



Downers Grove Township

Frank Wurster • Supervisor

Downers Grove Township Newsletter

Issue 6 • 2010

Supervisor's Corner...



About one year ago, a new Township board took office. Highway Commissioner Andy Anderson, Trustee Kathy Abbate and I joined your five other Township officials and put forward an aggressive agenda, with the goal of making Downers Grove Township the most efficient and transparent Township Government in Illinois. Additionally, we wanted to emphasize our community programs, including the Highway Department's recycling efforts, new resident outreach program, and increased involvement from the Township Trustees.

Over the years, the staff at the Township office and the Township Officials have prided themselves on constituent service. This past year we took a giant step forward making ourselves more accessible than ever. Through an expanded outreach program, as well as enhanced electronic services, you can reach us any time you need to. However, it was not just the upgrades made to our offices, which help with this, but also the enthusiasm and efforts of the Township employees and elected officials. All four trustees not only embraced our agenda, but have also been actively involved to ensure a successful conclusion.

Throughout the coming year, we have a number of new constituent service programs being developed. They include increased involvement with community groups, such as the Lions Clubs and Rotary Organizations.

Thank you for your support throughout the past year, but understand we are just beginning. We all recognize how much work lies ahead, and would love to hear your thoughts or concerns about the direction of the Township.

Frank Wurster - Supervisor

Elected Officials

Assessor

Theresa A. Cockrell

Phone (630) 719-6630

Fax (630) 719-6653

www.dgtao.com

Clerk

Diane A. Konicek

Phone (630) 719-6610

Fax (630) 719-6608

www.dgtownship.com

Highway Commissioner

Lawrence C. Anderson

Phone (630) 719-6620

Fax (630) 719-6624

www.dgthwy.com

Supervisor

Frank Wurster

Phone (630) 719-6611

Fax (630) 719-6608

www.dgtownship.com

Trustees

William J. Swanston

Robert C. Del Sarto

Rita J. Carlson

Kathleen A. Abbate

Additional Departments

General Assistance

Phone (630) 719-6610

Human Services

Phone (630) 719-6670

Downers Grove Township

4340 Prince Street

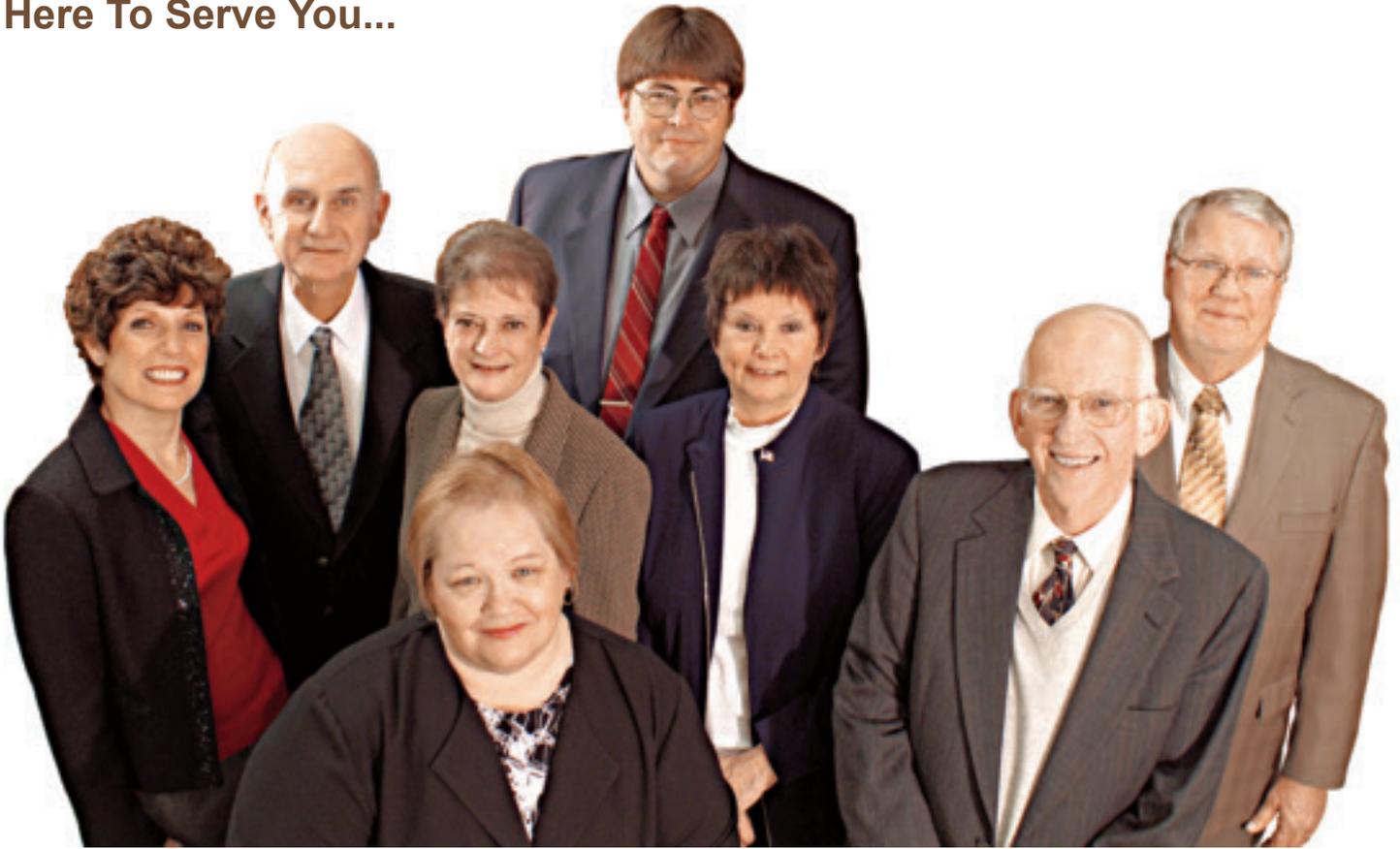
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Office Hours

