



PREPARE NOW FOR UPCOMING RURAL AMNESTY DAYS

Take advantage of the Benton County Department of Development's 2009 Rural Amnesty Days **Saturday, May 30th, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the Gillman Baseball Parking Lot, located off State Hwy. 25, and **Saturday, June 6th, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the Sauk Rapids/Rice High School Parking Lot, 1835 Osauka Rd. (Please enter from Cty. Rd. #1 to Osauka Rd. NE.)

This collection is popular, drawing plenty of crowds, so, please be patient with the process. Every effort will be made to handle your delivery swiftly, says Department of Development Program Lead Mark McNamara. **REMEMBER, site personnel have the final say regarding an item's acceptability and any possible fee that may be charged to you for the service.** However, fees are charged only if the number of dropped items exceeds the guidelines.

Costs associated with Amnesty Days are covered by Benton County's Solid Waste Service Fee, which appears on your resident tax statement. Last year the total cost for the event was approximately \$38,606.28.

Last year's event collected 19.31 tons of e-waste. Also in 2008, residents recycled or disposed of 32.44 tons of demolition debris, 11.76 tons of scrap metal, 38.31 tons of tires, 49.15 tons of trash, 1160 lbs. of vehicle batteries, and 578 appliances.

Call Benton County Department of Development at 320.968.5065 for disposal options or more information.



We DO NOT ACCEPT the following:

- Business/commercial/medical waste
- Garbage
- Household or other hazardous waste
- Mercury-held products
- Oil and oil filters
- Paints/stains/thinners/sealers
- Poison/pesticide/agricultural waste
- Pressurized tanks
 - Recyclables
 - Snowmobile tracks
 - Whole vehicle hulks
 - Yard waste

ACCEPTED HOUSEHOLD TRASH

Appliances – ONE free per residence – \$25 ea. add'l. (NO ammonia-held AC units. NO gas refrigerators.)

Demolition debris – ONE free cu. yd. per residence

Furniture – ONE free per residence – \$5.00 ea. add'l.

Motor Vehicle and Re-chargeable Batteries – free

Auto/light-truck Tires (off-rim) – FOUR free per residence – \$3 ea. add'l. off-rim tire.

Note: \$2 added if tires are on-rim.

Subject to change

Scrap metal (pipe, wire, sheet/cast iron, etc.) – free. REMOVE tires/tubes from bike frames and tire rims. DRAIN GAS and OIL from all motors.

TV's/Computers – ONE free per residence – \$25.00 ea. add'l.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION AUGUST 15

Benton County Department of Development, along with the Tri-County Solid Waste Management Commission (TCSWMC), makes disposing of flammable, corrosive, reactive, and toxic waste easier by holding Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day on **Saturday, August 15th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** in the Benton County Highway Department's cold storage building at 7752 Highway #25 N.E.

County property owners/renters pay an annual Solid Waste Service Fee that helps provide state-mandated waste abatement activities such as the "free" HHW collection days. Drop-site personnel will decide which items will be accepted and which will incur a small drop-off fee. (Please note, business hazardous waste will not be accepted.)

Continued on page 2.

“LET’S GO TO THE PARK.”



A wonderful way to enjoy summer and Minnesota's landscape is by recreating in parks operated by the Benton County Parks Department. Approximately 354 acres – some of it along the Mississippi

River and others with lake access – are available for picnicking, boating, fishing, hiking, lawn sports, disc golfing, or the pure enjoyment of nature. In addition, some parks are undeveloped, preserved in

their natural state.

"We're proud of our Parks system," says William Mayland, Assistant Director Department of Development, noting it's his and the Property Management department's responsibility to maintain parks and explore options for improvements to the system. "I'm especially proud of Benton Beach and Bend in the River Regional Park."

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MERRILL CORPORATION MANAGES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



ultraviolet light. In the past all print jobs would air-dry. Finally, Merrill has totally eliminated the use of photographic film in the conventional printing method. Merrill is also fully utilizing computer-to-printing plate manufacturing.

