



Plumstead Township

BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Welcome Matthew Given

Matthew Given - Born and raised in Philadelphia, Matt is the youngest of four boys. Matt's parents, John, a retired truck mechanic, and Patricia, a retired Catholic elementary school teacher, raised their boys to understand the importance of family, faith, and community. His parents now reside in North Wales, PA and his brothers live all along the east coast.

While a student at Cardinal Dougherty High School, Matt joined the stage crew club not knowing at the time that he was beginning his professional career. After high school, Matt studied technical theatre earning a BA from Allentown College (now DeSales University) followed by graduate school earning a MFA at Ohio University. Matt began his career in theatre as a freelance sound designer traveling throughout the county. However, after several years of freelancing, Matt moved to the management side of the business and more importantly returned to his home state of Pennsylvania. Over the next sixteen years, Matt worked for as a production manager for several theatres including PA Shakespeare Festival, Bucks County Playhouse and Arden Theatre Company. He now serves as the Director of Production for the Broadway company, Second Stage Theater.



Not long after returning to PA, Matt met the love of his life and now his wife of eleven years, Katie. Katie, and upper Bucks County native, has served as a public school elementary teacher for nearly 20 years. After the birth of their first daughter, Katie and Matt settled into their forever home in bucolic Plumstead Township. Five years later (and in the middle of a pandemic) their second daughter completed their family. Katie and Matt are thrilled to raise their daughters, now ages eight and three, in this beautiful community. They enjoy exploring local parks and playgrounds, visiting the Poconos in the winter and vacationing to the Jersey shore in the summer.

Matt is humbled and excited to serve his friends and neighbors.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Township Information.....	3	Smoke Detectors Save Lives	11
Save the Date.....	3	Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company	12
Pennsylvania Urban Nutrient Management.....	4	EMS.....	13
Plumstead Township Police Department.....	6-8	Veterans Committee	14
Land Preservation.....	10	Public Works	15
FEMA: Electric Vehicle Charging Safety Tips	11	Park & Recreation.....	16
		Stormwater Pollution	17



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Plumstead Township Information

Contact Information

Township Office
 5186 Stump Road, Pipersville, PA 18947
 Telephone: 215-766-8914 • Fax: 215-766-9831
 www.plumstead.org
 Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Police Department
 5186 Stump Road, Pipersville, PA 18947
 Office: 215-766-8741 • Dispatch: 215-766-8740
 Fax: 215-766-8509
 For EMERGENCY Dial 911
 Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM or by appointment

Public Works Department
 Floyd S. Bryan Public Works Center
 5119 Stump Road, Pipersville, PA 18947
 Office: 215-766-0189 • Fax: 215-766-1439
 Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Water Department
 Billing Questions: 215-766-0189
 Repairs & Maintenance: 215-766-0189
 For after hours service disruption or non-emergency issues of concern, please contact Police Dispatch at 215-766-8740. Identify yourself as a Plumstead Township Water Department customer.

Tax Collector - Sherry Labs
 6162 German Road, P.O. Box 433, Plumstead, PA 18949
 Telephone: 215-766-3785
 Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

State Senator Steven Santarsiero:
 Senate District 10
 Building 100, Suite 121
 2003 Lower State Road, Doylestown, PA 18901
 (215) 489-5000 • Fax: (215) 345-1361

State Representative - Shelby Labs
 Silo Hill Professional Building, 1032 N. Easton Road, Doylestown, PA
 Telephone: 215-489-2126
 Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Board of Supervisors:

Chairman Jim McComb
Vice Chairman Dan Hilferty
Asst. Secretary Greg Bankos
Asst. Treasurer Matt Given
Member Ken Lichtenstein

Administrative Staff

Township Manager: Angela P. Benner
Assistant Township Manager / Zoning Officer: Steve Hicks
Assistant to Township Manager & AP: Debbie DiAngelo
Accounts Receivable: Virginia Bowling
Municipal Administrator: Michelle Storti
Director of Public Works: Alan Bleam
PW Administrative Assistant & Water Billing: Pam Gravel
Chief of Police: David Mettin
Police Dept. Administrative Assistant: Sarah Ferri
Police Clerk: Jennifer Bodder
Code Enforcement: Keystone Municipal Services - Phil Neas
Fire Marshal: Jeff Gouldey

Meetings:

The Board of Supervisors meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each Month at 7PM (except where otherwise noted).
The Planning Commission meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7PM.
The Zoning Hearing Board meets at the call of the Chairman.
The Environmental Advisory Council meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM.
 All meetings are held at the Township Building unless otherwise noted on the Township calendar.

