

Good

NEIGHBORS

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EASTTROY.ORG

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East Troy 2023: All Your Questions Answered

Our third annual Q&A issue combines two vital things: the real-life concerns of our readers and the knowledge and expertise of our community members. We asked for all of your burning

questions about East Troy ... What is new in East Troy? How did we get the East Troy Village Square? What are some fascinating facts about our town? We did our best to get the bottom of it for you.

Q: How did we get the Village Square?

The East Troy area was settled in 1836, when a man known as H. Roberts began construction of a sawmill on the shores of Honey Creek. The area quickly grew and in the span of only four years, also included a hotel, general store, blacksmith, chapel, school (held in the chapel), post office, doctor, lawyer and justice of the peace.

In order to encourage growth of the community, early settlers Jacob Burgit and Austin McCracken offered a free

lot to anyone who would build upon it. The public East Troy Village Square was deeded in perpetuity to the village.

Today, East Troy Village Square Park continues to serve as the centerpiece for the community and hosts festivals and band concerts, as well as the residents and visitors who stop to enjoy its historic charm.

Q: When is the East Troy Lions Fourth of July Festival?

The East Troy Lions Club will hold its annual Fourth of July Celebration

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

East Troy Schools facing deep cuts, look to community for help

Why should I vote April 4?

By Vanessa Lenz
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We've all been told since elementary school that voting is our civic duty.

While high profile national elections draw large numbers of voters, participation in local elections are traditionally low.

If you care about East Troy, casting a vote in local elections on April 4 is a must.

East Troy Community School District residents will see a referendum question that will play a major role in the future of

East Troy schools.

The East Troy Community School District is asking voters to approve a referendum for operating expenses that would help continue funding its day-to-day operations, including paying for staff.

District officials are facing a financial squeeze with state education funding not allowing it to keep pace with rising expenses, but they're hopeful East Troy's voters will ease the burden with additional funding.

"The district has reached a point where it is impossible to support our students by

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

A look at East Troy Schools' traditions



The East Troy Community School District has a rich history of traditions with many alumni listing Homecoming Week as a favorite.

PHOTO SUBMITTED Good Neighbors

The East Troy Community School District has a rich history of traditions, some common and others ... are one of a kind.

We ask locals to share some of their favorites.

ETHS Homecoming Parade

One of the most popular traditions among East Troy High School students and alumni alike is the Homecoming Parade – the culmination of a week-long series of school spirited events.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

How does East Troy keep bringing the magic?

Interactive light show shines bright in third season

This winter, downtown East Troy once again transformed into a holiday wonderland and delivered big results with the much-anticipated return of East Troy Lights.

The interactive and imaginative light display experience transported visitors to

a dazzling display of lights utilizing the backdrop of the historic East Troy Village Square.

For the entire month of December, people flocked to the square to walk through the lights and create their own holiday magic with the brand-new Candy Cane Adventure.

Vanessa Lenz, East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director (which presents East Troy Lights) and Jamie Rohrer, East Troy Lights Show Creator, give us an inside look at East Troy Lights 2022 and why they keep coming back for more.

Q: Describe year three of East Troy Lights in no more than five words.

Jamie Rohrer:

What?! 5 Words? Pretty great!

Vanessa Lenz:

Impressive. Magical. Memorable!

Q: What made it so great?

Jamie Rohrer:

Hmm. Well, every year we like to try a number of new ideas. Some ideas have been more successful or interesting than others. This year I think we really hit a good sweet spot with the light show interactivity by introducing the wands/ Candy Cane Adventure.

Although we still are only just dipping into the potential of what we're capable of, the response from most kids/adults was overwhelmingly positive.

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The temperatures dropped for the occasion but it didn't stop East Troy from bundling up in layers to welcome Santa, Mrs. Claus and their entourage to the East Troy Village Square. Santa helped the East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce launch year three of East Troy Lights – a month-long interactive light show.

LAUREN & ANDY PHOTOGRAPHY Good Neighbors



Jamie Rohrer, East Troy Lights creator, helps students in the Smart Lab at Little Prairie Primary School register their wands.

VANESSA LENZ Good Neighbors

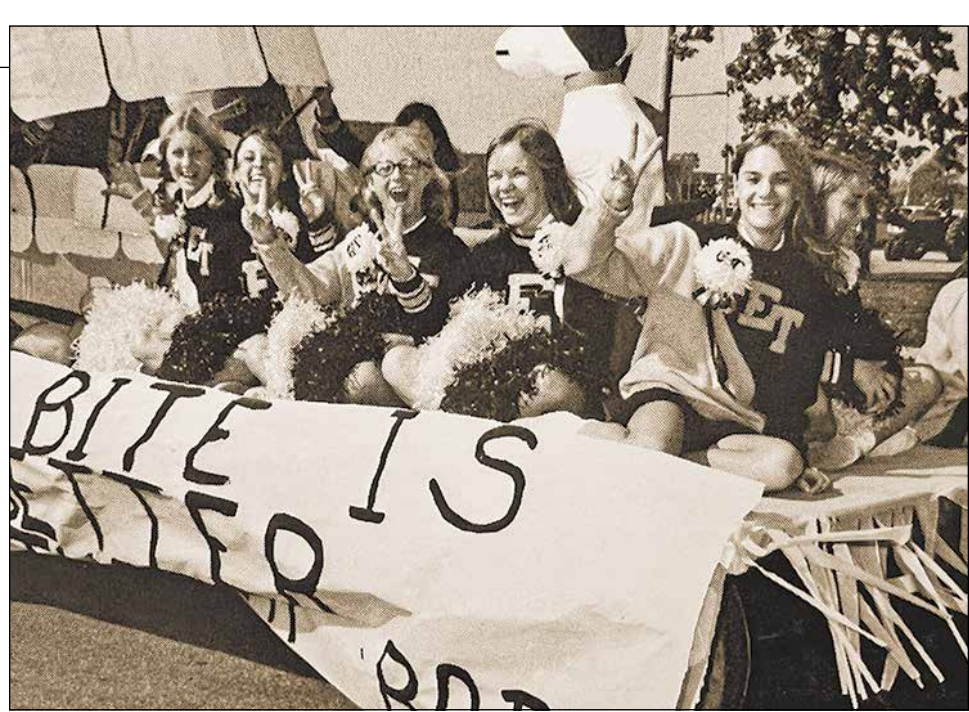
Students show their school spirit by decorating downtown windows and designing impressive floats for fans who line up hours before the ETHS Homecoming football game kickoff to cheer and wish their beloved Trojans the best of luck on their way to victory.

