



**HIAWATHA NAMES NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR**



**Chris Stoner**  
Director  
Public Library

The Hiawatha Library is excited to welcome Chris Stoner as its new Library Director. Stoner's appointment follows a selection process that involved input from library staff, city officials, and directors of neighboring libraries. He succeeds the former Director, Jeaneal Weeks.

Chris Stoner brings a wealth of experience to his new role, having earned a Bachelor's degree in English and Writing from Coe College and a Master's in Library & Information Science from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. He started his journey in the Hiawatha Library as a part-time Circulation Clerk in 2019, climbing the ranks to Operations Manager in January 2023.

Stoner's commitment to community engagement and his in-depth knowledge of the library's operations made him a promising choice. With his guidance, the Hiawatha Library aims to evolve to meet the changing needs of the community, providing an inclusive and innovative space for all.

Stoner's rise from Circulation Clerk to Library Director demonstrates not only his personal growth but also the Hiawatha Library's dedication to nurturing talent within the organization. His unique perspective will shape the library's future positively.

The Hiawatha Library is excited about the future under Chris Stoner's leadership. For more information or to connect with Director Chris Stoner, please contact the Hiawatha Library at 319-393-1414.

**JASON MILLER: A BEACON OF SUPPORT FOR THE HIAWATHA COMMUNITY**



**Jason Miller**  
Mental Health Liaison  
Police Department

On September 21, 2023, the Hiawatha Police Department had the pleasure of welcoming our newest team member, Mental Health Liaison Jason Miller. While Jason may be a familiar face to some, having assisted the Hiawatha Police Department as a Mental Health Liaison through Foundation 2 for the past two years, now he's bringing his extensive 20+ years of experience in mental health and his proud status as a military veteran to our dedicated police department.

Jason's role is unique, designed to bridge the gap between law enforcement and individuals dealing with mental health challenges in Hiawatha. It's important to clarify that Jason isn't a police officer, counselor, or therapist. Instead, he connects residents with the vast range of resources available, ensuring that every resident in Hiawatha receives the support they need.

Jason's impact is already apparent in numerous areas. He's been a lifeline for residents seeking substance abuse counseling, food assistance, housing, furniture, grief counseling services, resources for the elderly, and connections to services for juveniles, victims, and veterans, among countless other areas of support.

Jason's dedication and approach have consistently earned the admiration of those he's worked with. Despite his relatively short time assisting the police department, he's already made a significant difference in the range of services provided to the residents of Hiawatha. To put it in perspective, in his two years working alongside the police department, Jason has made over 700 contacts and helped 270 individuals and families find the resources they need, showing us the tangible impact of his efforts.

In a community like ours, where having access to the right resources can be a game-changer, Jason Miller stands as a beacon of support. He ensures that no one in Hiawatha faces their challenges in isolation. His presence is a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Hiawatha Police Department to the well-being of our community members. Jason is not just a liaison; he's a friend and advocate who's here to make a real difference in your life.

## FURNACE MAINTENANCE TIPS

**During the winter, your home's furnace is crucial for keeping your family warm and safe. To ensure it operates efficiently and without any risks, follow these essential maintenance tips:**

**Early Maintenance:** To prevent unexpected furnace failures on the coldest nights, be proactive. Conduct furnace maintenance at least once a year, preferably before the heating season starts. Consider a second check in the spring as well.

**Visual Inspection:** Before performing any work on your furnace, visually inspect it. Ensure the venting pipe and other tubes are securely fastened and properly angled. Also, check for any gas leaks by smelling for the odor of rotten eggs.

**Check Thermostat Wires:** After turning off the power and removing the furnace doors, gently pull on the thermostat wires to ensure they are tightly connected.

**Dust and Vacuum:** Dust, dirt, and debris can hinder your furnace's performance. Use a soft tipped paintbrush to gently remove dust and debris from the furnace's inner components. Then, use a portable vacuum to remove the loosened material.

**Ongoing Maintenance:** Remember to replace the furnace filter regularly. Typically, it should be changed every month, unless the manufacturer provides different instructions.

