

October 2024



THE PARTNERSHIP

GREATER BURLINGTON PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER - VOL. 104 NO. 10





As I begin my role as President & CEO of the Greater Burlington Partnership, I am filled with enthusiasm for the opportunities ahead. I want to express my gratitude for the warm welcome I have received and look forward to working closely with each of you as we navigate this exciting journey together.

In the short term, my primary focus will be on building and rekindling strong relationships within our community. Having had the privilege of working in our three key industries here—education, healthcare, and hospitality—I understand the importance of collaboration and the value of diverse perspectives.

I am eager to spend time with our internal team and learn about the resilient efforts and accomplishments made before my arrival. I want to understand their immediate needs and assess and prioritize ongoing projects and initiatives that align with our shared goals. Identifying "quick wins" will be crucial in building momentum and setting a positive tone for our collective efforts.

Looking ahead, our long-term vision centers on fostering economic growth and diversification. To achieve sustainable progress, we will enhance regional collaboration in several key areas: workforce and education, talent attraction, workforce housing, childcare, and mental health services. These areas are essential to ensuring that Greater Burlington continues to thrive as an inclusive community where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

Our strategic priorities will align with the regional needs and aspirations of our community. By driving partnerships for innovation and investment, we can ensure that Greater Burlington remains a leader in economic development. I look forward to connecting with city governments and the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission to strengthen these partnerships further. Additionally, we will advocate with state and national leaders for strategic funding in critical areas such as transportation, economic development, tax policies, and safe communities.

Together, we have the power to shape a bright future for Greater Burlington. I am deeply honored to return to our community and am fully committed to working alongside you to realize our shared vision.

Thank you for your support — I look forward to our collective journey and the work ahead.

Sincerely,

Amy O'Brien
President & CEO, Greater Burlington Partnership

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2023 MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR



BIG RIVER RESOURCES, LLC



ON THE COVER

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING MONTH

Greater Burlington not only has a long and rich history of manufacturing the products and equipment that built our county, we also celebrate the newest technology and innovative products that power our economy forward! On the cover is Big River Resources, the 2023 Manufacturer of the Year. Through Hi-Tech and hard work, Big River Resources provides the fuel that drives our nation, and it's made from the thing Iowa is most widely known for - Corn. Their innovation opens up new local markets for our corn producers, provides high paying jobs for our neighbors, and clean fuel for our vehicles.

Just another example of the excellence Greater Burlington continues to enjoy through the dedication and investment our manufacturers bring to our region.

We salute all of our Manufacturers this month.

Photo credit: Storm Talker Photography

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS



The 2025 Marketing & Sponsorship Opportunities booklet has arrived. Melissa Jones will be reaching out to Chamber of Commerce members to confirm the 2025 right of first refusal renewals. The deadline for confirmation of renewals is Friday, October 25.

New marketing & sponsorship sales will begin immediately following the renewal opportunity deadline. If you did not receive a booklet and would like one, please contact Melissa Jones.

Contact Melissa Jones,
mjones@greaterburlington.com, to discuss
your 2025 business marketing plan.

Opportunities that remain available for 2024:

- **Downtown Holiday Open House Premier Sponsor** – November 10, \$600
- **Holiday Business Showcase** – November 14 – Premier Sponsor, \$750
Booth Bingo Sponsor, \$500 and Booth Sponsors, \$250

#GreaterBurlingtonPartnership



BUSINESS *after* HOURS

La Bohème

417 Jefferson St, Burlington | October 10, 5 - 7 PM

Join Chamber of Commerce member businesses to build your network at Business After Hours and grow your business!





2024 MANUFACTURERS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Burlington Golf Club
Doors Open 11 AM, Lunch served 11:30 AM

OCTOBER 4

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Greater Burlington Partnership invites you to the annual Manufacturers Appreciation Luncheon, celebrating the vital role of manufacturing in the Greater Burlington community. This event features a keynote presentation, vendor booths, and the announcement of the 2024 Manufacturer of the Year award.