School lunch (specifically German Hamburger Rolls)

Remember entering the school lunch room, excited to see what the friendly school cooks were going to drop on your tray with a friendly smile and gentle hands wrapped in black latex gloves?

Would it be the dreaded fish sandwich, popular pizza squares or a grilled cheese? Most East Troy alumni would agree that the absolute best feeling was the day the beloved German Hamburger Roll was on the menu.

It was such a popular item that East Troy Brewery has made it a pop up menu item in recent years. St. Peter's School featured



clockwise from left: The East Troy Area Historical Society Museum is filled with glimpses from past Homecoming celebrations like this this shot from a 1980s ETHS yearbook, this ETHS Cheer photo circa 1973 and this Homecoming Parade photo circa 1966 (donated by Bev Pinch). Students in Mrs. Katie Jeske's second grade class pose for a class photo in the new sleigh after hanging ornaments on mini trees at East Troy Village Square Park in preparation for Santa's arrival on the first Saturday in December and the debut of East Troy Lights.

EAST TROY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Good Neighbors*

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EAST TROY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT | FAQ's



What?

The East Troy Community School District is seeking an Operational Referendum on April 4, 2023. The most urgent need is to fund the day-to-day operations of the school district to help maintain programming and staffing.



Why?

Despite \$10 million plus of budget balancing efforts over the last 16 years, expenses continue to increase and outpace revenue. A budget gap is predicted for the foreseeable future. This is not unique to East Troy: Many school districts have and continue to face the same issue.



Scan the QR code for more information

When should I vote?

The residents of the East Troy Community School District should look for the school referendum question when they vote on the April 4, 2023 general election ballot, either in person or absentee.

DEEP CUTS • CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

sustaining our current high level of programming and services without additional operating revenue,” said East Troy School Board President Ted Zess.

The East Troy Community School District answered the following Frequently Asked Questions about what’s on the ballot.

Q: What is the school district asking for?

The District is seeking an Operational Referendum: The most urgent need is to fund the day-to-day operations of the school district.

The East Troy Community School District Board of Education is requesting \$3 million each of the next three years with an estimated school tax mill rate impact of \$1.40 per year per \$1,000 of property value (or about \$23 a month for \$200,000 worth of real estate).

Currently, the district’s rate of taxation is below the state average.

Q: Why is this necessary?

The East Troy School District does not have enough predictable and stable funding to maintain quality educational opportunities for students, attract and retain quality staff in an ever-competitive labor market, and simultaneously, adequately maintain its school facilities within the state-established revenue limits.

Like many districts in Wisconsin, there is a gap in operational funds to run the district’s day-to-day operations as revenues have not kept pace with inflation.

This state-wide problem has resulted in the East Troy Community School District doing \$10.2 million in budget balancing efforts over the course of the last 16 years and deferring some large-scale maintenance needs.

Q: How has this affected staffing?

Keeping and attracting high quality staff is a high priority: This past school year, the East Troy school district had 39 certified license staff leave for other career opportunities, for a total turn-over of 75 staff due to resignations and retirements.

Quality services happen by having quality staff. Education is a competitive market as public schools and private sector organizations are all working to attract and retain quality staff.

The School District of East Troy must represent stability per funding, provide proper staffing support, and offer competitive

salaries and benefits to keep our current staff, and attract high quality staff in the future.

Q: How has the district managed to make it this far without additional funding?

The district addressed a budget deficit of over \$779,000 in the 2021-2022 school year, and a \$1,169,069 deficit for the 2022-2023 school year.

The district has used federal pandemic relief funding (commonly called ESSER) to address student and staff safety, HVAC, student learning, and operations over the course of the last few years. A total of \$780,000 in funds were also used to help offset the 2022-2023 deficit but are no longer available.

The revenue cap gap is projected to continue. Expenses continue to increase and revenue lags behind. In addition, there was a two-year zero dollar allocation per pupil for Pk-12 public schools in the 2021-23 state budget.

An early estimate for the school year of 2023-24 has a structural deficit of \$2.3 million (this includes the ESSER expenses carried over from the 2022-23 school year) with ongoing deficits projected of \$3.5 million for 2024-25 and \$5.2 million for 2025-26.

Q: How has the district done its part to control local property taxes?

Over the course of the last nine years, school taxes have gone up on average of 1.03 percent per year.

In 2021-2022, the East Troy mill rate was \$7.29 as compared to \$10.42 in 2014-2015.

Q: This referendum is only helping to maintain current programming & staffing and does not address needed capital projects. How did the school board choose this route?

After much discussion among the board, two major themes came to the forefront: keeping operational as a high priority and controlling the tax impact.

Though the board recognizes the importance of addressing high priority facility needs, board members felt there should be only a single question given the tax impact if both the capital and operational were to be addressed at this time.

As a result, the East Troy School Board voted unanimously to set an operating referendum for the April 4 election.

Exploring East Troy Schools History

Q: How important was schooling to East Troy’s forefathers?

Believe it or not, East Troy public schools officially date back to 1840, with classes originally taking place in the “East Troy Chapel.”

This was just four years after East Troy officially became a village in 1836. And, due to the school’s popularity, the first official schoolhouse was built on Church Street just seven years later. Only nine years after that another larger school was built on Division Street.