Save the Date

Annual Egg Hunt at Hanusey 3pm.....	3/23 (Rain 3/24)	Camp Plumstead	6/24 - 6/28
Blaze of Glory @ PVFC	3/23	Concert in the Park / Funkin Soul Nuts.....	6/21
OT Athletics Spring Break Camp	3/25-3/29	Concert in the Park / Barefoot Bobby & the Breakers.....	7/12
Blood Drive at Hanusey	4/3	Concert in the Park/ Galena Brass	7/26
Community Yard Sale	4/27	Concert in the Park / GruvTyme	8/2
PVFC Station 20 Dedicatio	4/27	Concert in the Patk / Duelings Pianos	8/16
Memorial Day Observance Event		Touch a Truck/Movie Night.....	September
@ Veterans Park -9am	5/27	Trick or Treat.....	10/26 (Rain 10/27)
Summer Movie at Hanusey	5/31	Annual Tree Lighting.....	12/6 (Rain 12/7)
Blood Drive at Hanusey	6/5		

PENNSYLVANIA URBAN NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT – BE GREEN WHILE PROTECTING OUR STREAMS



Protecting Pennsylvania's Waterways Starts at Home.

Turfgrass has become a major component of Pennsylvania's flora. In fact, according to DCNR, Pennsylvania now contains over 2 million acres of lawn. Selecting a proper turfgrass management program, whether it is on a private lawn, sports field, public park, or golf course, is essential to protecting our local waterways.

Know What Your Lawn Needs

When looking to apply nutrients to your lawn, make sure you are aware of what your lawn needs and what the Pennsylvania Fertilizer Law allows. To determine your lawn's nutrient needs, it is best to first soil test. Soil tests provide specific recommendations for nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium. Following the soil test recommendations ensures that you are applying only what your lawn needs, thus reducing nutrient loss and fertilizer cost. Test kits can be purchased for a nominal fee from your local Penn State extension office.

The Pennsylvania Fertilizer Law

In July 2022, Pennsylvania adopted a new fertilizer law designed to minimize the movement of nutrients into our waterways. Anyone who applies fertilizers should be aware of the following nutrient limitations.

- Nitrogen is limited to 0.9 pounds of total nitrogen and 0.7 pounds of available nitrogen per 1000 ft² per application.
- No phosphorus can be applied unless establishing or repairing turf.
- Both the nitrogen and phosphorus rates can be adjusted based on soil test recommendations and/or if using an enhanced efficiency fertilizer.
- Enhanced efficiency fertilizers are specifically designed to reduce nutrient losses to the environment while increasing availability to plants.

In addition, when applying fertilizer, applicators must follow specific environmental conditions to prevent direct movement of fertilizer nutrients into our streams.

- Do not apply if a heavy rain is expected.
- Keep fertilizer away from drainage ditches, storm drains, or water.
- Maintain a 15-foot buffer from the banks of all waterways.
- Remove fertilizer that lands on impervious surfaces (i.e. driveways, sidewalks, roads) back onto the application area.
- Do not use as a snow or ice melt.
- Do not spread fertilizer on snow-covered or frozen ground.
- Fertilizer application between December 15 and March 1 is restricted to 0.50 lbs of total nitrogen per 1000 ft² per application.

Read the Label

Manufacturers of fertilizer products must include detailed labels that provide the nutrient content and instructions for use. As a fertilizer applicator, you are strongly encouraged to read and follow all directions and apply your fertilizer using a properly calibrated spreader.

Lawn Care Considerations

Nutrient management is not the only tool that can be used for limiting nutrient loss. There are many additional lawn care considerations that can be used to promote a healthy lawn while protecting our local waterways. A few examples are listed below.

Fertilizer may not be the solution. If your lawn is not looking as healthy and green as you would like, sometimes fertilizer is not the answer. Applying fertilizer without understanding the underlying soil can result in a waste of money and nutrients. There are many soil health factors that play a critical role in maintaining your lawn.

Reducing soil compaction can improve root growth and water infiltration. Maintaining an appropriate soil pH is essential to promoting proper nutrient availability. Soil texture and organic matter content influence water movement, nutrient availability, and the microbial ecosystem of the soil. A healthy soil supports a healthy lawn.

Raise your mower deck. Set your mower deck to 3 inches or higher. A taller lawn provides shade that discourages weed growth and promotes strong root development helping lawns to withstand environmental stress. Alternatively, you can use low mow turf species, such as fine fescue blends, that do best when mowing is limited. A taller, healthier lawn slows water movement and increases infiltration keeping moisture, soil, and nutrients where they are needed most.

Mulch your grass clippings. Keeping your clippings in place returns valuable organic matter and nutrients to your lawn.