This award is given to a manufacturer in the Greater Burlington area that excels in innovation, employee development, community involvement, and company growth. Attendees will enjoy lunch and have the opportunity to connect with industry leaders.

Attendance is free for Chamber members, Register by scanning the QR code, visiting GreaterBurlington.com/Register, or contact Mac Holford, mholford@greaterburlington.com.



Scan
to
Register



Coffee with the Chamber at Mississippi Moon Ice Cream Parlor

Get ready to kickstart your morning with a dose of energy, networking, and delicious treats! The next Coffee with the Chamber will be held on October 23 at Mississippi Moon Ice Cream Parlor, located at 620 Jefferson St in Downtown Burlington.

This event is perfect for new members, seasoned Chamber veterans, and new employees looking to make connections. It offers a valuable opportunity to mingle, exchange ideas, and learn about the many benefits of Chamber membership.

Chamber staff will be on hand to help attendees unlock the full potential of their Chamber membership. For those needing assistance with accessing and utilizing their membership perks, support will be readily available. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions, and the Chamber will provide the answers!

Don't miss this chance to connect, learn, and enjoy fantastic company. Join the Chamber staff with a cup of coffee (or a scoop of ice cream) in hand for a morning of networking and fun.

RSVP to Melissa Jones, mjones@greaterburlington.com.

ELECTION FORUMS

Learn Where the Candidates Stand

Candidate Forum - October 9, 4 - 6 PM



Taylor Collins (R)



Jeff Poulter (D)

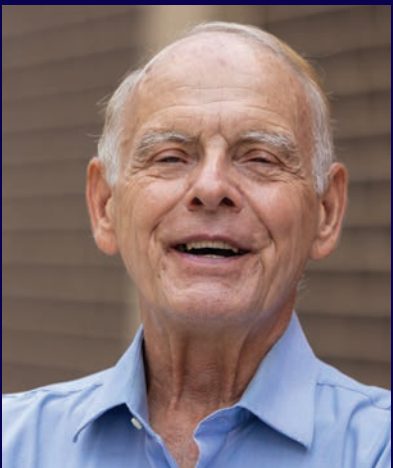


John Dabeet (D)



Mark Lofgren (R)

Candidate Forum - October 17, 4 - 6 PM



Jim Beres (D)



Matthew Rinker (R)



Nannette Griffin (D)



Jeff Reichman (R)

Inform your vote and learn more about each candidate. Candidates will not have access to the questions ahead of time. Forums will be held in the Greater Burlington Partnership's offices or can be viewed virtually.

For more information reach out to Telisha Fedele at tfedele@greaterburlington.com.

GreaterBurlington.com

Young Professionals Program Happening

**Lunch & Learn: Open Conversations
about Funerals & End-of-Life**
September 24, 12 - 1 PM
Greater Burlington Partnership

Join Rochelle Swanner from Lunning Funeral Chapel for an open and informative Lunch & Learn session, diving into some of the questions many people have about funerals, cremations, and death-related services. These topics are not easy, but they are incredibly important.

Rochelle will share what you need to know, what to ask, and why it's so vital to have open conversations with family — no matter their age. Being prepared can make all the difference, and this session will help you feel more confident and comfortable with these necessary discussions. Lunch is included.



Lunch & Learn
**Open Conversations
about Funerals & End-of-Life**

WHEN?
SEP 24 WHAT TIME?
12 - 1 PM

TICKETS?
Young Professional Members: FREE
Non-Members: \$10

Tickets:

Young Professional Members: Free

Non-Members: \$10

RSVP at greaterburlington.com/lunchandlearn



InspireNext Young Professionals Conference Recap

On September 10, professionals from various careers in the Greater Burlington Area gathered for the InspireNext Summit. Attendees heard from Keynote Speaker, Chris Lee, on how important making connections is when it comes to cultivating workplace culture. Throughout the

four-hour session, the group participated in activities that highlighted several professional skills such as collaboration, active listening, and effective communication.