8:30am - 4:30pm

Monday - Friday

Here To Serve You...



Pictured from left to right:
Kathleen A. Abbate, Robert Del Sarto, Theresa A. Cockrell, Rita J. Carlson, Lawrence C. Anderson, Diane A. Konicek, William J. Swanston and Frank Wurster

Township Departments and Officials

Assessor's Office

Theresa A. Cockrell, Assessor

The Assessor's Office determines the assessment (not taxes) for all property with the Township, educates property owners about the assessment process, maintains the public record of over 58,000 property files, assists property owners with exemption applications and provides an on-line property search website.

Clerk's Office

Diane Konicek, Town Clerk

The Town Clerk is the custodian of all Township records, books and papers. The Town Clerk's Office handles the Township's Town Board minutes, Annual Town Meetings, Freedom of Information requests, administers oaths, files documents required by law with the county, oversees bid process and is the keeper of the Town's Seal. The Town Clerk is also the ex-officio Clerk of the Highway Commissioner.

Highway Department's Office

Lawrence C. Anderson, Highway Commissioner

The Highway Department maintains the rights-of-way and streets in unincorporated areas of the Township that are not under the jurisdiction of the State of Illinois or County of DuPage. With few exceptions, the right-of-way is 66 feet wide (property lines are 33 feet from the center of the road). The Township is responsible for the following work within those 66 feet; Capital Improvements: asphalt paving, crack sealing, curb and sidewalk and slurry sealing; General Maintenance: culvert replacement, ditch grading, gravel shouldering, permits, brush pick-up, snow and ice removal, storm sewer maintenance and street signs.

Supervisor's Office

Frank Wurster, Supervisor

The Supervisor is the Chief Executive Officer of Township and Chairman of the Township board and treasurer. The Supervisor's Office handles the Township's accounting, budgeting, information, passport applications and photos. The Supervisor is also in charge of General Assistance and the Human Services department.

Assessor's Corner...

Assessment and Sale History

For ten years we have been publishing our Newsletter, and there have been a few changes in the assessment history of our Township. Here is an update on our Township's assessment history:

Year	Parcel Count	Twp. Assessed Value
1990	52,000	2.5 billion
2000	54,210	4.2 billion
*2010	57,070	9.04 billion

*At the start of 2010.

The parcel count indicates higher density occurring in our Township; less rural land, more multiple-family dwellings. The assessed value has more than doubled! Certainly, the market from 2000 through 2007 was booming, as indicated by the substantial increase in assessed value.

