



2008 Celebrating 60 Years of Service

Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, Pennsylvania

INTRODUCTION

The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, Pennsylvania is the County's principal agency responsible for implementing community development and single-family affordable housing initiatives.

In 2008 the Redevelopment Authority purchased and renovated the historic Strickler & Hess building in downtown Uniontown to use for its administrative offices. The newly renovated office space keeps some of the original features of the building, including the hardwood floors and high ceilings.





Dear Supporter

Letter from the Executive Director

In 2008 the Redevelopment Authority embarked on its 60th year as the principal community development provider in Fayette County, and when I reflect back on all that we have accomplished during that time, one word comes to mind: Amazing! I don't write that word lightly or to be agency- or self- gratifying, I write that word to capsulize that the work of the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority over the past 60 years has truly been monumental.

This report was developed to highlight several of the Redevelopment Authority's recent projects, as well as to acknowledge our current and past accomplishments in community development and single-family affordable housing. As you will notice in the infrastructure and housing sections of this report, since the Authority began to participate in the Small Communities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program in 1985, we have invested over \$51.2 million to support over 650 infrastructure improvement projects throughout the County. Our housing programs, which began with our rehabilitation and weatherization programs in 1975, have invested over \$28 million to assist over 10,000 households. In 2008 alone, the Authority completed 20 infrastructure projects and assisted over 350 households with its housing programs.

Our report also dedicates several pages to other special projects, including development of the Fayette County Business Park. In 2008 activity at the Business Park remained strong, as the Authority completed the construction of Matthew Drive extension, celebrated the opening of a major retail development, and completed its first bond issuance ever to support future infrastructure expansion at the Business Park.

2009 looks to be an even more promising and productive year for the Redevelopment Authority, with several new projects already underway. While our local communities and the nation continue to struggle economically, the Authority remains vigilant in identifying new resources and advocating for existing resources to continue our successful implementation of community development and singlefamily affordable housing initiatives. Initiatives which are specifically designed to invest in our local infrastructure in order to strengthen and revitalize our communities. While we have accomplished much in 2008 and over the past 60 years, working together, we should and will accomplish even more.

Andrew P. French Executive Director

60 Years of Service

Redevelopment Authority Historical Timeline

Established in 1949, the Redevelopment Authority has spent the last six decades implementing numerous redevelopment projects, rehabilitation activities, and infrastructure improvements in municipalities throughout Fayette County.



CAPTIONS (clockwise): 1. Redevelopment officials meet to discuss a Neighborhood Development Program. 2. Downtown Masontown benefited from several redevelopment grants in the 1970s. 3. Newspaper articles from the Authority's archives highlight projects and activities. 4. The Authority's Weatherization Program serves one of the over 9,000 homes it has weatherized.



In the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s the Authority focused most of its efforts on Redevelopment Projects in communities throughout Fayette County.

	1949	The Fayette County Board of Commissioners adopts a resolution establishing the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, Pennsylvania.	
	1950s	 The Redevelopment Authority selects an area in the City of Uniontown as its first redevelopment project in Fayette County. Herbert Margolis is appointed solicitor of the Authority. The Authority secures federal funds and begins an Urban Renewal Project in the City of Connellsville. The Authority secures funding through the Pennsylvania Department of Commerce to support the Dunlap Urban Renewal area in Brownsville. 	
	1960s	 The Redevelopment Authority secures federal and state funds and implements an Urban Renewal Project in North Union Township. John A. McMullen is hired as the Authority's new Executive Director. Crown Construction Company is authorized by the Authority to purchase land to be used for the development of a Holiday Inn Motel in Uniontown. The Authority secures a Redevelopment Grant for the Borough of Masontown Centertown Urban Renewal Area. The Authority secures funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs to develop a central business district plan for Uniontown. 	
	1970s	 Wayland R. Smith is hired as the Authority's Executive Director. The Authority secures funding for redevelopment projects in Fayette City, Connellsville, and Brownsville. The Redevelopment Authority initiates a program that provides housing rehabilitation assistance for low-income homeowners. The Authority receives federal financial assistance through the Community Development Block Grant Program, which was established with the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Authority receives a \$200,000 grant to initiate a Winteriza- 	
Re	tion Program in Fayette and Greene Counties. This program was a precursor to the current Weatherization Program. • The Authority begins to develop Mt. Braddock Industrial Park in North Union Township. • Kenneth Finney, Jr. is appointed to the Authority's Board of Directors.		

60 Years of Service Historical Timeline (CONTINUED)

CAPTIONS (clockwise): 1. The Authority demolishes a dilapidated building in Belle Vernon. The vacant lot was turned into a park. 2. Construction is completed on a building at the Fayette County Business Park. 3. Newspaper articles from the Authority's archives highlight redevelopment projects. 4. A new home sold through the Authority's Homebuyer Development Program. 5. A home in Fayette County before undergoing rehabilitation through the Authority's Homeowner Rehabilitation Program. 6. A fire hydrant represents one of the Authority's numerous waterline extension projects.