**Consider Professional Help:** If you feel uncomfortable or lack the necessary skills to handle furnace maintenance tasks, hire a professional technician. Even if you do some maintenance yourself, having a professional inspect the system can ensure it runs properly and safely.

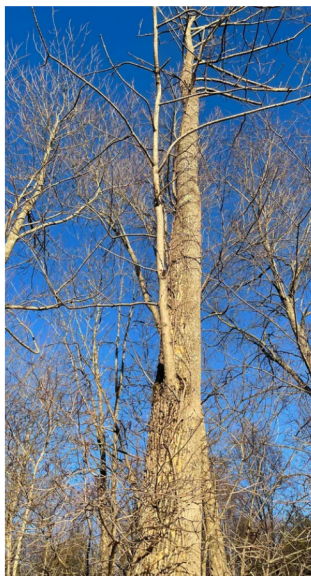


### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME REMINDERS: CLOCKS, ALARMS AND WATER VALVE MAINTENANCE

On Nov. 5, 2023, clocks will fall back one hour. It's also a good time to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms for proper functioning. For water customers, it's advised to exercise the valves near your water meter. These valves help isolate the meter for maintenance or address water leaks on your property. Closing them slowly and reopening them can prevent malfunctioning. The Water Department can help locate your curb stop in emergencies, but after-hours assistance may come with an extra charge. Properly maintained valves can save time and money. For questions, contact the Hiawatha Water Department at 319-393-5556.

### DO YOU HAVE ASH TREES ON YOUR PROPERTY?

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has taken hold in Hiawatha, inflicting severe damage on ash trees by tunneling beneath the bark. Signs of infestation include cracked bark, branch dieback, and woodpecker-induced "flecking." Flecking starts in the upper canopy and spreads down the tree trunk, signaling the need for prompt removal. Infested trees become brittle and hazardous, necessitating quick removal. Homeowners with ash trees are urged to consult an arborist for inspection. Treatment options exist but require ongoing attention. Soil treatments are discouraged. Diversifying the urban tree canopy helps mitigate pest infestations. Planting less common tree species is advised, as maple trees are overly prevalent and should be avoided due to overpopulation.



### RECEIVE SNOW PARKING NOTIFICATIONS THIS WINTER

The City of Hiawatha would like to ensure you know the parking regulations during snow and ice removal operations. Removing vehicles off city streets improves efficiency and safety for street crews and first responders. The City may declare a snow ordinance based on several factors, including snow, sleet, freezing rain and blowing snow. When this snow ordinance goes into effect, the following applies:

- No parking on a city street, alley, or city-owned off-street parking once the snow ordinance is declared.
- Once declared, a snow ordinance is in effect until the snow has stopped falling and City streets are fully cleared.
- When a snow ordinance is in effect, the declaration will be communicated through the following channels:
  - In the *Latest News* section of the City's website
  - Text and E-mail alerts
  - Via City of Hiawatha Facebook channels
  - Via local news channels and radio stations

Scan to sign up for  
City of Hiawatha Alerts!



## City Hall & Library HOLIDAY CLOSURES

November 23 - 24  
December 24 - 26  
December 31  
January 1 - 2

## HIAWATHA COUNCILMEMBER HONORED AS 2023 LGBTQ LEGACY LEADER



On September 14, 2023, Hiawatha Councilmember Aime Wichtendahl was one of six lowan's honored as a Des Moines Magazine 2023 LGBTQ Legacy Leader. The fifth annual award honors LGBTQ lowans and allies who have made Iowa a better place to call home.

The inspiration for Aime to run for Hiawatha City Council came during a tattoo appointment. The owner of the tattoo parlor told Aime that the city was forcing her business to move. Aime didn't agree with this decision, and thus her first campaign was started pledging to support small business.

In Aime's two terms as a councilmember, she's centered on a variety of everyday issues including property taxes, multifamily housing and new parks. Though she deliberates the big picture, also, including Iowa's so-called "brain drain." "A lot of times, local government is really focused on economic development. But how do you keep people in the state when the state government is doing everything they can to push people out?" she said. "Bigotry disguised as policy can't be allowed to stand."