In 2008 we saw the market begin to slow down and decrease. Below is a study of the single-family house sales in our Township from 2005 through 2009:

Year	Sale Count	Low Sale	High Sale	Sale Median	Sale Average
2005	1,779	175,000	4,500,000	414,500	563,900
2006	1,473	190,000	5,489,000	443,000	604,800
2007	1,170	167,500	5,500,000	445,000	650,100
2008	904	129,000	4,200,000	418,000	591,400
2009	993	103,000	5,350,000	370,000	530,000

The peak year was 2007, with the market in 2008 and 2009 declining. Comparing 2009 with 2007, there was a 16.85% decrease in the median sale price. There was an 18.47% decrease in the average sale price, keeping with the national average.

(The national average as reported by the National Association of Realtors.)

As market values fall, you may ask, "Why is my assessment not falling at the same rate?" The answer lies in how the assessment process works in Illinois.

It uses the prior three years of sales to assessment ratios to determine the current year's assessment, which is governed State Statute and by the Department of Revenue.

In 2008 our equalization factor, which is applied to all parcels within the Township's boundaries, was 1.059. The three prior years were healthy market years, and assessments needed to increase almost 6%. However, in 2009 Downers Grove Township's equalization factor was 1.000, meaning the 2009 assessment was the same as 2008, unless there was a reassessment of a parcel for some reason. The three prior years indicated no increase or decrease was to be applied to assessments.

If your assessment was the same in 2008 and 2009, any increase in your tax bill was due solely to a greater demand from some, or all, of the taxing bodies listed on your tax bill.

In 2010, the equalization factor is expected be a negative number, since the three-year mix is 2007, 2008 and 2009 sales to assessment ratios. It is estimated that the parcels in Downers Grove Township could decrease by about 5%. But will it decrease your tax bill? Again, that depends on the taxing bodies in your area.

No one is in a winning situation in this current economy, but we will make every effort to continue to monitor the real estate market and do the best we can to ensure appropriate and uniform assessments.

Clerk's Corner...

Township Government

Did you know that Township government is the oldest form of government in the United States? It was first established in Rhode Island in 1636, which was before Rhode Island became a state. Illinois has 1,433 Townships. Cincinnati Township in Pike County is the smallest, and Thornton Township in Cook County is the largest. Our county, DuPage, is divided into 9 Townships: Addison, Bloomingdale, Downers Grove, Lisle, Milton, Naperville, Wayne, Winfield and York. Downers Grove is the largest Township with over 58,000 parcels to assess and 72 miles of roads and bridges to maintain. Every four years the voters elect a Supervisor, Clerk, Assessor, Highway Commissioner and four Trustees to serve the residents of the Township.

Our Township held their Annual Meeting on April 13th at Ashton Place in Willowbrook. I would like to thank the 141 residents who took the time to attend the meeting. A special thank you to Peter Burrows, Matthew Burrows, Adam Rosignal, Austin Salvino and Jay Wiseman of Cub Scout Pac 48 who presented the colors and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Matt Caruso was elected to serve as Moderator for the meeting, and he in turn appointed Allan Alongi as Parliamentarian and Joe Kenny as Sgt. At Arms. All did a splendid job in following the agenda and maintaining order at the meeting. Many residents voiced their views, both pro and con, on matters before the meeting, and votes were taken on all. Once again, a big thank-you to all who attended and helped with registration.



Pictured: Diane A. Konicek - Town Clerk

Passports

Vacation time is here, and many will be traveling. Passports are required when leaving and entering the United States. Allow enough time, as it takes 4-6 weeks to receive your passport. The Township is a Passport Acceptance Agency and has all the necessary forms. We also offer passport photos for \$7.

Age	Passport Fee	Execution Fee	Total
16 and over	\$110	\$25	\$135
Under age 16	\$80	\$25	\$105

Passports are required for travel out of the country. We take applications and passport photos. The total cost is \$135 for a new passport. The service fee is \$25 and passport fee is \$110. We charge \$7 for two passport photos. If you qualify, you may renew by mail if – the issue date of your last passport was less than 15 years ago, you were 16 or older when it was issued, your name was the same or you can submit name change documentation (marriage certificate/court order), you can submit this passport and it is undamaged. The cost to renew by mail is \$110. Visit: <http://travel.state.gov> for more information.