In fact, schools were so important that throughout the East Troy region, 21 rural school rooms were established, each approximately four miles apart.

However, in 1952, with the introduction of

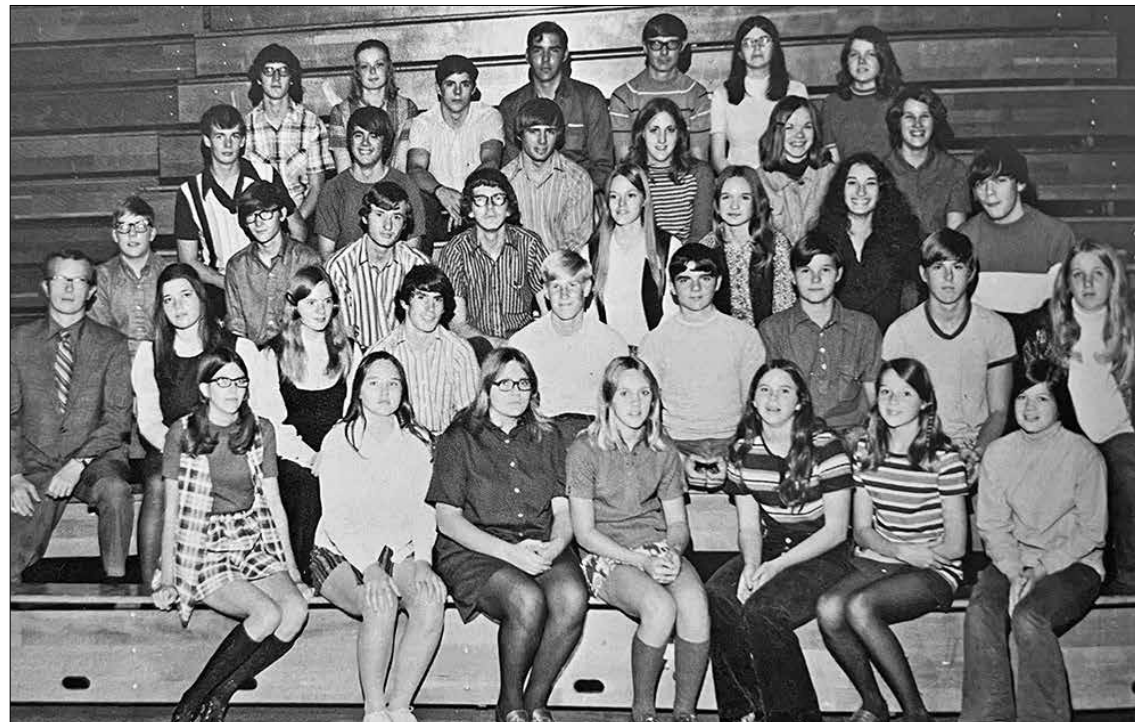
school buses, the school consolidated into what we now know as the “East Troy Community School District” creating a leaner, more economical model for schooling.

So, needless to say, East Troy’s forefathers devoted significant resources to schooling.

Q: Would I recognize any of the names from back then?

Absolutely. The East Troy Area Historical Society Museum has a swath of yearbooks and images from East Troy’s schools.

Many of the graduate’s names from these old classes would be recognized as the ancestors of today’s multi-generational residents (although maiden names may have changed).



Members of East Troy High School’s Class of 1972 recently celebrated their 50th reunion in 2022. Pictured are (Row 1, from left) E. Hardaker D. Kadow, T. Bresler, L. Clark, N. Cline, B. Barnes, L. Manley, (Row 2) Mr. Cox, Adviser, M. Stobber, C. Haskins, M. Brown, R. Gale, R. Greene, B. Nelson, R. Ohms, K. Middleton, (Row 3) B. Garvens, P. Madden, J. Hiller, M. Kilpin, C. Robertson, D. Saffran, C. Rosen, J. Barnes, (Row 4) B. Friemoth, M. Norton, R. Hotz, J. O’Leary, B. Trader, A. Omet, (Row 5) R. Lewandowski, L. Justin, D. Pluess, B. Bernau, S. Adsit, E. Manley and K. Anderson.

EAST TROY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Good Neighbors*

What does a Yes Vote mean for East Troy?

A. East Troy has been home to my family for five generations.

My husband David and I chose East Troy for our children because we value this community.

We value a rural upbringing in a vibrant community that offers many sports, clubs, extra-curriculars, church and civic organizations, employment.

We value our rural school with smaller classes, a variety of coursework offered including agriculture education, trades, apprenticeships and much more.

We value a place where people know you. They know your kids and they know your parents.



Anna Kostopoulos Janusz, Mom, alumni, community leader, tax payer

There’s a feeling of legacy in a community like East Troy. We see it in the physical spaces, the annual events, the names of people from families who have served here for generations.

My parents and grandparents instilled in me a love for my community, to give what I can and take what I need. We’re teaching our kids the same.

Public schools were created in this country to offer a comparable education to all children. The days of going to your local school are slipping away, as more parents shop around for schools, and schools struggle to retain the revenue needed to even stay comparable.

Our local school is a key component in the ecosystem of East Troy. A thriving, productive, safe, quality school brings families to our community. Those families spend money here and bolster our

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What's new on the square? Carpenter's Daughter opens up shop on south side

The East Troy Village Square welcomed its newest addition in January and owner Kim Price says her faith-based brick and mortar is an ideal fit for the area.

Price opened her new shop, The Carpenter's Daughter, 2893 Main St., Unit A, on the south side of the square, joining a diverse lineup of shops and services at East Troy's center.

Price talks merchandise, building community and her work to make a difference.

Q: What is your East Troy connection?

I have been living in East Troy for 26 years. I grew up in Waukesha but moved out here for my husband (Fred Price of Price Masonry) and I just love this town. I love everything about it!