Hazardous Air Pollution reduction

Merrill has significantly reduced its HAPs-containing chemistry level throughout the printing process, according to Menson. Parts washers use non-hazardous cleaning solutions. Digital printing presses eliminate the need for photographic film use and the chemicals used for burning and developing metal printing plates. These machines also use eco-friendly toners, developers, and fuser oils.

FSC printer certification

Merrill is committed to sustainability and has secured FSC printer certification. Simply put, if you harvest a tree, you plant a tree, says Rolfes of the philosophy behind the effort. FSC has outlined 10 principles and related criteria for responsible forest management.¹ Thus, for FSC certification, a company must track the "chain of custody" of the natural wood product – the channel through which products are distributed from their origin in the forest to their end user.² Certification recognizes a company's implementation of FSC policies, and the use of the FSC logo on its products demonstrate to consumers that the product they are purchasing has been created according to responsible forest management practices. Government print

jobs often require the use of an FSC printer or FSC-certified papers or inks, and more business clients are requesting this earth-friendly print practice.

Internal environmental scorecard

"We recycle anything and everything that has a reasonable means to be recycled," says Menson.

Menson conducts training with all new employees on ways to reduce/reuse/recycle and on the company's waste philosophy. Over 600 employees have the opportunity to improve the company's environmental scorecard in several areas. Materials such as computers, cardboard, paper, aluminum printing plates, aluminum cans, plastic, batteries, oil filters, paints, steel and even phone books are recycled. Lighting throughout production and fulfillment areas has been converted from metal halide to fluorescent lighting, and all emergency exit lights have been switched-over to LED's (light emitting diode). The waste bulbs are recycled. Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning management systems have been upgraded for more energy efficiency.

Merrill Corporation purchased May Printing on Clearwater Road, St. Cloud, in 1993 and then, in 2000 expanded its digital print and fulfillment center to Sartell. Throughout the years, the growing corporation has become increasingly more responsible about its impact on the environment even as it shrinks its waste stream and carbon footprint.

1. "Five Steps Toward FSC Certification", Forest Stewardship Council, 2002 <http://www.fsc.org/106.html>
 2. "FSC Certification – Chain of Custody: A technical guide for manufacturers and suppliers", P. 1., http://www.scs-certified.com/PDFS/forest_STD40004UserGuide121004.pdf

Merrill Corporation, an international company with printing and distribution sites on Clearwater Road in St. Cloud and 11th Avenue East in Sartell, believes in contributing to the sustainability of the nation's forests and in following production practices that reduce, reuse, and recycle its waste. The company has targeted the reduction of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), earned Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, and implemented a positive internal "environmental scorecard" to continue its responsible stewardship.

"Merrill strives to produce products and services that have little or no negative environmental impact, meaning they can

be reused, recycled, or disposed of safely," says Arlette Rolfes, Senior Project Manager at Merrill Corporation.

Volatile Organic Compounds reduction

Since 2003 Merrill has reduced its VOC production by three tons through the use of low-VOC or no-VOC chemistry during the printing process, says Sherry Menson, Health Safety & Environmental Representative at Merrill Corporation. Conventional soy and agri-based (vegetable versus petroleum) inks are used in the modern sheet fed presses and KBA (Koenig Bauer AG) printing press. The hybrid KBA press also uses ultraviolet inks. When UV inks and coatings are used, they dry instantaneously when passed through

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION AUGUST 15...CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.

ACCEPTED HOUSEHOLD WASTE PRODUCTS

- Adhesives
- Aerosols
- Cleaning products
- Flammables
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Mercury
- Mothballs
- Paint/thinners
- Poisons
- Pool chemicals
- Pesticides
- Rechargeable batteries
- Roofing tar
- Sealers
- Solvents
- Stains/varnish
- Waste oil

WASTE PRODUCTS NOT ACCEPTED

- Agricultural waste
- Appliances
- Batteries
- Business/commercial waste
- Explosives
- Furniture
- Garbage
- Hazardous waste — Items with "caution" "poison" "combustible" and "warning" labels
- Medical waste
- Oil filters
- Pharmaceutical waste — Bandages, sharps, prescriptions and nonprescription meds
- Tires
- Unknowns

In 2008 residents recycled or disposed of 605 gallons of paint, 68.7 gal. of solvents, 473 lbs. of aerosol, 1183 lbs. of flammable liquid, 883 lbs. of pesticide, 1410 fluorescent bulbs, and 27 lbs. of asbestos. CONGRATULATIONS to our responsible citizenry!