Passport Renewal by Mail (customer submits)

Only if:

1. The issue date of your last passport was less than 15 years ago;
2. You were 16 or older when it was issued;
3. Your name is the same or you can submit name change documentation;
4. You can submit this passport; and
5. It is undamaged.

Passport applications are accepted Monday – Friday from 8:30am – 4:00pm.

Diane A. Konicek - Town Clerk



Highway Commissioner's Corner...

Electronic Recycling Program

The Highway Department is pleased to announce we have entered into an agreement with COM2 Recycling Solutions to collect unwanted electronics from Township households at no cost to tax payers. COM2 is a local suburban company — everything is recycled in America, they do not use landfills for disposal of unrecycled material, and they guarantee secure data destruction.



Electronics may be dropped off at the highway garage on the third Saturday of every month from 8am to 12pm, except holiday weekends. For further information or questions please call, the Highway Department at (630) 719-6620. Our address is 318 East Quincy St., Westmont, IL.

The equipment list below details what we will recycle.

- **Computers and Peripherals** - CPU's, laptops, monitors, flat panels, keyboards, mice, cable, printers, plotters, external hard drives, tape drives, network hardware (servers, routers, hubs), communication hardware (modems), and subassemblies of any of the above.
- **Data Center Equipment** - Power Distribution Units (PDU's), uninterrupted power supplies (UPS Systems).
- **Office and Telecommunication Equipment** - copiers, fax machines, phone systems, cell phones, hand held devices, projection equipment, audio equipment, video equipment, TV's, calculators, security equipment, videotapes, beepers, and typewriters.

For additional information about COM2 go to www.com2computer.com.

New Township Purchase To Help Clean-up Our Streets

Downers Grove Township has recently purchased a used street sweeper to help clean up our curb and gutter subdivisions. Please note we do not pick up leaves, so do not sweep your leaves into the street. Any resident seen doing this will be asked to remove the leaves or the Sheriff will ticket them. Thank you for your cooperation.

Storm Sewer Maintenance

Storm sewer basins are cleaned as needed. If you have a storm water grate on the street in front of your property, please keep the grate clean of leaves and debris so storm water can flow freely down the storm sewer.

Brush Pickup Program For Unincorporated Downers Grove Township

We have established the following dates for our Brush Pickup Program, covering *unincorporated areas only*. Please remember that while these are our target dates, delays (due to equipment failure, weather conditions, etc.) are always a possibility. Crews will only pass a house once during the scheduled pickup period.



2010 and 2011 Brush Pickup Program Dates (Unincorporated Downers Grove Township Areas Only)

Area Location	Fall Pickup	Spring Pickup 2011	Fall Pickup 2011
1. County Line Rd. west to Rt. 83	8/30/2010	3/28/2011	8/29/2011
2. Rt. 83 west to Clarendon Hills Rd.	9/13/2010	4/11/2011	9/12/2011
3. Clarendon Hills Rd. west to Cass Ave.	9/27/2010	4/25/2011	9/26/2011
4. Cass Ave. west to Main St./Lemont Rd.	10/12/2010	5/9/2011	10/10/2011
5. Main St./Lemont Rd. west to Woodward Ave.	10/25/2010	5/23/2011	10/24/2011

A message from Human Services...

Teaching Children, Engaging Youth Leaders

February and March were very busy months for the staff in the Division of Human Services. One of the key parts of our mission is to engage the youth within the Township in programs that help them to lead lives that are healthy, productive, and free from alcohol and other drugs. To that end, all of our staff was actively engaged in ensuring our youthful citizens were able to do just that in a variety of ways.

In February, I conducted two trainings. I trained a total of 43 new jurors for the peer jury program. These new jurors were sworn in with a ceremony that included local field court judge Robert Miller, who happily agreed to conduct the swearing in. The addition of these new jurors brought the number of jurors hearing cases at one of three peer jury sites to a total of 197. Jurors are high school age students who must complete the one day training and swearing in before they can begin hearing cases. They are assigned to a hearing rotation, and jurors rotate every four months between the three sites. Jurors represent all five of the public high schools within the Township, as well as four private and parochial schools. Staff were also engaged in life skills that had kids actively engaged in learning.