WITCHES Night Out

DOWNTOWN BURLINGTON

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 5 - 8 PM

Grab your Ghoul Friends and fly over for a fun-filled

evening in Downtown Burlington. With the purchase of a \$15 ticket, You will receive a witch's hat, a spooktacular wand, and all the spooky bling needed to cast a bewitching spell! Tickets available online starting October 1.

Quantities are limited.

Witches Night Out is a popular event with a spin on "Ladies Night Out." Downtown will be taken over by Witches and their "Ghoul Friends" as they stop into local retailers, eateries and drinkeries and have a night on the town.

Redeem tickets for a hat and wand (Wand available to the first 400 that register) at the corner of 5th and Valley available at 4:30 PM day of event.

LAST STOP **Last stop at The Busted Cup Brewhouse with Ghouling Pianos - Midwest Ghouling Pianos**

All the charm of the original Midwest Dueling Pianos, but with a haunting twist. Two expert pianists battle it out, playing an all-request show with a few Halloween favorites mixed in for a spooktacular event.

Festive decorations, hilarious musical antics, and interactive performances make Midwest Ghouling Pianos a fantastically haunting event!



THANK YOU TO **THE BUSTED CUP BREWHOUSE**
SPONSOR OF THE **LAST STOP**

ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR: **FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK & TRUST**



GreaterBurlington.com



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

November 10, 10 AM - 4 PM

Get a head start on holiday gift buying and register from 10 AM - 4 PM at participating businesses for a \$1,000 giveaway of Downtown Dollars.

LIGHTED HOLIDAY PARADE

November 30, 5 PM

PREMIER SPONSOR:
STANDARD OF BEVERDALE 

This year's theme is "A Very Vintage Christmas."

LIVING WINDOWS

December 5, 5 - 8 PM

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Farmers & Merchants Bank & Trust

Dozens of store fronts come alive in Downtown Burlington.



#ShopSmall

Small Business

Saturday, November 30

OCTOBER 25, 4 - 6 PM

DOWNTOWN TRICK OR TREAT

Bring your ghouls, goblins, princesses & superheroes and Trick or Treat at businesses along Jefferson Street.

PREMIER SPONSORS:





DOWNTOWN PARTNERS, INC. **FUNDRAISER** Campaign

Downtown Partners, Inc. is launching a Fundraiser Campaign. The campaign is a fun way to support Downtown Burlington!

The new Streetscape project means new Downtown holiday décor is needed. All donations will go toward new holiday decorations. The first 25 Investors who donate \$200+ will receive two V.I.P. second-story indoor seats at The Busted Cup Brewhouse for the 2024 Lighted Holiday Parade on November 30, as a special donor THANK YOU from Downtown Partners, Inc. The V.I.P. section includes 4 free drinks, appetizers, and a warm, dry spot to watch the Parade!

Downtown Partners works hard to present special events, encourage building and business improvement, and to beautify the city center. We hope you will show your support for our activities by contributing at a level that is meaningful to you. The proceeds of this campaign will go towards new holiday decorations in the Downtown!

Thank you to The Busted Cup Brewhouse for sponsoring the V.I.P. section!

For more information, please visit the Downtown Burlington Iowa Facebook page, reach out to a board member or contact Amy Moyner at 319-208-0056 or amoyner@greaterburlington.com.

Thank you to
The Busted Cup Brewhouse
sponsor of the V.I.P. section.



Scan QR Code to Support Downtown Partners, Inc.

CHAMBER AMBASSADORS | SPOTLIGHT



JOHN JOYCE

ASSOCIATE AGENT, ALLEN AGENCY COUNTRY FINANCIAL

Not originally from the area, John, his wife Amber, and their two children have called the Greater Burlington area home for 8 years. The Joyces love making new relationships as they live, work, and play here!