Provide a buffer. Do not mow up to the banks of streams. Maintaining vegetative buffers along waterways provides wildlife habitat while slowing and filtering water before it enters the stream.

Convert your lawn. Replacing turf with native vegetation not only increases water infiltration, but also promotes biodiversity and creates habitats for pollinators and other wildlife. For more information on Lawn Conversion visit DCNR's website.

Working Together for Clean Water.

Environmental stewardship requires teamwork. Help protect Pennsylvania's waterways by being wise when you fertilize!

For more information on the Pennsylvania Fertilizer Law, visit the Department of Agriculture's website at www.agriculture.pa.gov/fertilizer or contact Denise Uzupis at duzupis@pa.gov.

This information was provided by the PA Bureau of Plant Industry*

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

CONGRATULATIONS CHIEF DAVID METTIN ON RECEIVING THE ALBERT RATKINSON JR POST 210 AMERICAN LEGION AND DOYLESTOWN POST 175 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR FOR 2024!

Chief David Mettin started his law enforcement career with Doylestown Township where he served for 15 years, achieving the rank of Sergeant. During his time there he founded, and led, the Central Bucks Evidence Response Team. Following his time with Doylestown Township he became the Police Chief for the Pennridge Regional Police for 12 years. In 2014 he left Pennridge Regional to form Slate Belt Regional Police Department as Chief. In 2020 David Mettin was welcomed to Plumstead Township as Police Chief of the Plumstead Township Police Department. Overall, his law enforcement career spans 37 years. Under Chief David Mettin's guidance, the Plumstead Township Police Department has achieved remarkable success, improving community relations, and implementing strategies to address emerging challenges.



He has shown exemplary professionalism, integrity, and a deep understanding of law enforcement principles. One notable achievement of Chief David Mettin is the accreditation of the department. This initiative not only showcased his ability to think outside the box but the significance of holding the department to the highest standards. In addition to his leadership skills, Chief David Mettin is also deeply committed to community engagement. He actively participates in various community outreach programs, attends monthly township meetings, and works closely with local organizations to address community concerns. His dedication to building strong relationships between law enforcement and the community has significantly enhanced trust and cooperation. He is an active Public Service Institute Instructor who conducts Police Regionalization and Management Studies and assists other municipalities within Bucks County with hiring new officers, promotional processes, and executive hiring. Chief David Mettin has been instrumental in allowing for growth within the department. His commitment to providing resources, promoting professional development, and fostering a supportive culture has resulted in a workforce that is motivated, skilled, and ready to tackle new challenges.

Congratulations Chief David Mettin!



OFFICER BICKHARDT AND OFFICER SOZIO COMPLETE CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING

Plumstead Township Police Officer Matthew Sozio and Officer Justin Bickhardt completed 40 hours of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) held at the Bucks County Training Center. CIT is an innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention with community, behavioral healthcare, and advocacy partnerships. Officers learn to recognize psychiatric distress and other conditions and how to de-escalate a crisis - avoiding officer injuries, consumer deaths, and tragedy for the community. CIT officers learn how to link people with appropriate treatment, which has a positive impact on fostering recovery and reducing recidivism. Plumstead Township is proud to have all patrol officers and Corporals trained in these valuable skills.

POLICE DEPARTMENT



PLUMSTEAD POLICE OFFICER PREVENTS SUICIDAL TEEN FROM JUMPING OFF OVERPASS:

A Plumstead Township police officer is being credited with saving a suicidal teen from jumping off a highway overpass. On January 2nd Officer Thomas Rutecki was called to help find a suicidal female when he spotted a distraught figure on the roadway. The female was standing on the edge of the overpass.

Officer Rutecki approached the young female and began to talk to her as he slowly moved closer. The officer tried to engage the teen by asking open-ended questions in an unthreatening manner.

Officer Rutecki told the female that help was available. The woman hesitated but didn't pull away while Rutecki was trying to engage with her.

Back-up arrived discreetly while Officer Rutecki was talking to the young woman. When the officer saw a chance, he grabbed her and brought her to the ground to prevent her from jumping.

"Officer Rutecki knew the policing extended beyond law enforcement" a statement from the Plumstead police said. "It involved being a beacon of hope in the darkest moments"



Source: Tapinto.net



BLUE FLASHING LIGHTS

Be aware of the Blue Flashing Lights:

If you see a regular car or truck with a blue light flashing from the windshield but no siren, that is a volunteer fireperson being called to their home fire station to respond to a call. If you are driving and you see a blue flashing light coming, please treat them the same way you would a police car, fire truck or ambulance and yield the road to them. It could be the difference between life and death.

