin; *Among Birches*, R. Hill; *Blood Test*, J. Kellerman; *The Book of Aberham*, M. Halter; *The Bourne Supremacy*, R. Ludlum; *Break In*, D. Francis; *Daughters of Jerusalem*, R. Cleeve; *The Deep End*, J. Fielding; *Hannie Richards*, H. Bailey; *High Jinx*, W. Buckley, Jr.; *Homefront*, P. Davis; *Joanna's Husband and David's Wife*, E. Hailey; and *Murder for Lunch*, H. Murphey.



**LIBRARIES:**  
Learning for Life

Coventry Village . . .  
where we all get along together  
pretty well.

## Environmental studies

"Taking Care of Your Environment" is a two-evening course offered this spring by the Community Services Program of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education. Subjects to be covered include recycling, disposal of chemicals, and indoor air pollution.

The course is sponsored by Heights Citizens for Recycling. Call the Board of Education at 371-2040 or 371-7406 for further information.

## Saving City Hall vs. Economic Development

### A question for Mrs. Blakely

Patricia Blakely, once a member of City Council, is leading a crusade to save the old City Hall building.

She and others are taking steps which they hope will get the building a place on the National Register of Historic Places.

Blakely and her friends want to see the old building saved.

That's a nice idea. The old Hall is a landmark of Coventry Village, and many here have fond memories of it.

But what will saving it cost? Just what items of the City's budget does Blakely propose to give up in order to save the old Hall?

Until she and her followers answer that question, it will continue to appear that she wants to increase City spending, while reducing the tax take.

Can our town afford to save the hall? I don't think so. —Larry Beam



## Reforms for economic development (Part II)

opinion

This City's Planning Commission, working closely with its staff, intends to develop a master plan that will guide the development of this community for at least the next decade.

For years, a consensus community leaders holds, the City's planning function has stumbled from crisis to crisis, without clear direction, without vision, and without a plan.

The proposed master plan is intended to fill that void.

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The men who founded this City and guided its early development had a clear idea of what they wanted. They called their dream, their vision, the City Beautiful. Much of the quality of life in this town today can be attributed to persistent and aggressive efforts to create the City Beautiful.

Their City Beautiful was to be a place of escape from hustle, bustle, and commercial activity of Cleveland proper. Air pollution (then a much more serious problem than now), crime, overcrowding, and poverty had no place in the City Beautiful. Cleveland Heights was to be a residential community, developed with large houses, lots of trees, and an absolute minimum of commerce and business.

Business and commerce were seen as somehow unclean. H. H. Canfield spoke of avoiding "development . . . which is not proper for a residential community. I mean the springing up of industrial plants, the building of stores, garages, and all sorts of undesirable development in a City of this type."

Canfield came to Cleveland Heights as Village Clerk in 1916. He became City Manager upon incorporation as a City, and served in that capacity for many years. He was a frequent spokesman for the City Fathers.

Canfield said that it was the purpose of those who in 1921 drafted our zoning code to "protect the City primarily from the in-roads of of

commercial and retail business . . ."

The 1921 zoning code—the first such code in Ohio—allowed commercial, apartment building, and even two-family development only where those uses existed already.

Manager Canfield and Mayor Frank Cain fought zoning changes allowing more land to be used in these "undesirable" ways. They were able, for instance, to delay for years the re-zoning which allowed the development of the commercial area at Noble Road and Monticello Boulevard.

Their rhetoric in that and other cases paints a clear picture of the City Fathers' strong bias against business.

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Massive social change has occurred since Canfield, Cain, and the others did their work. Much of business enterprise has learned a measure of social conscience, and has demonstrated that it can be a good neighbor. The tax revenues businesses pay have become far more important to municipal finances. The creation of new jobs, not thought important in the 20's, is now essential, especially to our youth.

A majority of City Council seems to recognize these things. Council wants tasteful development. The only alternatives to economic development are tax increases, service cuts, or both.

Yet the fundamental anti-business attitude of the City's founders sticks with the municipal government in many ways. Ghosts of Cain and Canfield still watch over the shoulders of planners, administrators and other officials.

If our local government is to shed its dismal image among developers and investors, some fundamental attitudes must change among City staff and key board and commission members.

Changing those attitudes, and finding consensus on changes in the official standards for development, are the central tasks of the master planning process.

—Larry Beam



## Editorials

### Charter Amendment

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., (CNI) wholeheartedly supports the amendment to the Cleveland Heights City Charter which will appear on the May 6 ballot.

That amendment would widen substantially our choice of persons who may serve on City Council. The present Charter excludes from Council service fully a 16.6% of the adult work force.

It does so by denying *all* employees of the public sector the right to serve on Council. The proposed amendment would deny that right only to employees of the City itself and employees of the two school systems which serve Cleveland Heights. The holders of most elected public offices are excluded from service on Council under both the amendment and the present Charter language.

Government was a small portion of our economic activity when the present Charter was adopted 65 years ago. Denying to government workers the right to serve on Council might have made sense when when Warren G. Harding was President. But not so today.

In 1986, the Charter's restrictions are unreasonable.

You can get a fact sheet on the amendment by calling Barbara Boyd at 321-7601.

### Rewards still offered

Rewards totaling \$100 are offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any jerk who paints graffiti in Coventry's commercial area.

A reward of \$50 is offered for information about graffiti vandals anywhere in the Coventry Elementary School district, and in all the other Commercial areas of Cleveland Heights.

These rewards are offered in a joint effort by Coventry Neighbors, Inc., and the Cleveland Heights Local Development Corporation.

### Sunday sales in 3-G

Voters in precinct 3-G will have an opportunity on May 6 to strike a small blow for a livelier, more active and vibrant Coveny Village.

Coventry Neighbors, Inc., hopes that they will vote "yes" on a local option question that will appear on their ballot.

If the question passes, restaurants on the east side of Coventry Road will be allowed to sell beverage alcohol on Sundays for consumption on premises. Carry-out sales have been allowed on Sundays in that precinct since 1978. Bars—businesses that do not do more than half their business volume in the sale of food—will gain no additional rights from the passage of the question.

Folks working for the Bistrot des Artistes (1825 Coventry Road) gathered the signatures necessary to get the question on the ballot. Its passage would make feasible the Bistrot's being open on Sundays.

### Coventry Village . . .

*where we all get along together  
pretty well.*

### CYC fundraiser on May 16 at Crawford

The Coventry Youth Center is planning a dinner dance on May 16 at the Crawford Auto and Aviation Museum. Music will be provided by The Bottom Line.

A grand prize of \$1000 will be given away in a raffle. There will be seven other prizes, including hot air balloon rides.

Tickets are \$60 per couple, including one chance in the raffle. Single tickets are \$40, also with one raffle chance.

Call 932-9785 for reservations or further information.

Coventry Village News  
Heights Community Congress  
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TIME VALUE -- PLEASE DELIVER BY FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 1986

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. General Meeting, Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Coventry Village Library. The public is invited.

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC. Trustees Meeting, Thursday, May 8, 8:00 PM at 2929 Washington Boulevard. Committee Chairpersons are asked to attend. The Trustees meeting is open to all dues-paid members of CNI.

NOW is the time to join COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.. Membership includes a subscription to the *Coventry Village News*. All memberships expire on December 31 of each year. The form below may be used for renewals.

Please check one of the following:

Class of membership: .....Individual (\$5.00) .....Family (\$7.00) .....Senior (\$3.00)

.....Just a subscription to the *Coventry Village News*--no membership.

(\$5 for 11 months; the *CVN* is not published in August.)

I'd like to make an additional tax-free donation of .....

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