In February, John took on the role of associate agent for the Allen Agency – Country Financial, where he gets to use his love for creating valued relationships with his clients by seeking to protect what matters most to them.

As a Chamber Ambassador, he hopes to create more relationships and give back to the community that has given him and his family a place to call home!



LEADERSHIP 2.0 Kicks Off First Session with a Strong Start

The highly anticipated Leadership 2.0 program launched its first session on September 17, bringing together a select group of 22 participants from Chamber member businesses eager to elevate their leadership skills. These participants come from diverse career backgrounds, adding a rich variety of perspectives to the program. Designed for managers and organizational leaders looking to enhance their management capabilities, Leadership 2.0 offers a unique blend of professional development and peer collaboration.

This year's program adopts a convenient lunch-and-learn format, running on the third Tuesday of each month from 11:30 AM to 1 PM, from September through May. This format allows busy professionals to gain valuable

insights and skills during their lunch break, making it an efficient and effective way to learn. The inaugural session set the tone for a dynamic series of workshops that will guide participants through a curriculum tailored to foster growth and innovation in leadership. With the expertise of renowned facilitators and the collaborative atmosphere of the group, participants are sure to benefit from a wealth of knowledge and practical strategies.

Leadership 2.0 is off to a great start, promising a positive impact as these leaders apply their new skills within their organizations and the community.

For more information on Leadership 2.0, visit GreaterBurlington.com/Leadership.



Greater Burlington Leadership 2024 - 2025 Program Year



The Greater Burlington Leadership class of 2024 - 2025 launched their program year with a dynamic Opening Session on September 18 and 19 at the Greater Burlington Partnership. This year's cohort, comprising 19 participants from various member businesses, engaged in a range of activities designed to foster networking and team building.

Over the course of the one-and-a-half-day event, participants had the opportunity to listen to insightful panels and speakers, providing valuable perspectives

on leadership and community involvement. The session also marked the beginning of brainstorming efforts for their group project, setting the stage for a productive and collaborative year ahead. The Opening Session successfully set the tone for what promises to be a transformative experience for the participants, equipping them with the tools and connections needed to make a meaningful impact in the Greater Burlington community.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new Chamber of Commerce members by sending an email, liking their Facebook page or visiting their website. Even better, stop by to introduce yourself, exchange business cards and help grow their network as well as your own!

Bickford of Burlington

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Imagine your loved one enjoying delicious, scratch-made meals, having a caregiver always nearby, and a calendar chock-full of social activities. Our caregivers will do whatever it takes to make sure your loved one is living the best life possible. Offering assisted living, independent living, and memory care services.

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GRAND OPENING**



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PICKLEBALL COURTS AT PERKINS PARK**



**DAME FINE COFFEE
GRAND OPENING, WESTLAND MALL LOCATION**



**BARK & PLAY DAYCARE & SUITES
10TH ANNIVERSARY**

RIBBON CUTTINGS & CELEBRATORY EVENTS



**MATT RINKER STATE FARM
NEW LOCATION/OPEN HOUSE**



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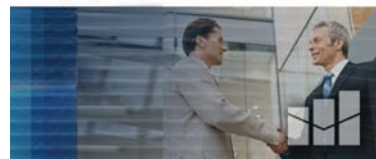
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National Support Your Local Chamber of Commerce Day **OCTOBER 16**

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has been in existence since 1912. President William Howard Taft initially proposed a group that would represent the concerns and issues facing businesses when he addressed Congress in December 1911. Your local Chamber of Commerce began in 1920.

How can you support the Chamber of Commerce this October? Refer a new member, attend a Ribbon Cutting or Business After Hours, forward your Friday Facts to your email contact list or market your business by sponsoring a Chamber of Commerce event for next year.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Greater Burlington Chamber of Commerce.



5 Reasons to Join Your Local Chamber

#SupportYourLocalChamber



OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES



ACCESS TO INFORMATION



NETWORKING



PUBLICITY AND CREDIBILITY



ADVOCACY

Join Us for The 2024 Holiday Business Showcase

**LOFT ON JEFFERSON
November 14, 5 - 7 PM**

Mark your calendar for the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Party.