If you cannot make the Benton County drop-off date, contact TCSWMC at 320.255.6140 or 800.450.6140 or consult the web site at www.co.stearns.mn.us/4789.htm to make other arrangements.

Questions? Call Benton County Department of Development at 320.968.5065.



Benton County Parks to Enjoy

www.co.benton.mn.us/Parks/index.htm

Bend in the River (11231 River Rd NE, south of Rice on CR 55, 289 acres) overlooks the Mississippi, offering picnic areas and shelters, trails and flowering prairie lands, and historic farm site.

Benton Beach (130 125th Street NW, south side of CR 2 near Rice, on Little Rock Lake, 30 acres), offers boat access, campground, playground, picnic areas, 18-hole disc golf course, softball diamond, and a basketball area. In addition, the park offers two shelters and a Reception Hall for rent.

Mayhew Lake Park (8996 30th Ave NE, southwest side of Mayhew Lake, along CR 43, 4.4 acres) provides a boat access, fishing dock, picnic area, and trails.

Rose Anna Beach (9876 West Lake Court, south side of Little Rock Lake on 0.6 acres) provides tables and grills.

St. Regis Park (11409 West Lake Road NW, southwest side Little Rock Lake on 0.6 acres) offers multiple tables and grills and lake access for ice fishing.

St. George Township Park (near State Highway 95) is 17 restricted acres of wildlife habitat designed for nature study and is underdeveloped at this time.

Wapicada Village - Mayhew Park (near Watab Creek and State Highway 23) is undeveloped at this time.



LET'S GO TO THE PARK...CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.

Renovation and construction have transformed Benton Beach.

Restored natural shoreline now provides a buffer along the lake. Gone is the old Redwood Inn, demolished with the assistance of SCORE grant dollars. The bathroom/shower house is totally revamped, numerous campsites were upgraded and now connect to electricity and water, and the baseball diamond sports a new backstop and bases. More picnic tables, pedestal grills and fire rings are ready for picnickers. The new playground, small basketball court, and 18-hole disc golf course await summer activities similar to last year's 2008 Minnesota State Disc Golf Championship. In addition, the park offers two shelters and a Reception Hall for rent.



Bend in the River Regional Park now offers visitors more. One hundred ten acres of restored native prairie grace the park, thanks to a cooperative effort between the County and Minnesota Native Landscapes. MNL installed the ecologically sound landscape and plans to maintain it for 10 years in exchange for the harvest. A wildlife observation area, constructed of recycled plastic lumber, accommodates bird watchers. Hikers may walk a 4,000 linear foot recycled-concrete trail, running along the river bluff, and drink from the new fountain. Message boards highlight the history of the project and plans for future development.

The funding of future development is a challenge to the Parks Department, says Mayland. Dollars are raised through park dedication fees from platting, not by taxes or levies. So projects must be carefully reviewed to designate them viable. The department's budget is stretched through the purchase of equipment made from recycled materials and paid for with SCORE grants, which reimburse project costs at a rate of 75%. (See SCORE information below.) Picnic tables, playground equipment, message boards, and wildlife observation area are all made of recycled materials. The department has also utilized other grant opportunities to ensure parks can be developed with the least impact on county taxpayers.

Questions? Contact Mayland at wmayland@co.benton.mn.us, or call 320.968.5065.

The Parks Commission meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Commissioner's room in Foley during the winter and Lakeview Center at Benton Beach during the summer. The public is welcome.

REDESIGN YOUR HOME IN GREEN

Whether staging a home for a sale or remodeling, there are "green" decisions you can make that will add value to the home as well as appeal to your sense of environmental responsibility.

"Ask vendors to make eco-friendly suggestions," says Jeanne Borgstrom, licensed home stager and real estate stager with WOW! by Jeanne™, who has become more committed to practicing eco-friendly techniques and client education this past year.