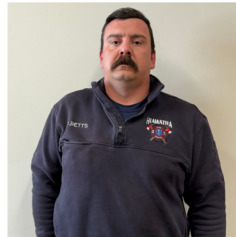
While accepting the Des Moines Magazine 2023 LGBTQ Legacy Leader recognition, she said "To the great people of the city of Hiawatha, thank you for bestowing your trust on me for these past 8 years. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you and I can only hope that I've done some small measure to make our community a better place to live, work and play."

Aime became the first transgender lowan elected to public office in 2015 when she was one of five candidates running for only three seats on the Hiawatha City Council. Aime ended up winning with the most votes in that 2015 Council race, it's no surprise that she was reelected in 2019. Congratulations, Aime!

# MEET the TEAM



**Brentt Stepanek**  
Code Enforcement  
Community Development



**Josh Betts**  
Fire Medic  
Fire Department



**Jaden Rosa**  
Circulation Clerk  
Hiawatha Public Library



**Alex Schmiechen**  
Circulation Clerk  
Hiawatha Public Library

## VOTE. YOUR VOICE MATTERS

### ELECTION TIMELINE

Date Event

**11/04** Last day to vote at Cedar Rapids Library,  
450 5th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**11/05** Last day to vote at Lindale Mall,  
4444 1st Ave NE, Cedar Rapids  
Tuesday - Saturday, 11:00 AM - 6:30 PM,  
Sunday, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**11/06** Last day to vote early at the Auditor's  
office, 935 2nd St SW, Cedar Rapids  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**11/07** Election Day  
Polling places are open 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM  
Absentee ballots must be received by  
Linn County Election services by 8:00 PM.

### WHERE DO I VOTE ON ELECTION DAY, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023?

**FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE**

Online: [www.linncountyelections.org/lookup/](http://www.linncountyelections.org/lookup/)  
Email: [elections@linncountyiowa.gov](mailto:elections@linncountyiowa.gov)  
Call: 319-892-5300 extension 1

### HIAWATHA HISTORY MYSTERY



Have you ever wondered about this intriguing structure in Hiawatha? Curious about its purpose and its specific whereabouts in our town? The answer will be revealed in December's issue of the Hiawatha Insights!

**Hiawatha's 75th Anniversary: How Should We Celebrate?**  
2025 marks a significant milestone for our beloved town, as Hiawatha celebrates our 75th year of incorporation! It's a momentous occasion that deserves a memorable celebration. But the big question is, how should we commemorate this historic event? To share your ideas and suggestions for Hiawatha's 75th-anniversary, please reach out to Marilyn James at 319-721-7077. Let's come together as a community and make this milestone a truly unforgettable experience for all!

## Hiawatha BUSINESS Summit

## ESG Plan Do You Have One?

Join HEDCO for an end of the year happy hour and panel discussion around ESG plans. Learn how others are navigating this large scope of work along with what it means for the future of business.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**STILLWATER COFFEE COMPANY, 1275 N CENTER POINT RD**

**REGISTER AT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/48S4IB0](https://bit.ly/48S4IB0)**



## STAY UP TO DATE WITH PROJECTS AND DETOURS AT [WWW.HIAWATHA-IOWA.COM](http://WWW.HIAWATHA-IOWA.COM) UNDER THE "NEWS" SECTION



Northwood/Nixon Crosswalk



Restroom at Turtle Creek Park

**Northwood/Nixon Crosswalk** - This summer, a new sidewalk was installed on the south side of Northwood Drive from Robins Road east to Nixon Drive. Likewise, the City replaced the sidewalk on Nixon Drive, from Northwood Drive up to Nixon Elementary. The new sidewalk crossing at Nixon Drive, provides a safe pathway for all pedestrians, especially with the amount of traffic that travels along Northwood Drive.

A marked crosswalk or pedestrian warning sign can improve safety for pedestrians crossing the road, but at times may not be sufficient for drivers to visibly locate crossing locations and yield to pedestrians. To enhance pedestrian conspicuity and increase driver awareness at uncontrolled, marked crosswalks, Hiawatha installed a pedestrian actuated Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) to accompany the pedestrian warning sign. Research suggests RRFB's can result in motorist yielding rates as high as 98 percent at marked crosswalks. Pedestrians are encouraged to activate the flashing pattern with the pushbutton located on the poles on both sides of the street.