This event features live music, appetizers, and prizes to be won from various sponsor booths. More details to be announced in future invitations.

For more information, contact Mac Holford,
mholford@greaterburlington.com.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

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18. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties). /s/ Brenda Levitt - 10/01/24

OCTOBER

october

View more events at
GreaterBurlington.com/Events

EVENTS

September 26 - October 25
 October Gallery Show:
 Sue Morrison/Ann Klingensmith
 Art Center of Burlington, hours vary
 BTownArt.com

1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 - Drop In Tech Help
 Burlington Public Library, 3 - 4 PM
 Burlington.Lib.ia.us

2 and 3 - Tri-State Development Summit
 Catfish Bend Convention & Event Center
 1 - 4 PM
 Culver.edu

2 - ARTIST to ARTIST
 Art Center of Burlington, 6 - 8 PM
 BTownArt.com

3 - 6 - Little Shop of Horrors
 Players Workshop Theater, times vary
 PlayersWorkShopTheater.com

3 - Comedy Thursday: Mike Armstrong/
 BlindStein
 Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 PM
 BurlingtonRiverfront.com

4 - Manufacturers Appreciation Luncheon
 Burlington Golf Club
 Doors Open 11 AM, Lunch served 11:30 AM
 GreaterBurlington.com

4 - 6 - Nosferatu with Radiohead
 Capitol Performing Arts Center
 times vary
 LiveAtTheCapitol.com

4 - Artist Reception
 Art Center of Burlington, 5 - 8 PM
 BTownArt.com

4 - Friday Lounge: Randy & Dave
 Busted Cup Brewhouse, 5 - 8 PM
 BustedCup.com

4 - Friday Night Art Hop
 Art Center of Burlington, 6 - 7:30 PM
 BTownArt.com

5 - That's Yesterday's News
 Burlington Public Library, 10 AM
 Burlington.Lib.ia.us

5 - Oktoberfest
 Community Field, 4 - 10 PM
 Facebook.com/
 burlingtonnoonliionsoktoberfest

5 - Dinner & A Movie: Goodfellas
 Corked 101/Capitol Theater, 5 PM
 Facebook.com/corked101

9 - Candidate Forum
 Greater Burlington Partnership
 4 - 6 PM
 GreaterBurlington.com

10 - Business After Hours
 La Boheme, 5 - 7 PM
 GreaterBurlington.com

11 - Elton Dan & the Rocket Band
 Capitol Performing Arts Center, 7:30 PM
 LiveAtTheCapitol.com

12 - Viking Mississippi
 Port of Burlington, 8 AM
 Facebook.com/visitburlingtoniowa

12 - Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra
 Capitol Performing Arts Center, 7:30 PM
 SEISO.us

13 - Sidekick Baseball Game
 Community Field, 1:30 PM
 Facebook.com/
 throughjoshuaseyesdesmoinescounty

16 - Farmers & Merchants Bank & Trust
 Lunch & Learn
 1204 Washington St, 11:30 AM - 1 PM
 ear@fmbanktrust.bank

17 - Candidate Forum
 Greater Burlington Partnership
 4 - 6 PM
 GreaterBurlington.com

18 - 20 - Hetta Gilbert Annual Sale
 Westland Mall, hours vary
 Facebook.com/hettagilbert

18 - Disaster at 39,000 Feet
 Burlington Public Library, 10 AM
 Burlington.Lib.ia.us

18 - Pumpkinpalooza
 Burlington Public Library, 1 PM
 Burlington.Lib.ia.us

18 - Friday Night Art Hop
 Art Center of Burlington, 6 - 8 PM
 BTownArt.com

18 - Jefferson Street Cruise Night
 Downtown Burlington, 5 - 10 PM

18 - Witches Night Out
 Downtown Burlington, 5 - 8 PM
 Facebook.com/downtownburlingtoniowa