Replace to decrease energy consumption. Replace an existing showerhead streaming 2-3 gallons of water per minute with a 1.5 gallon updated design, or take a five-gallon-tank toilet and replace it with a three-gallon version. Replace standard bulbs with compact fluorescents (CFLs), which may cost more up front but will use roughly 70% less energy.¹ Use power strips for televisions, VCR's, audio equipment, and computers, flipping the switch on only when needed to reduce an otherwise constant energy drain.

Repair "leaky" windows of older homes and re-glaze rather than throwing them into the dumpster. Restoration will also reduce lead emission from old paint. If the windows must be replaced, shop energy-efficient triple-pane styles.

Water-based paints are safest, notes Borgstrom. She suggests "low" or "no" volatile organic compounds (VOC) paints and finishes like Sherwin Williams' "Harmony", Benjamin Moore "Aura" and "Eco Spec", Dutch Boy "Refresh". (Check labels to avoid acetone, ammonia, or formaldehyde, or labels reading, "low off-gassing and odors".) Lime wash and clay paints are also eco-friendly. Milk paint by the Old-Fashioned Milk Paint Company (www.milkpaint.com) contains all-natural ingredients, and its 20 colors are perfect for wall restoration and the painting of old or antique-style furniture.

Recycle old furniture, or purchase hand made. "It's chic to be savvy about recycling," says Borgstrom, who shops furniture at Gypsy Lea's in Sauk Rapids. Pottery Barn, Restoration Hardware, and Crate & Barrel also carry products made of natural fabrics or manufactured of recycled soda bottles, which actually take 40% less energy to produce.²

Explore alternatives to traditional hardwood flooring. Borgstrom discovered options include cork, bamboo, engineered solid hardwood, and reclaimed lumber from vendors such as Lumber Liquidators, Floor to Ceiling Store carries low VOC Wicanders® Cork (www.wicanders.com) and Teragren® Bamboo (www.teragren.com).

Cork is beautiful and warm underfoot, while bamboo is very hard and durable, maintains Lynn Kaster, customer service representative. She believes the best selling point for laminate is its imitation of endangered wood species. Mannington® laminates use much more of the wood log than traditional processes plus, its "direct pressure manufacturing process" involves no glues or formaldehyde-filled adhesives.³

"You can find many carpets made of recycled materials such as jute, flax, linen, wool, sisal, and coir (coconut shells)," adds Borgstrom. According to Kaster, Shaw Carpet (www.shawcarpet.com) recycles returned Nylon6® carpet and certain types of padding. She notes carpets sometimes get a bum rap as dust traps, although they actually filter dust out of the air for disposal via vacuuming.

Good air quality improves the life of furnishings and homeowner's health, notes Paul Fredericksen of Fred's Plumbing, Heating, and Air Conditioning. Humidifiers return moisture to the air, hydrating wooden furniture, flooring, and inhabitants. Furnace filters trap dust and mold, and should be changed regularly to ensure against respiratory reactions, colds and flu, and headaches. Homeowners can install Rheem® or Frigidaire® furnaces or air conditioners, which also carry a minimum 13-SEER (seasonal energy efficiency rate).

Replace old technologies with digital on-demand upgrades, says Borgstrom. Fred's carries Honeywell® and Braeburn® digital setback thermostats which can be auto-programmed to turn off/on for the time of day homeowners need heat/air conditioning most. Tank-less water heaters like QuietSide® and Navien® are 98% energy efficient, delivering hot water only when needed.

"Awareness brings the reading of packaging and labeling, making 'going-green' really easy," says Borgstrom.