PACK THE PATROL CAR

Plumstead Township Police Departments annual Pack the Patrol Car was a huge success this year! We cannot thank our generous residents and donors enough. Everyone has been more than generous this holiday season already! We could not have pulled this off without our volunteers either. Thank you to Plumsteadville Fire Company, Plumstead Township Police Explorer's, and family and friends of the Plumstead Township Police Department. All food and monetary donations that were collected have been donated to the Bucks County Housing Group located in Doylestown. BCHG is a social service agency committed to serving low income and homeless families in Bucks County. The CCHG was unable to store donated turkeys due to limited freezer space, but all the donated turkeys were taken to Immanuel Church in Lansdale PA and were delivered as part of the World in Action Ministries. We hope the donations received made the winter months a little more bearable for families.





POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED

FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION EVENT

Thank you, Tohickon Middle School for Welcoming the Plumstead Township Police Department at your First Responder appreciation event!

Thank you, Tohickon Middle School staff and students, for showing your appreciation for first responders. Recognizing the incredible courage and selflessness of these individuals who put their lives on the line every single day with heartfelt notes and gifts is much appreciated. Congratulations to those students that were sworn in as members of the Student Council Executive Cabinet and the recognition of the Student Council Body members.



SHOP WITH A COP 2023 BRIGHTENES THE HOLIDAY SEASON!



Plumstead Township Police Department held its annual "Shop with a Cop" event on December 5th at the Walmart Supercenter in Hatfield, Pa. Over 35 officers were on hand to shop with over 120 elementary school students who live in Plumstead Township and attend Groveland Elementary and Gayman Schools. This heartwarming initiative allows children to shop with an officer to purchase gifts for themselves and their family members. The event not only affords them a brighter holiday season but helps strengthen relationships with local law enforcement.

A major component to the success of this event is the donors from our community who so graciously contribute funds year after year. Thank you, Corporal Johnson from the Plumstead Township Police Department, for your continued efforts in making this event a success. This is definitely a group effort, and we are beyond thankful that we were able to do it again in 2023.



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COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF LAND PRESERVATION

Article by the Land Preservation Education and Advisory Committee

Preserving farmland and other natural and scenic areas provides a wide range of benefits to our community, which helps to explain why land preservation has such widespread support here.

For starters, there's a strong economic case. Development is difficult to control completely but when combined with land preservation it can lead to better, cost effective and focused development while preserving large tracts of land and our community's character. Studies have shown that the more land preserved and protected from development the more the value of existing residential properties increases — simply adding less supply results in higher value for existing homes. Also, managing growth through land preservation holds down the cost of municipal services like schools, police, and road maintenance — and lower costs means lower taxes.

Land preservation in Plumstead has also helped to maintain the township's rural character. For nearly 300 years, our community has had a strong agricultural base as well as an appreciation for the scenic beauty of the farms and woodlands that are still abundant here. The "best management practices" (BMPs) that farmers employ today help to recharge the aquifers that provide our water, and also help to improve air and water quality and even offset the effects of climate change.

Preservation of environmentally sensitive areas such as woodlands and stream corridors provide habitat for wildlife, promotes and protects biodiversity, as well as clean air. In addition, wooded areas — and farmland — absorb massive amounts of rainwater, thereby reducing stormwater runoff and downstream flooding. While new development requires the control of stormwater, the natural absorption of preserved lands reduces stormwater system maintenance by the township and typically enhances the aesthetics of recharge areas. With extreme weather events becoming more common, the preservation of farmland and natural areas is critical for quality stormwater management.

And don't forget that, besides all these economic and practical reasons for land preservation, saving the best of our farmland and natural areas is good for the soul. The ability to see farms, woodlands and picturesque Bucks County vistas is one of the key reasons so many of us love where we live. Simply driving along a scenic road or taking a walk in a park or down a preserved country lane is critical to maintaining our wellbeing — benefits we take for granted but which depend on land preservation.



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FEMA

Electric Vehicle Charging Safety Tips

Are you thinking of buying an electric vehicle (EV)? Here are steps you can take to lower your risk of fire and electric shock injury related to charging EVs.

Before buying an EV, have a qualified electrician install:

- A new, dedicated circuit for your EV charging device. Older home wiring may not be suitable for use with EV supply equipment.
- Level II charging devices (if that is your preferred charging method).