**Turtle Creek Park** - Hufcutt out of Wisconsin delivered and installed the concrete restroom facility at Turtle Creek Park on September 27th. This 60,000lb structure features two unisex restrooms. Plumbing, water and electrical will be completed over the next couple of months. The facility will remain closed through fall and winter but will open at the start of the 2024 season!

**Blairs Ferry Road Sidewalk** - The city of Hiawatha is working with Anderson-Bogert Consultants to complete the sidewalk infill on Blairs Ferry Road from North Center Point Road east to the city limits by Scott's Family Restaurant. This is part of a much larger project with Cedar Rapids to provide sidewalk infill on both the north and south sides of Blairs Ferry Road from Interstate 380 east to C Avenue. Hiawatha's portion includes a 6-foot wide sidewalk that will be ADA compliant including curb ramps at C Avenue. We recognize this project is long overdue, but are excited to team with Cedar Rapids to finalize all of the missing sidewalk along Blairs Ferry Road. This project is expected to bid in February with construction beginning in April 2024. While there will certainly be traffic delays along Blairs Ferry Road through the construction season of 2024, the completion of the sidewalks will be a welcome addition to both communities as we strive for better walkability on our public roadway system.

**Blairs Ferry and 18th Ave Improvements** - The city of Cedar Rapids has been working on the design of roadway improvements at the intersection of Blairs Ferry Road and 18th Avenue for the past couple of years. These improvements include a new road south of Blairs Ferry Road to connect to a private drive at The Fountains. The new roadway is called Accel Drive Avenue. In addition to the new roadway, new traffic signals will be installed, as well as ADA improvements. A new center median will be installed from 18th Avenue west to Edgewood Road. All work should be completed by mid to late November, pending no utility or weather delays.

### UPDATE TO RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE SPECIALTY LICENSE

The State has realigned licensure requirements for residential daycares and as a result cities in our area are adjusting their zoning and home occupancy limits to match the new rules. There are two significant changes; (1) increasing the unlicensed daycare limit from 5 to 6 children, (2) increasing the residential child care allowance to 16 children rather than 11. The purpose of the State increasing these limits is to allow for and encourage more residential child care for which there is presently a shortage in Iowa.

The Council has reviewed the new State rules for licensing residential childcare providers. The more significant of the two State changes is allowing up to 16 children as opposed to 11 children for a maximum capacity. The new state rules implement five different levels of licensure with various maximum allowances for capacity. Licensure begins when the daycare has more than 6 children. Various levels of licensure include maximums of 8, 12, and 16 children, depending on services provided, space, and staff qualifications.

Our present allowance in Ordinance 165.25 is only up to 11 children; however, the Board of Adjustment (BOA) recently approved a daycare with a limit of 12 children in order to match the proposed state licensure allowance. At the BOA meeting, the members expressed interest in adjusting the allowance to 16 children to match the new maximum state licensure for home daycares.

Council has voted in agreement and is adding the State rule reference and language to the amended ordinance. The new ordinance will allow all licensed "Child Development Home" licenses. This will allow up to 16 children in a properly licensed "Child Development Home C (2 providers)". This aligns Ordinance 165.25 with the State rules for licensure and staffing requirements.





# books and baked goods sale

NOVEMBER 18 10:00 - 1:00

Bargain prices on books and magazines for all ages

All sales enable Hiawatha Public Library to continue to offer free and dynamic programming opportunities

150 W Willman, Hiawatha 52233

TRIM THE TREE with **Ukulele!** All Ages!

Holiday Ukulele "Crash" Course  
November 14, 21, & 29  
5:30 - 6:30 pm | \$50

*Learn ukulele basics and a few Holiday Favorites. Then you are invited to join us at the*

**Hiawatha Tree Lighting**  
November 30 | 5:30 pm  
<https://bit.ly/HiawathaUke>



## ENROLL TODAY

to receive **FREE BOOKS** delivered right to your front door

If you live in Hiawatha and you are 5 years or younger, you're eligible to join Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and receive a free book each month delivered right to your home!