During the months of February and March, our Life Skills programs were at the following schools: Cass Jr. High, Kingsley Elementary, Gower Middle School, Herrick Middle School, O'Neill Middle School, St. Isaac Jogues and Westview Hills Middle School. The topics discussed were: Alcohol, tobacco and other drug information, Bullying, Character Education, Empathy and Stress Management. Youth Education Coordinator Jason Shiliga and Life Skills teacher Rebecca Adelman taught approximately 1100 students in grades 5th through 8th during the months of February and March.

At Burr Ridge Middle School, the Too Good For Drugs program was taught to the 6th and 7th grade students as part of our Illinois Department of Human Services Prevention grant. In addition to the Too Good For Drugs life skills program, numerous conflicts were addressed with the peer mediation program that is also run by Prevention Specialist Cathy Rager. In addition to those programs that are provided directly to the school, services also target the community as part of a collaborative effort with the Willowbrook Corners Community Coalition. During the months of February and March, the Community Pride group, comprised of community residents, met to discuss a variety of issues that are of concern. Also, a new community liaison that was hired by Hinsdale South High School has been enthusiastically and passionately engaged with parents and youth alike. Our Prevention Specialist has been working with the liaison to support a new Drop-In program that seeks to provide a safe, structured, drug free and fun environment for older teens. The first Drop-In night in March was a huge success, with 30 teens in grades 7th through 10th participating.

On March 20th, a Snowflake event was held at Lakeview Jr. High School, the result of a collaborative effort between the following: Herrick Middle School, Lakeview Jr. High, O'Neill Middle School, Downers Grove North and South High School and Downers Grove Township. 119 Jr. High/Middle School students attended this seven-hour event with 54 High School leaders directing the event and facilitating small groups. Snowflake is a prevention program that targets Middle School students and is an opportunity for them to not only have a lot of fun, but also talk about some important issues with positive High School role models.



The evaluations from the students overwhelmingly said that they really enjoyed the day, had fun and learned a lot. Fortunately for these students, the high schools have a fantastic Snowball program that they can look forward to. This is a snapshot of what was happening during these months for youths and families. We feel very fortunate that we can provide the services that we do to you, the resident. If you have any questions about any of our programs, or have any ideas for possible programs that could meet a need for many of our residents, feel free to give us a call. You can call Lori Wrzesinski, Director of Youth Services at (630) 719-6689 or Township Supervisor, Frank Wurster, at (630) 719-6610. As always, you can get information about Township services and what's happening through our website at www.dgtownship.com. It is an honor to serve you.

Lori Wrzesinski - Director of Youth Services

A message from Senior Services...

Services That Help Older Persons Remain in Their Homes

Many older persons prefer to remain in their homes for as long as possible, but there comes a time when daily chores and the upkeep of the home become a burden. The following are some services that offer help:

In-Home Help

Community Care Program - provides homemaker services, such as personal care, meal preparation, light housekeeping, laundry, shopping, and transportation to eligible adults aged 60 or older. The program also provides adult day care and emergency response systems. Fees are based on need and financial resources. For more information, please contact DuPage County Senior Citizen Services at (800) 942-9412 or (630) 407-6502 (TTY).

Private Home Health Care Agencies - provides services, such as companion services, nursing care, speech, physical and occupational therapy. A list of Home Health Care Agencies can be requested at the Township office, or from DuPage County Senior Citizens Services at (800) 942-9412 or (630) 407-6502 (TTY).

Home Delivered Meals - are provided daily to homebound persons aged 60 or older by the DuPage Senior Citizens Council. While delivering the meals volunteers can also check on the safety of clients. For more information, please contact DuPage County Senior Citizen Services at (800) 942-9412 or (630) 407-6502 (TTY).

Minor Home Repairs and Modifications - affordable rates are provided to persons aged 60 or older by the DuPage Senior Citizens Council. Services include minor plumbing, electrical repairs, and installing safety equipment such as grab bars. Also offered is a referral list of insured contractors. For more information, please call (630) 620-0804, ext. 16.