I always thought East Troy was like a perfect Hallmark movie town and I had always had a dream of opening up a shop on the Square. Back then, I didn't know what type of shop it would be. Of course, now the Square is the place to be.

It's just fun to be able to be a part of something that has been transformed so beautifully.

Q: How did the idea for The Carpenter's Daughter come about?

I am a Christian and my faith is super important to me and I feel like in the past few years, this community has just really had a tough time.

We've had COVID. We've had so many people related to people in the Waukesha parade tragedy and so many others dealing with awful things.

I grew up in a very dysfunctional family and I really had to rely on my faith to get me through it.

I really wanted to create a place to pour into people. Like what do you need? Do you need somebody to pray about a circumstance you're going through or do you need a friend or is there something that I could help you with as somebody in the community?

I just wanted that to be what this place was all about.

Q: Is that why you created a prayer box for the store?

I love to offer our prayer box to people to stop and fill out a prayer request.

I don't need to know your personal life, but if you have an unspoken something that you're struggling with, please share it with the box.

I have eight prayer warriors here who I'm going to be praying with every month.

Q: You are known for making custom crafts. How will you incorporate your designs into the store?

I've been selling crafts for many years and every Christmas I turn into Buddy the Elf. I

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Kim Price, who opened The Carpenter's Daughter on the East Troy Village Square in January, leaned on her husband Fred Price to bring her vision for a faith-based boutique to life. In addition to carrying books and gifts, the shop will offer monthly Ladies Craft Nights and Date Night for parents.

VANESSA LENZ Good Neighbors

SCHOOLS' TRADITIONS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the item during a sold out fundraiser in which they recruited Bella Adamski to create the safe guarded recipe just like she did as a cook at East Troy Schools.

Prepping for Santa's Arrival on the Square

The students and staff of the East Troy Community School District have been long-standing community partners in East Troy and have continued to make community service and giving back a priority and in doing so have managed to keep a number of local traditions alive.

Many of East Troy's former and current students hold tight the first Friday in December. That's the day before Santa arrives in town (and in recent years, kicks off East Troy Lights). East Troy's elementary school students always travel to East Troy Village Square Park to hang ornaments on the trees in preparation for the local holiday season.

In 2020, a new special tradition sparked in which students in the East Troy High School Fab Lab designed special lit ornaments for East Troy's elementary students to lovingly hang on the trees.



above: St. Peter's School recruited Bella Adamski to recreate East Troy High School's beloved German Hamburger Rolls (just like she used to as a school cook) for a sold out fundraiser. **below:** The 1984-85 East Troy High School Basketball team sent out this photo for its holiday card.

EAST TROY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Good Neighbors



YES VOTE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

local economy, restaurants, shops. Those families attend our churches and participate in Lions, Kiwanis, American Legion and other groups; they influence the vibrancy of the community.

Of course, raising taxes is a serious ask. I hope that ask becomes a YES as we remember what we value. As we agree that the school is vital to the local culture we all enjoy and value.

The referendum we approve provides dollars that stay local and are an investment in what East Troy is for the future.

This answer is written in the author's capacity as a resident of the East Troy Community School District and not in her position as a member of the Board of Education for the District. The sentiments contained in the answer do not reflect the sentiments of the Board of Education or the District.

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BRINGING THE MAGIC • CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Oh, and I thought the write ups in Midwest Living, Milwaukee Magazine, etc. were pretty neat. Getting to see East Troy alongside million dollar light show installations definitely adds some validity to what we're trying to do here.



Vanessa Lenz
Executive Director,
East Troy Area Chamber
of Commerce

Vanessa Lenz:

This is a project fueled by a passion much bigger than us.

We have grown so much in the last three years (with extremely limited resources) and couldn't have done it without our community partners and volunteers coming from all directions, working endless hours to help make the magic happen.

We've gotten this far by working cohesively as a community and that doesn't happen every day. Congrats East Troy!



Jamie Rohrer
Light Show Creator,
Dither Studio

Q: With much excitement for the return of East Troy Lights, you unveiled several new features this year that changed the way people saw the interactive light show. Would you agree?

Jamie Rohrer:

Definitely! For those who didn't get to try it, this year we introduced "wands."

Kids were able to use their wands by tapping them against ~3 foot Candy Canes attached to light poles around the square.

The candy canes had LED talking faces and a character/voice. Each candy cane would send the wand bearer on a new adventure and allow them to interact with the lights on the buildings/tunnels.

For example, one candy cane allowed you to play a game of "Simon" with the lights on the buildings. Another candy cane had a game a pong with the light tunnel.

Each candy cane had a unique story and adventure. Shout out to Brett Foster for voice acting a number of the candy cane voices and the team at Allan ICS for helping to bring the candy canes to life.

Vanessa Lenz:

Thank you for noticing! The goal was to give people a new way to experience East Troy with more lights, more interactivity and more holiday magic in 2022.

In addition to the Candy Cane Adventure, we added a full event lineup in order to give people something to do every single weekend and experience East Troy in a whole new way. Hopefully the people who visited us will come back.

This year, along with bringing back the East

Troy Electric Railroad Santa Parade Train and Santa on the Square, East Troy's Winter Wine Walk and Community Night, we added an additional New Year's Eve Ball Drop.

The family friendly drop at 8 p.m. was a huge success and my dream is that will become a tradition for East Troy locals and visitors alike for decades to come. I'm so grateful to the team at Allan ICS for making the ball drop happen.

Q: Tell us about your biggest challenge this year.

Jamie Rohrer:

Setup. Setup is always the biggest challenge. The technology takes by far the most time, but setup takes the most coordinating/manpower/grit.

Thankfully we had a number of great volunteers (high school kids, John Vilanj, Andrew Cegielski, Twilight Tree Service, etc.) who helped us get the lights up and tunnels built.

Anyone interested in helping for 2023 should definitely message us!