Scan to register today!



Need more information?  
Contact Youth Services Librarian  
Alicia Mangin at 319.393.1414 or  
[amangin@hiawatha-iowa.com](mailto:amangin@hiawatha-iowa.com)



<https://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability/>

## TOYS FOR TOTS TOY DRIVE



**DONATE NEW TOYS TO GIVE CHILDREN A BETTER HOLIDAY**

Drop-Off Location:  
Hiawatha City Hall  
101 Emmons Street  
Hiawatha, IA 52233

**ACCEPTING DONATIONS UNTIL THURSDAY, DECEMBER 07**



### SAVE THESE DATES!

**Tree Lighting Ceremony & Pictures with Santa**  
November 30th at 5:30 PM  
Village Center Plaza

**Holiday Lights Parade**  
December 14th at 5:30 PM  
Route announced in December's Insights



Iowa Junior Duck Stamp 2023 Winners Traveling Display



Best of Show: Sevriena Postma – Sioux Center, IA  
**NOVEMBER 16TH - 28TH**  
150 W WILLMAN, HIAWATHA



The Friends of Hiawatha Parks & Recreation Foundation's 6th Annual Reindeer Run benefitting Hiawatha Parks & Special Events is December 2nd at 9:00 AM at Fay M. Clark Memorial Park!

**3-Mile Fun Run & Prizes for Best Dressed!**  
Sign up today at [reindeerrun2023.eventbrite.com](https://reindeerrun2023.eventbrite.com)



The Hiawatha Police Department was awarded the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) grant, a state-funded initiative aimed at enhancing traffic safety. This grant provides additional compensation to officers for enforcing traffic regulations beyond their regularly scheduled shifts. This approach reduces call-related responsibilities, ensuring that officers can focus on maintaining road safety without compromising their availability for emergencies. Grant requirements are determined based on vehicle crash data, with speeding, seat belt compliance, and impaired driving being the main areas of concern. Particular emphasis is placed on impaired driving enforcement during holidays and special events. Prioritizing impaired driving enforcement during these periods is a crucial step in enhancing the safety of our community.

- ## VOLUME 184
- ### November Calendar
- 01 Mahjong 2:00 - 4:00 PM
  - 01 Friendship Craft Club 6:00-8:00 PM
  - 02 Scrabble Club 1:00 - 4:00 PM
  - 02 Mystery Book Club 2:00 PM
  - 04 319 Reptiles 10:30 AM
  - 04 Paranormal Video 3:00 PM
  - 06 Preschool Story Time 10:00 AM
  - 08 Mahjong 2:00 - 4:00 PM
  - 08 Expressive Arts 10:00 AM
  - 08 Friendship Craft Club 6:00 - 8:00 PM
  - 09 Scrabble Club 1:00 PM
  - 10 Fall Crafts for Kids 3:15 PM
  - 13 Preschool Story Time 10:00 AM
  - 13 Scrabble Club 5:30 PM
  - 13 Paws to Read 6:30 - 7:00 PM
  - 14 Tuesday Tales 10:00 AM
  - 15 Mahjong 2:00 - 4:00 PM
  - 15 Friendship Craft Club 6:00 - 8:00 PM
  - 16 Scrabble Club 1:00 PM
  - 16 Tweens Cross Stitching 4:00 PM
  - 16 Free Pound Fitness 6:00 PM
  - 16 Comic Book Club 7:00 PM
  - 17 Doodlebugs 10:30 AM
  - 18 Books & Baked Goods Sale 10:00 AM
  - 21 Hiawatha Business Summit 4:00 PM
  - 21 Candlelight Yoga 5:30 PM
  - 22 Mahjong 2:00 PM
  - 22 Friendship Craft Club 6:00 - 8:00 PM
  - 23 Scrabble Club 1:00 - 4:00 PM
  - 23 City Hall & Library Closed
  - 24 City Hall & Library Closed
  - 27 Preschool Storytime 9:00 AM
  - 28 Tuesday Tales 10:00 AM
  - 29 Mahjong 2:00 PM
  - 29 Friendship Craft Club 6:00 PM
  - 30 Scrabble Club 1:00 PM
  - 30 Tree Lighting Ceremony 5:30 PM
- For additional information visit [www.Hiawatha-Iowa.com/calendar](http://www.Hiawatha-Iowa.com/calendar)