In-Home Respite Program - provides trained and screened volunteers who visit frail older persons three hours a week so the family caregiver can get time away from home. Visits are social only. For more information, contact Metropolitan Family Services DuPage at (630) 784-4875.

Home Repairs and Modifications Checklist - is available at the Township office.

Home Away from Home

Adult Day Care Center - older adults enjoy daytime activities, while their family gets a respite from care-giving responsibilities. For more information, contact Community Adult Day Care at (630) 969-1060.

Counseling & Case Management

DuPage County Senior Citizens Services provides the following five programs. For more information, please call (800) 942-9412 or (630) 407-6502 (TTY).

- **Case Management** - Caseworkers perform in-home assessments to determine the needs of individuals requesting assistance and arrange for appropriate services. Follow up and monitoring are also provided.
- **Private Geriatric Care Managers** - help to select appropriate services such as home health care, medical care, financial care, counseling and advocacy. A list of care managers is available at the Township office.
- **Long Term Care Ombudsmen** - investigate and attempt to resolve concerns about care of a resident at a long term care facility.
- **Choices for Care** - provides a consultation to nursing facility applicants aged 60 and older to explore options for long-term care, which may include home and community-based services or nursing facility care.
- **Elder Abuse and Neglect Program** - provides case managers respond to reports of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation and work with the older person to resolve the abusive situations. Confidential.

Metropolitan Family Services DuPage - provides counseling to assist older adults and their families in meeting the challenges and opportunities of later years. For more information, please call (630) 784-4800.



Pictured from left to right: Dorothy M. Sturges and Hanna Benioff

More From Senior Services...



The Vintage Times is produced by the Township of Downers Grove in cooperation with the Village of Downers Grove. Programs will be shown on Channel 6 in Downers Grove during the entire month on Mondays and Fridays at 10:30am. The following month the program is shown on Comcast Channel 19 on Thursdays at 6:00pm. The program will also be shown on Channel 6 in Darien; please check your newspapers for dates and times. Videotaped copies are available for loan at public libraries in Westmont, Downers Grove, the Indian Prairie Library, and at the Township office. For additional information, please contact Hanna Benioff at the Township of Downers Grove, Division of Human Services at (630) 719-6670.

To Drive or Not to Drive?

Driving our own car provides us with an important sense of independence and control. We all want to drive in a way that protects our safety and the safety of others. However, as we get older certain physical and perceptual changes may increase our risk of injury from a car accident. It is important to periodically assess our driving abilities, both to increase safety and to judge whether we are still safe behind the wheel. Consider the following options:

Dial-A-Ride - is a Township transportation program that helps seniors who can no longer drive to live independently in the community. Dial-A-Ride is provided Monday - Friday from 8am - 4pm for residents who are over age 65 or disabled and who travel within Township boundaries. A fare of \$5.00 for each one-way trip is paid on the bus. An RTA Permit is required (see below). Rides must be reserved in advance, and it is necessary to register at the Township (630) 719-6685.

RTA Free Ride Program - provides free rides to persons aged 65 or older on fixed routes operated by Metra, CTA and Pace. Applications may be completed at the Township office. Please bring an ID, such as a driver's license, and \$3.00 for a photo. Notice: This card does not apply to the Township's Dial-A-Ride program, which continues to cost \$5.00 per ride. Disabled persons under the age of 65 may apply for RTA cards at Lisle Township (630) 968-2087, ext. 11, or call the RTA office at (312) 836-7000.

Subsidized Cab Fares - are provided to older persons by the following villages in Downers Grove Township:

(1) Burr Ridge (630) 654-8181 Ext. 101 (2) Darien (630) 852-5000 (3) Downers Grove (630) 434-5533 (4) Willowbrook (630) 323-8215 (5) Woodridge (east of Woodward) (630) 852-7000. Also, DuPage County provides an income based program, "Ride DuPage," for more information call (630) 407-6500. Programs that help drivers to assess and refine their driving skills include "Rules of the Road" and "55 Alive/Mature Driving" classes. Call your Park District to inquire.

Need Additional Information?

For more information visit www.dgtownship.com for the latest Township news.

Want to speak with Township staff, call (630) 719-6610 for the Township department directory.

Need to visit in person? We are located at 4340 Prince Street in Downers Grove.



WHERE EVERYTHING COMES TOGETHER.

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