Vanessa Lenz:

It's expected for an event of this size to bring a slew of new obstacles, but this year we had a number of setbacks that were out

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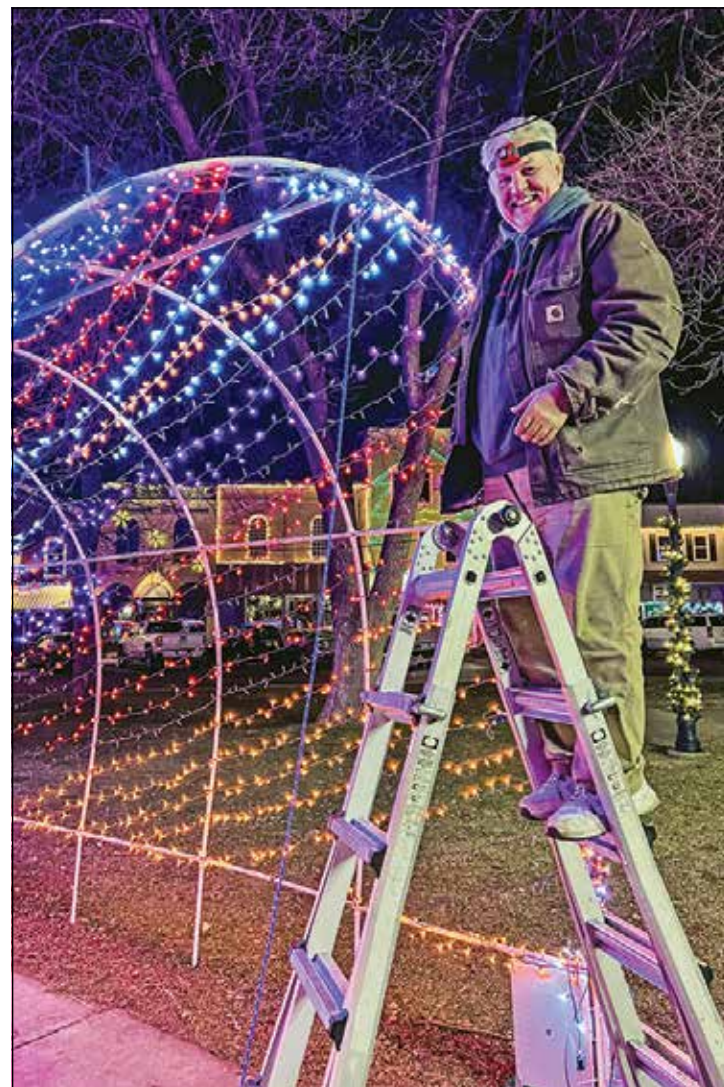
Matilda Moody navigates the Candy Cane Adventure using a wand at East Troy Village Square Park to experience a world of holiday magic during the immersive East Troy Lights event. Thanks to East Troy Brewery, Sauced Pizzeria and Home on the Square for serving as wand sites. Thanks to the East Troy Elementary PTO and East Troy Community School District for partnering with the East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce on this STEAM project, based on real life applications, in order to provide a meaningful opportunity for students to be involved in the community outside of the school campus.

VANESSA LENZ Good Neighbors



above: Doug Gauger of the Village of East Troy Department of Public Works saves the day by hanging the lights up on the Bob Barutha Memorial Christmas tree. right: John Vilanj helps secure the East Troy Lights tunnel after some heavy winds.

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BRINGING THE MAGIC • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

of our control, including several severe weather outbreaks.

We battled crazy winds record-breaking cold temperatures and even a snowstorm just before our final New Year's Eve Ball Drop. Jamie spent a lot of time on the rooftops of the square building trying to fix everything.

The show always continued as planned and we still had people showing up every day, but it was rough.

Q: We're approaching four years since the launch of East Troy Lights, with a successful community-wide collaboration that followed. Taking a look forward, what can we expect in 2023?

Vanessa Lenz:

East Troy Lights is so special because it is 100 percent community built with the East Troy Community School District (from 4K to 12), East Troy's businesses, attractions and residents coming together to make it a success.

As our show becomes a holiday staple in southeastern Wisconsin, we will always keep that at the forefront.

Next year, you can expect some exciting ways to experience East Troy Lights as well as East Troy's culture, flavor, and overall vibe.

Jamie Rohrer:

2023 should be interesting. Not many people know this, but I've actually re-written the entire light show software every year to make it more capable (interactivity being my primary objective) so we've actually seen way less progress than what could be possible.

However, this year it will not need to be re-written... so essentially, I'll have significantly more time to add new features.

I have an entire white board of ideas, but I'm not sure which ones to pick yet. Maybe we'll need to start a vote somewhere and/or organize a little community/newsletter to help flesh out the possibilities.

If anyone thinks this is a good idea, send vanessa@easttroy.org a message and if we have enough people, I think we could probably organize something around this.



David Spiegelberg, Regional Tourism Specialist with Travel Wisconsin (third from right), presents the East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce with a Year 3 \$5,856.25 Joint Effort Marketing Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism to help with marketing campaigns for East Troy Lights – an holiday light attraction, which lit up downtown East Troy Dec. 3-31. Members of the East Troy Light Show Committee at presentation, included (from left) John Vilanj of the East Troy Area Historical Society, Sarah Manke, East Troy Chamber Marketing Coordinator, Chip Seib of Allan Integrated Control Systems, Vanessa Lenz, East Troy Chamber Executive Director, Stacey Kuehn, Principal at East Troy High School and Ann Zess of East Troy Brewery.

DAN MOODY Good Neighbors

Show Some Love to East Troy Lights

If you like what you saw, please donate to help us continue to build East Troy Lights for next year's show –\$1, \$5, \$20, \$100 – any amount will help us continue to build East Troy Lights and make next year's show even better.

Visit EastTroyLights.com to donate or mail donations to East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 312, East Troy, WI 53120.