1. Riley, Trish, "An Idiot's Guide to Green Living", Alpha Books – A member of Penguin Group USA, copyright 2007, p. 37
 2. Crate & Barrel, www.crateandbarrel.com.
 3. "Using Green As A Selling Feature", NFT National Floor Trends Magazine, Nov. 2008 www.nftfloortrends.com
 4. "Recycling & Redamation", Shaw Floors, © 2003 – 2009 <http://shawfloors.com/Environmental/RecyclingDetail>

Recycle Old Carpeting — Hank's Specialties, 461 I Rusan Street N., Ste. 2, St. Cloud, is a recycling collection site for Bro-Tex, Inc., located in St. Paul. Bro-Tex participates in the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE). Visit www.brotex.com/carpetrecycling.aspx for carpet recycling requirements. Then, call Hank's at 320.255.1590 to make arrangements.

WHAT'S THE S.C.O.R.E.?
Select Committee on Recycling and Waste Education

Since 1989 the State of Minnesota has provided grants (amounting to \$14 million annually) from the Select Committee on Recycling and Waste Education (SCORE) for distribution by counties to businesses and groups taking measures to "reduce the amount of solid waste generated, to recycle the maximum amount of solid waste technically feasible; and create and support markets for recycled products."

The Parks Department has received almost \$100,000 in SCORE funding for its park projects in 2006-2008.

If you are interested in securing SCORE money for your project, contact the Benton County Department of Development at 320.968.5065 for a 2009 SCORE application. Or visit www.co.benton.mn.us/DOD/solidwaste/index.htm for an application.

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Do You Know About Mercury Light Switches?

If only one mercury-containing vehicle light switch enters Minnesota waters, it has the potential to contaminate over 1,000 northern pike, according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). So, it's important to dispose of this hazard correctly. The MPCA has on file Hazardous Waste Fact Sheet 4_26, "Managing Mercury Switches", which you can download to become educated. Go to:
http://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/pubs/4_26.pdf.

The sheet highlights proper methods to remove the small glass or metal capsules that hold the mercury, how to store and mark the containers of special waste, the amount of mercury waste a business can accumulate prior to shipping it out for recycling, and where and how to send the hazardous material.



CLIP 'N' SAVE THIS BENTON RECYCLING DIRECTORY

Recycling Facility	Address/City/Town	Phone	Materials accepted
Batteries Plus.....	2710 2 nd St. S St. Cloud	240.2332.....	batteries: auto, rechargeable, button
BFI	700 40 th Ave. Sauk Rapids.....	252.9608.....	curbside pick up as part of garbage service
Central Appliance.....	3107 Hwy 10 SE St. Cloud	252.3221	appliances, air conditioners, household batteries
Recyclers			
CJ Lighting & Recycling ..	662 E St. Germain St. Cloud	253.4484.....	commercial collection of fluorescent bulbs, ballasts, light bulbs
Czarnetzki Hardware	8 Benton Drive N	251.5383.....	fluorescent bulbs
Hank	Sauk Rapids		
East Side Oil	625 Lincoln Ave. SE St. Cloud ..	252.9711	used oil & filters, antifreeze
Foley Hardware.....	160 4 th Ave. N Foley	968.7262.....	fluorescent bulbs
Hank			
Henkemeyer	5045 Lark Rd NW	252.6487	Grass, leaves, garden waste, dirt, tree brush, shrubs as well as non-treated wood, insulation, shingles, sheet rock, tile, ceramics, metal, drywall, concrete, asphalt, bricks, masonry
Demolition Landfill	Sauk Rapids		
Midway Iron.....	648 Lincoln Ave. St. Cloud	252.4002.....	aluminum cans, various metals
Minden Transfer	3490 2 nd St. SE St. Cloud.....	252.0711	aluminum cans, glass plastic, paper, cardboard, tin
Phillips Recycling*.....	119 6 th Ave. NE St. Cloud.....	251.5980.....	brick, block, wood, concrete, dirt, plaster, plastic pipe, conduit, tin, iron, rock, glass, tile, shingles, insulation, sheet rock, fiberboard, siding
Pythons**.....	550 4-1/2 St. NE St. Cloud.....	253.2054.....	aluminum cans, glass, plastic, paper, cardboard, magazines, newsprint, phone books, tin, paper milk cartons, drink boxes
Rice Hardware Hank	2333 125 th St. NW Rice	393.3117	fluorescent bulbs
Superior Services	2355 12 th St. SE St. Cloud.....	251.8919.....	curbside pick-up as part of garbage service
Total Disposal	1741 SE 3 rd St. St. Cloud	255.0425.....	curbside pick-up as part of garbage service
Tri-County Hazardous.....	601 N 20 th Ave. St. Cloud.....	800.450.6140	paint, solvents, pesticides, cleaning chemicals
Waste Facility			
Waste Management	650 NE Hwy 10 St. Cloud.....	253.6491	curbside pick-up as part of garbage service