RedevelopmentAuthorityAimsAt'Renewal'

Housing Topic At Meeting

Redevelopment Plans Are Reviewed For Masontown



The Redevelopment Authority secures a State Redevelopment Grant for the Main Street Redevelopment area in Belle Vernon.

- The Authority executes its first LIHEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program) contract with the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs in the amount of \$459,792.
- South Union Township and the Redevelopment Authority cooperatively agree to administer an Urban Development Action Grant in the amount of \$258,500, which will be used to construct a new YMCA.
- The Authority begins to participate in the State/Small Communities CDBG Program and works with municipalities throughout the County to complete infrastructure, road, recreation, and public facility improvements.

1990s

1980s

The Authority secures funding through the newly created Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance Program in the amount of \$980,000 and from the Rental Rehabilitation Assistance Program in the amount of \$120,000 to fund home rehabilitation activities.

- During the 1990s, the Authority invests over \$17 million in CDBG funding throughout the County.
- The Authority secures a \$2 million grant from the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program to support the development of the Fayette Technology Park in North Union Township.
- The First Time Homebuyers Program is initiated when the Authority secures a \$186,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

2000s

The Redevelopment Authority secures a \$2 million grant through the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program to support the development of the Fayette County Business Park.

- The Authority administers a \$3.5 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant to fund Fallingwater renovation activities and a \$4.5 million RACP grant to fund the construction of the Fort Necessity Interpretative and Education Visitors Center.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development enters into an agreement with the Authority to provide \$200,000 toward the Access Grant Program, which supports home accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities.
- The Redevelopment Authority works in partnership with Threshold Housing Development, Inc. to develop Mountain View Estates in Georges Township and Stone Church Estates in Redstone Township.
- The Authority secures over \$3.6 million in competitive CDBG funding to support a number of infrastructure projects throughout the County.
- The Authority secures \$2 million from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to implement a redevelopment project in Brownsville Borough.
- The Authority purchases, renovates, and relocates to 86 West Main Street in Uniontown.

Infrastructure

Public Improvements

Each year the Redevelopment Authority implements numerous infrastructure projects throughout Fayette County including enhancements to water and sewage systems, construction and reconstruction of roads, and improvements to public facilities and recreation areas. Funded primarily by the Community Development Block Grant Program, these projects provide the necessary infrastructure to help build and maintain strong, lasting communities in our County.

In 2008 the Redevelopment Authority supported

-2,550 linear feet of storm sewer improvements
-27,248 linear feet of waterline extensions or replacements
-42,799 linear feet of road reconstruction
-a total of 20 community development projects throughout Fayette County

Over 8,000 people directly benefited from these projects.

Since the inception of the Small Communities Community Development Block Grant Program in 1985, the Redevelopment Authority has supported over

-39,822 linear feet of storm sewer installation and improvements
-700,988 linear feet of waterline extensions and replacements
-333,930 linear feet of road construction and reconstruction
-233,892 linear feet of sanitary sewer extensions and replacements
-\$3.3 million in recreation and public facility enhancements
-\$10.9 million in Competitive CDBG funding for 32 large waterline and sewer system infrastructure projects

Since 1985, the Authority invested \$51.2 million in CDBG funding to support over 650 infrastructure projects in municipalities across Fayette County.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

The U.S. Congress created the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program with the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The CDBG program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), makes annual grants available to states and local communities to support community development activities.

Fayette County participates in the State / Small Communities CDBG program because it has a population of fewer than 200,000 people. As a participant of this program, Fayette County receives its CDBG funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) rather than receiving its funding directly from the federal government.

Each year the Redevelopment Authority applies for and receives approximately \$2 million in CDBG funds. The Authority also often applies for competitive CDBG grants of up to \$500,000 to support large projects throughout the County. Eleven "entitlement" townships in the County are guaranteed a portion of the annual CDBG funding. All other municipalities must apply and compete for a portion of these funds. The Redevelopment Authority is responsible for administering and managing CDBG funds throughout the County.

Entitlement Townships:

- Bullskin Township
- Dunbar Township
- Georges Township
- German Township
- Luzerne Township
- Menallen Township
- North Union Township
- Redstone Township
- South Union Township
- Washington Township
- Wharton Township

PROFILE

BOLDEN ROAD WATERLINE EXTENSION

An inadequate supply of clean water was a common problem faced by many families living on **Bolden Road in Franklin Township**. Most of the families in this area relied on private wells that frequently ran dry, often after they consumed only a small amount of water. In letters written to support a waterline extension project, families told about their daily struggles with an insufficient supply of water, including not having enough water to bath or to wash clothes.