See more Behind the Scenes footage at

East Troy Lights .com!



clockwise from left: Jenna Voss and Michael Verbeten help hang strings of lights on the East Troy Lights Tunnel, East Troy High School tech ed students helped build the tunnels, including (from left) Mike Hoff, ETHS and ETMS Tech Ed teacher, Michael Busateri, Amelia Klamm, Kieran McCue, Hailey Steinruck, Christopher Garcia, Pandora Brown, Jacob Ginal, Joel Anderson, Nathan Nuchell and David Seiler. This year's show featured a brand new warming igloo. The East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce is grateful for the many, many volunteers who gave their time and talents to make the magical return of East Troy Lights happen!

VANESSA LENZ Good Neighbors



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- 2894 on Main
- Chinuk Sushi & Grill, & el Pedro Taco
- Al Smith's Saloon
- James R. Taylor & Sons
- East Troy Brewery
- East Troy Area Historical Society
- East Troy House
- East Troy Lions Lodge
- ECP
- Edward Jones-Jim Jakscht
- Global Glass
- Home on the Square
- InkLink Books
- James R. Taylor & Sons
- Magic Touch
- Realty Executives Integrity
- Sammy's Place
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- Alpine Valley Resort
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WHO ARE YOUR NEW MEMBERS?

Treasures A-Z Antiques and Appraisals

3066 Main St., Suite 102
East Troy, WI 53120
(262) 893-8222 • treasureaz.com

Treasures A-Z Antiques and Appraisals is approaching its one-year anniversary in East Troy.

The shop, owned by Cheri and Steve Riehle, features eclectic antique finds to enhance your life.

Cheri Riehle, a Certified Appraisers Guild of America antique appraiser, collects, buys and sells antiques, specializing in unique and hard to find items with a flair for architectural, industrial and repurposed pieces.

You can spend all day shopping AZ's overflowing selection.

"One of the biggest compliments a shop owner can receive is customers spending an extended amount of time exploring their shop," said Riehle. "So appreciate everyone who walks the shop and then goes back around to see what they might have missed, maybe while stopping to chat or ask a question!"

Open Thurs., Fri. and Sat. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The store will host its One Year Anniversary Party from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

on March 3 and 4 in conjunction with the Vintage Shop Hop Weekend. The event will feature merchandise, discounts, prizes, food and drink.



Owners Cheri and Steve Riehle of Treasures A-Z Antiques & Appraisals, 3066 Main St., East Troy will celebrate the store's One Year Anniversary from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 3 & 4 in conjunction with the Vintage Shop Hop Weekend. The event will feature merchandise, discounts, prizes, food and drink.

VANESSA LENZ Good Neighbors

Golden Dragon

2763 Main St. • East Troy, WI 53120
(262) 642-5518
goldendragonchineseeasttroy.com

Golden Dragon offers authentic Chinese cuisine in East Troy.

Golden Dragon features a convenient location and affordable prices, making the restaurant a natural choice for dine-in and take-out meals.

The restaurant is well known for its varieties of taste, generous portions, friendly atmosphere and excellent service.

Golden Dragon offers leave at the door delivery (within a 16-mile radius) and online ordering.

Hours are Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m.



Golden Dragon, located at 2763 Main St., offers leave at the door delivery (within a 16 mile radius) and online ordering.

PHOTO SUBMITTED Good Neighbors



Schruber Driving Service, LLC

East Troy, WI 53120 • (414) 588-8685
schruberdrivingservice.org

Schruber Driving Service, founded in 2022, offers a reliable and efficient transportation experience in Walworth County and beyond.

Schruber's services are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week by appointment for early/late airport rides, Alpine Valley drop offs/pickups, wedding groups, any outing your group may be celebrating, as well as all of your day-to-day appointments.

Adam Schriber, a former teacher of 20 years and United States Army veteran, recently opened Schruber Driving Service, offering a reliable and efficient transportation experience. Schruber Driving Service can handle outings with multiple vehicles, airport runs, Alpine Valley Music Theatre concerts and day to day appointments or errands.

VANESSA LENZ Good Neighbors

CARPENTER'S DAUGHTER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

now offer my custom craft design services in the store.

I pretty much can make anything that you show me a picture of.

Q: You plan to hold regular events. What can we look forward to?

The Carpenter's Daughter will be hosting Ladies Monthly Craft Night, Bible study gathering, Date Night for parents, along with kid craft nights, and more.

I wanted this to be a space where every month we could have a bunch of women come in here and just drop everything that's going on at home and take a couple hours and do something fun.

I served in my church in women's ministries and I still have a passion for women's hearts.

Craft Night will be held on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. Sign up in the store.

Q: The space looks beautiful! Can you talk about your vision when creating it?

I wanted it to be kind of rustic and I drew everything I wanted out on a piece of paper and handed it to my husband. He looked at me like I had three eyeballs, but did a wonderful job bringing my vision to life.

I just wanted it to be cozy like an extension of the living room. I want people to come in, have a cup of coffee and talk with me.

Q: What items can I shop for?

The store will feature home, gifts, clothing and seasonal items. Everything is faith based and inventory is updated frequently.

Everything I have in here is natural. I also feature local consignors, including Bisbee's Pottery, Daniela Dawson Jewelry and One Stone Farm.

I have lots of journals, books, candles,

The business offers transportation for parties of 1-10.

Schruber Driving Service is based out of East Troy/Mukwonago and is ready to serve you throughout Walworth County, Southeast Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, and beyond.

Owner Adam Schriber is a former teacher of 20 years and served in the United States Army from 1993-2001. He began service driving in 2018 and has continued to grow his fleet.

Call, text, or email to schedule an appointment at (414) 588-8685 or schruberdrivingservice@gmail.com.

a little nuggets section with items like binkies and onesies and lots of stuffies.

It's the perfect spot for a gift – First Communion or Baptism or any occasion. I have access to so many amazing distributors so if you are looking for something I don't have, let's talk!

Q: Was a store like this needed in the area?