* Unacceptable materials include: appliances, asbestos, batteries, brush, cardboard, carpet, fuel tanks, hay, leaves, paper, plastics, straw, tires, trees, whole containers.

** Unacceptable materials include: burnt cans, clay, dirty-wet/icy cans or tin, caps, ceramics, dishes, food containers, glassware, hard plastic, hose, light bulbs, mirrors, pipes, plastic bags, porcelain, safety glass, scrap metal, toys, windshields, windows.

KIDS' CORNER



KIDS URGED TO HUG A TREE, TRASH THE TRASH

What better way to teach Benton County children the three R's (reduce/reuse/recycle) than to involve them in fun, interactive theatre at their own schools? CLIMB Theatre brought "The HuggerTree Me" and "Trash" from Inver Grove Heights to Pleasantview and Mississippi Heights elementary schools on March 10 and 11. An \$8,400 SCORE grant through Benton County helped CLIMB make the theatre productions possible.

The participatory theatre typically gets audiences of up to 350 children involved in activities to help solve an environmental problem. Children sit on the gym floor, wiggling in excitement and shifting positions to get a better look at the colorful, energized show. Skilled casts of three to four actors improvise with the children's suggestions.

In this year's productions, Cammy and the audience of kindergarten through second graders learned from a talking deciduous tree in "The HuggerTree Me" that it's important to care for the earth's air, drinking water, trees and lakes. In "Trash", James Gillwhistle needed the third through sixth grade audience's help in disposing of a lively bag of stinking trash that insisted on shadowing his every move. Each play had its own learning objectives, and teachers were encouraged to follow up the production with classroom activities of their own.

"Most of our classes and plays are accompanied by teacher guides that can be used by educators to follow-up the lessons taught in the plays," says CLIMB Theatre's James Rohn, Producer of Excellence in Teaching. "These teacher guides are packed with activities that focus on deepening the impact of the theatre the students either witnessed or participated in."

CLIMB Theatre has presented environmental preservation programming in Benton County since 2003. Troupes have performed at: St. Johns Elementary and Foley Elementary (Foley); Hillside Elementary, Trinity Lutheran, Sacred Heart School and Prince of Peace Lutheran (Sauk Rapids); Lincoln Elementary in St. Cloud; and Rice Elementary. **For additional CLIMB Theatre information, visit www.climb.org.**

ECO-tips from CLIMB (Creative Learning Ideas for Mind and Body)

1. Turn off the water when you're actually brushing your teeth.
2. Put on a sweater when you're cold, and leave the thermostat alone.
3. Turn off the lights when you exit a room.
4. Care for trees and shrubs. They're homes to birds and wildlife.
5. Stop making excuses for not reducing, reusing, and recycling.

EDUCATIONAL LINKS FOR KIDS

Department of Natural Resources, www.dnr.state.mn.us/backyard/index.html

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, www.reduce.org

Sharing Environmental Education Knowledge, State of Minnesota, www.seek.state.mn.us

EVENTS CALENDAR

Amnesty Days

Saturday, May 30th, 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. City of Gillman, Baseball Parking Lot

Saturday, June 6th, 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Sauk Rapids/Rice High School Parking Lot

Living Green Expo

Saturday, May 2nd, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. — Minnesota State Fairgrounds

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Saturday, August 15th, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Benton County Highway Department cold storage building at 7752 Hwy. #25 N.E.

Benton County Fair August 4 – 9, 2009



www.co.benton.mn.us



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Please recycle this publication. Thank you!

For additional information about this publication, please contact Mark McNamara, Program Lead, Benton County Department of Development, 320.968.5074, mark.mcnamara@co.benton.mn.us

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