Charging EVs:

- Follow manufacturer's guidelines when charging your vehicle. Check with your local dealer if you need additional information.
- Purchase a charging device that is certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- Plug Level I EV chargers directly into an outlet designed to handle the amperage of the charging device. Never use a multiplug adapter or extension cord.
- Install a residual current device with the charging unit. It will turn off the power if a fault is detected and help prevent a fire.
- Place all charging device components out of reach of children when not in use.
- Maintain the components of your charging station according to the manufacturer's maintenance guidelines. Signs of excessive wear may indicate a potential shock hazard. Never use an EV charger with obvious signs of damage.
- Cover the EV charging station outlet to stop water from entering. Check the manufacturer's guidelines to make sure it is safe to charge your EV in wet conditions.

Charging an EV is safe when done with certified equipment. By following these tips, you can lower your risk of having an associated fire or an electric shock injury.

For more information and free resources, visit: usfa.fema.gov.



Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

Test your smoke alarms once a month.

A smoke alarm can save your life in a fire. Use the test button to make sure your smoke alarms are working.

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Smoke alarms do not last forever. If your alarms are 10 years old or older, replace them with new alarms.

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PLUMSTEADVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Congratulations to all Newly Elected Chief's, Captains and Lieutenants of the Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company. Thank You to all our Volunteer Fire Fighters.



Left to Right - Chris Allen (Lt-24), Marc Longo (C-24), Jess Clymer (DC-24), Paul Feraco (FP LT-24), Diane Breiner (FP Capt-24), Harley Turner (BC-24), Dan Pfeiffer (BC-20), Dan Roberts (Capt-24) and Garrett Snyder (Lt-20).

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EMS

GROVELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Groveland Elementary School students had the opportunity to meet and get to know the job duties of our local public service departments in October. Plumstead Township Police Department was joined by our Public Works Department, Point Pleasant Plumsteadville EMS, and the Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Company. Each department provided a hands-on experience for students to learn about the jobs performed and ask questions. Thank you, Groveland Elementary for welcoming your local Public Service Departments.



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VETERANS COMMITTEE

CALLING ALL VETERANS:



We are still trying to identify all veterans residing in Plumstead. Currently our list contains only about 75 veterans, and we know there are more. We would like to know our veterans so we can pass along information that may be pertinent to you and to provide any assistance that you may need. If you are a Plumstead veteran, please send your name, branch of service, years served and your e-mail address to Supervisor Jim McComb at jmccomb@plumstead.gov. Our list will never be disclosed to others.

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PUBLIC WORKS

ROADSIDE TREE RESPONSIBILITY

While the focus over the past several years, and moving forward, continues to be the demise of so many emerald ash trees, there are continual concerns regarding the health and safety of all type species of trees that are within the proximity of falling into the travelled portion of our local roads.

As a reminder to all residents, the maintenance and care of trees along township roads, even though located within the right-of-way, are the **responsibility of the individual property owner**.

Trees should be monitored along your property road frontage and special attention should be given to dead and dying trees with regard to safety for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Residents in developments are responsible for trimming trees that overhang sidewalks for the safety of pedestrians.

This photo shows a tree where a portion fell into the travel lane of a road. The hazard presented by trees like this along many township and state roads is of serious concern. Trees identified as hazardous by the township arborist will be addressed on a case-by-case basis with the individual property owner needing to take responsibility for the danger presented.

Thank you for your cooperation.



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Rain washes pollutants into storm drains which flows directly into our streams, lakes, rivers and the ocean. So what can you do?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH WASHING YOUR CAR?

Washing your car on a paved surface can allow the soapy wash water and other pollutants, like oil and grease, to run off into a storm drain. Most soap contains phosphates and other chemicals that, in large amounts can contaminate your drinking water, as well as kill fish, wildlife and plants. The soap, together with the dirt and oil washed from your car, flows into nearby storm drains, which flows directly into lakes, rivers and the ocean. The phosphates from the soap can cause excess algae to grow, which can be harmful to the water quality.

YOU CAN HELP!

- Take your car to a car washing facility, rather than washing it yourself. Commercial car washes treat and recycle the water.
- If you can't get to a car washing facility, wash your car on an unpaved surface and use biodegradable soap.
- Organize a Car Wash Fundraiser for a local organization.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT CLEAN WATER?

Stormwater pollution is one of the greatest threats to Pennsylvania's clean water supply. Clean water provides access to safe drinking water, places for recreation, commercial opportunities, healthy wildlife habitats, and adds beauty to our landscape. Rain washes pollution from streets, parking lots, and lawns into storm drains, then directly to our streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.

Did you know more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like motor oil, fertilizers, pet waste, and detergents? By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater.

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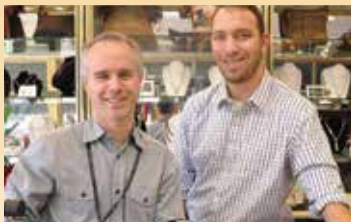
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