100 percent yes. I am the only faith-based store in the area with the closet ones near Mayfair or Janesville/Madison.

I've loved seeing people's reactions to the store and visiting with them.

I just love people and sharing my faith with them and I can't wait to do it every day.

The Carpenter's Daughter is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call (262) 745-6788.

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June 2 Let's Play



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Aug 4 Art on the Square



Sept 1 Hometown Harvest Fest



easttroy.org
For more information

Elegant Farmer announces fourth generation of owners

Q: Is there new ownership at The Elegant Farmer?

The Elegant Farmer, 1545 Main Street, Mukwonago announces the continuation of its 76-year-old traditions as the fourth generation of ownership takes over running the day-to-day operations of this thriving Farm Kitchen Bakery, Deli & Market. Keith and Tina Schmidt and their daughter, Katie assumed the helm in January 2023. Former co-partners Mike and John Bauer have retired as owners leaving their former co-partner and 25-year Elegant Farmer veteran Keith Schmidt to guide this beloved institution to its next stage.

Q: Welcome Keith! Do you plan to make any big changes?

"It is a pleasure to bring in my family to help me continue The Elegant Farmer's long-standing traditions, family-friendly events and production of our simply the best specialty foods," said Keith Schmidt. "Staying as a local, family-owned and operated business for four generations is one of the reasons The Elegant Farmer is so beloved. Tina and I are especially delighted

to have our talented daughter bring in the next generation's fresh eyes and forward-thinking approach to help maintain and expand The Elegant Farmer for generations to come."

Q: What is The Elegant Farmer known for?

A wonderful shopping experience, The Elegant Farmer offers award winning specialties in its Farm Kitchen Bakery, Deli & Market including its famed Apple Pie Baked in a Paper Bag and delicious Cider Baked Ham, Homemade Applesauce, Jumbo Muffins & Cookies, Blue Ribbon Cheeses and Seasonal Fruits & Vegetables. The Elegant Farmer also offers quality meats and Wisconsin cheeses in its deli along with BBQ Pulled Pork, sandwiches and more. Home of the Smilin' Barn, The Elegant Farmer offers seasonal special events including its Autumn Harvest Festival, Easter Celebration, Blue Ribbon Cheese Fest and more.

The Elegant Farmer, 1545 Main St., Mukwonago, is open daily 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information call (262) 363-6770 or visit elegantfarmer.com.



Tina (from left), Keith and Katie Schmidt celebrate becoming fourth generation of owners of The Elegant Farmer keeping it locally family-owned and operated since 1946.

PHOTO SUBMITTED Good Neighbors

Q. What is there to do this spring?

MARCH

5 Band-O-Rama: The annual East Troy Community School District 5-12th grade music concert, Band-O-Rama, will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 5 at East Troy High School, Gym #3, 3128 Graydon Ave. For more information, call (262) 642-6760.

12-14 National PI Day: Join the Elegant Farmer, 1545 Main St., March 11-14 for National PI

Bunny Trains Return

The East Troy Electric Railroad will host its Bunny Trains on Saturdays, April 1 and 8 and Sunday, April 2. Departures from the East Troy Depot, 2002 Church St., are at 9 and 10:30 a.m., noon, 1:30 and 3 p.m.

The event will feature photos with the Easter Bunny at The Elegant Farmer. All child ticket holders will receive a stuffed bunny on the return trip as well as jelly beans.

Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$15 for children ages 3-14 and \$9 for children ages 0-2. Masks are required per federal regulations. For more information, visit easttroyrr.org.

Live at The Hive

This spring, sit back and enjoy live music events from a variety of talented musicians on Saturday nights from 7 to 10 p.m. at The Hive Taproom, W2463 Country Road ES.

Music Line-Up

March 25 - Milwaukee Blues Rock Collective
April 1 - Jacob Halbur
April 15 - Matt Meyer

Day with a three-day pie sale. Visit the market to get \$3.14 off any of its simply the best 8-inch Pies Baked in a Paper Bag. Piled high with 1 1/2 pounds of its signature Ida Red apples nestled in a flaky traditional crust then covered with a sugar cookie-like top. For more information, visit elegantfarmer.com.

APRIL

1 Maple Syrup Family Fun Day: Camp Edwards YMCA Camp and Retreat Center, N8901

April 22 - Ivy Ford
April 29 - Doghouse Roses
May 6 - Wait What
May 13 - Radio Recall
May 20 - Heads All Empty

With a focus on locally-sourced ingredients and starting with raw, local honey, The Hive brews their session mead with produce from across Wisconsin. A range of flavor notes greet with you with 14 taps of distinct session meads brewed with hops, Door County cherries, Valentine coffee, aged in bourbon barrels, and more.

For more information, visit thehivetaproom.com.

Kids Activities

The East Troy Family and Community Resource Center, 2040 Beulah Ave., will host a full slate of spring events.

On Tuesdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m., the Resource Center will host a pre-school class called Alphabet Adventures for children ages 18 months to 5. Play group will meet on Fridays from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

For more information, call (262) 642-4900 or email easttroyfamily@gmail.com.

Army Lake Road, will host its annual Maple Syrup Family Fun Day, featuring a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon and activities from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday, April 1.

The Family Fun Day is open to the community with free activities for the whole family, including maple syrup demonstrations, archery range, climbing wall, marsh tours, tube slides and animals.

For more information, call (262) 642-7466 or visit www.campedwards.org.

1 Family Resource Center Egg Hunt:

The East Troy Family Community & Resource Center will host its 17th Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 1 at Little Prairie Primary School, 2109 Townline Road. Registration begins at 10 a.m. and the hunt begins at 10:15 a.m. Any children birth

through fifth grade are welcome to participate

The event, sponsored by the East Troy Lions Club, will a bag of candy and prize per participant and photos with the Easter Bunny. RSVP with the number of children attending on the resource center's Facebook page or by calling (262) 642-4900 or easttroyfamily@gmail.com.