**3 Letters from SANTA**

LET US KNOW IF YOUR CHILD WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A PERSONALIZED LETTER FROM SANTA THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Register at <https://bit.ly/3TOYgpE>

**DELIVER BY  
WEDNESDAY,  
11/01/2023**

# Postal Customer Hiawatha, Iowa 52233

PRSR STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Hiawatha, IA  
Permit No. 33  
**ECRWSS**

## HIAWATHA COUNCIL ACTION

The Hiawatha City Council meeting minutes may be obtained online at [www.Hiawatha-iowa.com/government/city-council-documents/](http://www.Hiawatha-iowa.com/government/city-council-documents/) or by request to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall at 319-393-1515 x526.

### September 20, 2023

#### Resolution #23-170

Sewer Waiver

#### Resolution #23-171

Law Enforcement Mental

Health Liaison Position

#### Resolution #23-172-173

Blairs Ferry Rd Sidewalk

### October 4, 2023

#### Proclamation

Fire Prevention Week 2023

#### Ordinance #996

Chapter 163 Housing Code Sec 163.05

#### Ordinance #997

Chapter 164 Property Maintenance

#### Ordinance #998

Chapter 165 Unified Development Code

#### Ordinance #999

Chapter 166 Sign Code

#### Resolution #23-174

Setting Public Hearing

#### Resolution #23-175

Authorizing Law Enforcement

Liaison Car

#### Resolution #23-176

Intent to reimburse police vehicle

#### Resolution #23-177

GEMT Consulting Firm Renewal

#### Resolution #23-178

Edgewood Village First Addition improvements

#### Resolution #23-179 - #23-180

Northwood Dr Storm Sewer

Project

#### Resolution #23-181

Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau Contract

## LEAVES COLLECTION



Leaves must be bagged and placed along the curb by 7:00 AM

## November Meeting Calendar

01	City Council	5:30 PM
13	History Commission	1:30 PM
13	Board of Adjustment	5:30 PM
14	Parks Commission	5:30 PM
14	Library Board	7:00 PM
15	City Council	5:30 PM
21	Water Board	5:30 PM
27	Planning and Zoning	5:30 PM

**Hiawatha!**  
Say hello to a great place to live, work and play.

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
City Manager	Dennis Marks	319-393-1515 x523	dmarks@hiawatha-iowa.com
City Clerk	Kari Graber	319-393-1515 x526	kgraberehiawatha-iowa.com
Finance Director	Cindy Kudrna	319-393-1515 x522	ckudrna@hiawatha-iowa.com
Parks & Recreation Director	Kelly Willadsen	319-393-1515 x251	kwilladsenehiawatha-iowa.com
Community Development Director	Patrick Parsley	319-393-1515 x229	pparsley@hiawatha-iowa.com
City Engineer	Jon Fitch	319-393-1515 x528	jfitch@hiawatha-iowa.com
Public Works Superintendent	Rod Jasa	319-393-6601	rjasa@hiawatha-iowa.com
Water Superintendent	Marty Recker	319-393-1515 x232	mrecker@hiawatha-iowa.com
Police Chief	Ben Kamm	319-393-1212	chief@hiawathapolice.com
Fire Chief	Matt Powers	319-393-4180	mkpowers@hiawatha-iowa.com
Library Director	Chris Stoner	319-393-1414	cstoner@hiawatha-iowa.com

For more information about City of Hiawatha and its services, call 319-393-1515 or visit [www.hiawatha-iowa.com](http://www.hiawatha-iowa.com)

## CITY COUNCIL | City of Hiawatha Regular Council Meetings are the first and third Wednesday of each month.



**MAYOR  
BILL BENNETT**

mayor@hiawatha-iowa.com



**COUNCIL MEMBER  
JERRY MOHWINKLE**

jmohwinkle@hiawatha-iowa.com



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