18 - Burlington Civic Music: Rhapsody &
 the Blues
 Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 PM
 BurlCivicMusic.org

18 - Friday Lounge: Midwest
 Chouling Pianos
 Busted Cup Brewhouse, 8 - 11 PM
 BustedCup.com

19 - Track or Treat
 34raceway, 2 - 4 PM
 34Raceway.com

19 - An Evening with Garth & Trisha
 Legacy Theater, Carthage, IL, 7 PM
 TheLegacyTheater.com

23 - Coffee with the Chamber
 Mississippi Moon Ice Cream Parlor
 8 - 9 AM
 GreaterBurlington.com

24 - Viking Mississippi
 Port of Burlington, 8 AM
 Facebook.com/visitburlingtoniowa

25 - Downtown Trick or Treat
 Downtown Burlington, 4 - 6 PM
 Facebook.com/downtownburlingtoniowa

25 - The Rocky Horror Picture Show
 Capitol Performing Arts Center, 10 PM
 LiveAtTheCapitol.com

26 - Vice Night
 Art Center of Burlington, 6 - 8 PM
 BTownArt.com

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ARTIST TO ARTIST

SEPTEMBER 2, 6 - 8 PM | THE ART CENTER OF BURLINGTON

Attention area artists - Art Center of Burlington will host October's ARTIST to ARTIST, a group for working artists to network with other area artists and discuss challenges and opportunities in the area art scene.

The Art Center of Burlington and the Fort Madison Area Arts Association will alternate hosting the group to give each group further reach. If you are an artist, please consider sharing your point of view - and a piece of your work for discussion & feedback - with the group. You belong here!

For more information, follow the Art Center on Facebook or visit: BTownArt.com.

FRIDAY LOUNGE LIVE FEATURING RANDY & DAVE

OCTOBER 4, 5 - 8 PM | THE BUSTED CUP BREWHOUSE

It's Friday - that means it's time to unwind at The Busted Cup with local craft brews & custom cocktails, delicious appetizers and live music!

This week: Come sing along with Randy & Dave, covering all your favorite tunes in the upstairs lounge! For more information, follow Busted Cup Brewhouse on Facebook or visit: BustedCup.com.

AN EVENING WITH GARTH & TRISHA

OCTOBER 19, 7 - 9 PM | THE LEGACY THEATER

Shawn Gerhard's live performance is an unrivaled celebration of Garth Brooks that has ignited crowds across the country. Now Shawn returns to the Legacy Theater along with the incredible Amy Pelton, bringing country music fans an unparalleled duet experience with the music of Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood. Tickets are \$40, online and at the Legacy box office.

For more information, follow The Legacy Theater on Facebook or visit: TheLegacyTheater.com.

2024 TRI-STATE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

OCTOBER 2, 1 PM AND OCTOBER 3, 4 PM

CATFISH BEND CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

The Summit offers engaging break-out sessions, valuable networking events, and critical insights into the economic development priorities that our task forces and community members are championing. Whether you're a local leader, business owner, or community advocate, this event is your chance to be part of the conversation that shapes our region's growth and prosperity.

Don't miss out on this exceptional opportunity—register today and participate in something truly impactful! For more details and to secure your spot, visit our registration page. Let's work together to drive our region forward!

Register at <https://culver.edu/tsd/meetings-and-events>.

GREAT TASTES

NOVEMBER 1, 5:30 - 8:30 PM

CATFISH BEND CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

At Great Tastes, you get to have a fun night out while raising money for an important cause.

Enjoy a wide variety of wines, beer, and ales and fill your plate with mouth-watering dishes.

Bid on fun silent and live auction items, win big, and leave the event knowing you've made a major difference in students' lives, just by having fun.

Net proceeds fund scholarships, instructional mini-grants, and other important SCC initiatives.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Submit member information, to Brenda Levitt at blevitt@greaterburlington.com

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