In the event of inclement weather, the event will be moved indoors to the Little Prairie Primary School gym.

8 FFA Consignment Auction:

The East Troy FFA Alumni will host its 29th annual alumni consignment auction at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 8 at East Troy High School, 3128 Graydon Ave. For more information, call (262) 642-7892.



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East Troy Railroad welcomes new president

Jonas to become Chairman of the Board

Q: Is there a change in leadership at the East Troy Railroad?

The Board of the East Troy Railroad Museum announced the election of Ward Komorowski as president of the museum, effective Jan. 1.

Komorowski, a volunteer at the tourist railroad and museum for the past two years, was elected to the Board of Directors earlier this year.

He retired after a 39-year career with Johnson Controls, where he was most recently VP Enterprise Property Group and Security.

Q: What about longtime president Ryan Jonas?

Ryan Jonas, who has been president of the museum for 10 years, was elected Chairman of the Board, replacing Patrick Doran, who will remain on the board.

“Ward brings a level of experience and leadership that will serve the organization well, along with a love for trains and railroading,” said Jonas. “I look forward to working together with him and with the rest of our amazing volunteers in my new role.”

Q: What does the new president hope to bring to the railroad?

In addition to his Johnson Controls career, Komorowski has been an adjunct professor at the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) for 21 years, where he also serves on the Board of Regents. He received his B.S. in Architectural Engineering from MSOE and is a registered professional engineer in Wisconsin.

Komorowski was named “Green For Profit Business Leader of the Year” by the Milwaukee

Business Journal in 2009. He received the “Faculty of the Year Award” from MSOE in 2008, and he was named “Facility Executive of the Year” by Today’s Facility Manager magazine in 2005.

In addition to serving on the Board of Regents at MSOE, Komorowski serves on the Board of Directors of Discovery World Museum, has been president, secretary, treasurer and board member of the Association for Facilities Engineers (AFE), and is active in the International Facilities Management Association (IFMA). He and his wife live in Muskego.

“I have been so excited to volunteer at the East Troy Railroad Museum and I am honored to have the opportunity to lead this great organization as president,” said Komorowski. “I want to thank Ryan for his commitment and leadership over the last ten years and look forward to his wise counsel in the years to come.”

Q: What makes the railroad so special?

The East Troy Railroad Museum operates regular 14-mile round trip excursions from its historic East Troy Depot and Museum to Indianhead Park in Mukwonago, with a stop at the popular Elegant Farmer store and deli.

This not-for-profit railroad is operated and managed by over 130 volunteers dedicated to engaging visitors in the heritage of electric interurban railways and trolley systems through restoration, preservation and operation of historic equipment.

The museum celebrated 50 years of tourist train operations in 2022. For more information, visit easttroyrr.org or call (262) 642-3263.



Ward Komorowski is the new president of the East Troy Electric Railroad Museum.

PHOTO SUBMITTED Good Neighbors

QUESTIONS • CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Friday, June 30 through Sunday, July 2 at Rossmiller Sports Complex and Skate Park (fka Amusement Park), 3090 Graydon Ave., East Troy. The festival features the famous East Troy Beer Tent (ETBT), carnival rides, games, fair food and live entertainment.

Fireworks are scheduled for Sunday, July 2 at dark. The parade will start at noon on Sunday, July 2. For more information, visit easttroylions.org.

Q: Is East Troy really getting a Culver's?

Yes, there is a Culver's currently in the preliminary planning phases, according to Eileen Suhm, Village of East Troy Administrator.

“The properties between Shell and Dollar General have been acquired and they are working towards beginning construction in 2024 with a late 2024 opening (after the Highway 20 construction project is complete),” Suhm said.

Q: When is the Highway 20

construction project starting? Where can I find details?

Jason Equitz, Director of Public Works for the Village of East Troy said the Highway 20 construction project is a Department of Transportation project.

While the Village of East Troy is updating utilities in this project, DOT is the lead agency, he said. The project goes out for bid in May, and a Public Information Meeting will be held sometime in June.

“Construction will likely start in July and go through October. They will be concentrating on the section from Edwards Street to Highway ES, in 2023. This area will see closures and limited access during that time. In 2024, the project will shift to the East, including reconstruction of the ES/20 intersection,” said Equitz.

Q: What is the Village of East Troy Veterans Memorial Project?

The Village of East Troy is currently working to improve the Veterans Memorial,

located on the west side of East Troy Village Square Park.

The Memorial Wall is dedicated to all military branches and veterans.

The project will include updating the failing lighting of the Memorial Wall and replacing aging concrete with pavers to allow Honor Stones to be offered dedicated to veterans.

The Honor Stone initial project encompasses a 10-foot by 10-foot area, backed by the red brick wall with emblems representing each branch of the military.

The initial dedication of the Memorial improvements and new Honor Stone installation is planned for Memorial Day 2023.

To purchase an Honor Stone, visit easttroywi.gov or pick up an application at the East Troy Village Hall, 2015 Energy Drive.

Q: Did East Troy get an ice skating rink?

Yes. This winter, Booth Lake Memorial Park announced the opening of two brand new ice rinks adjacent to the new VFW pavilion in the upper park, N8465 Townline

Road. One rink is available for family skating and the other for hockey.

Check ice conditions before hitting the ice in order to protect the new rinks.

Weather permitting, the rinks will be open Tuesday- Fridays from 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 7 p.m.

The park will have a donation container for those who wish to support the new rinks.

Q: Last fall, the longtime East Troy Community Band Director retired. Can you update us on whether Thursday Nights on the Square will return?

Since Jay and Heidi Huenink's retirement from the East Troy Community Band, the group has formed a new Board of Directors.

Tanina Evans the group's President and John Isleb is serving as Secretary/Treasurer. The East Troy High School Band Director, Mr. Nick Bertino, has agreed to become the next director of the community band and they are currently making plans for Thursday Nights on the Square to return this summer. Stay tuned.

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