The limited amount of water that was available to these families was of very poor quality and tested positive for bacteria contamination, making the water unfit for drinking. The water's high content of iron caused it to stain and ruin washing machines and dishwashers and to discolor clothes.

To address this problem, the Redevelopment Authority, working in partnership with Franklin Township, submitted an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to secure \$500,000 in funding through the Competitive Community Development Block Grant Program. This funding allowed the Redevelopment Authority to implement the project in the summer of 2008, extending waterlines a total of 6,800 linear feet to bring public water service to 22 homes. **Project Engineer:** Widmer Engineering, Connellsville, Pennsylvania

> Project Contractor: DT Construction, Dunbar, Pennsylvania

Thanks to this project, families on Bolden Road can now freely use their water without worrying about its supply or quality.

Housing Programs and Assistance

The Redevelopment Authority offers a number of housing programs aimed at keeping individuals and families in their homes, making homes more energy efficient, or helping first-time homebuyers purchase homes.

The Homeowner Rehabilitation Program provides 0% interest loans to homeowners with homes that pose health or safety hazards or that do not meet current building code standards. The Authority works with these income-eligible homeowners to secure contractors to perform necessary repairs. The Authority's Lead Hazard Control Program offers financial assistance to families to help them create a lead-safe living environment. Under this program, a home is inspected for lead hazards and repairs are completed to mitigate lead exposure. The Access Grant Program helps families and individuals with disabilities modify their homes to make them fully accessible. Making homes energy efficient is the primary goal of the Authority's Weatherization Program. Homes included in this program undergo an energy audit and furnace check before insulation and conservation changes are made.

In 2008, the Authority's housing programs invested over \$1.8 million federal, state, local, and private funds to

- ... rehabilitate 39 homes
- ...remove lead hazards from 19 homes
- ...modify 11 homes to make them fully accessible to their residents
- ...improve energy efficiency in 301 homes

Since the inception of its housing programs in 1975, the Redevelopment Authority has invested over \$28 million to rehabilitate over 1,530 homes and weatherize over 9,000 homes.



HOMEBUYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In 2000 the Redevelopment Authority implemented the Homebuyer Development Program to assist first-time homebuyers with the purchase of their homes. The program, which includes a financial counseling component for all participants, offers downpayment and closing cost assistance and a variety of mortgage products to qualifying individuals. The Authority has assisted 116 homebuyers with this program.





The Authority partnered with a local, non-profit housing developer, Threshold Housing Development, to build new homes for its Homebuyer Development Program.



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HOMEOWNER REHABILITATION **PROGRAM**



Ron Wydick, a retired coal miner, has been a resident of Point Marion, Pennsylvania for most of his life. He left a few times when new jobs took him to Cleveland or to Washington DC, but he always returned to his family's home in Point Marion. His parents bought the home in the early 1940s and raised Ron and his four brothers and one sister there.

Over the past few decades, the condition of the Wydick home had deteriorated and the home was in need of a number of repairs. Ron contacted the

Redevelopment Authority and asked about assistance with his home's roof and furnace. He thought the Redevelopment Authority could help him with these repairs, but he did not know that the Authority could also recover the home's siding, update the bathroom, and install smoke alarms.

"When we visited Mr. Wydick's home, we saw that it was covered with InsulBrick, an old siding used in the 1950s," said Karen Miller, the Authority's Rehabilitation Director. "While our primary goal is to help individual clients, we also need to help improve the greater community. Since the InsulBrick was extremely deteriorated, we had the house recovered with aluminum siding. We also made a number of other repairs inside and outside the home in order to bring the house into compliance with local building codes."

"If friends come to visit me now, l'm not ashamed of the outside of my house anymore."

- Ron Wydick





Top photos, Wydick home rehabilitation. Other home rehabilitation and accessibility modifications.

Ron is grateful for the updates and repairs that the Redevelopment Authority made to both the inside and outside of his home. When asked about the improvements, Ron smiled and said "If friends come to visit me now, I'm not ashamed of the outside of my house anymore."

Special Projects

Community and Economic Development

The Authority's work in Fayette County extends beyond the scope of traditional infrastructure projects and housing programs to include a number of special projects and initiatives.

Ohiopyle

For several years in a row, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) cited Ohiopyle Borough's water treatment plant for poor performance. DEP noted several concerns, including insufficient chlorine contact time, excess turbidity levels, and an inability to monitor turbidity levels. Because the cost to correct these concerns far exceeded Ohiopyle Borough's small annual operating budget, the Redevelopment Authority worked with the Borough and Widmer Engineering to apply for and secure a competitive Community Development Block Grant to upgrade the system. This \$500,000 grant was used to implement a state-of-the-art water treatment facility using membrane filtration technology. The new system, which replaced an out-dated sand filtration system, produces water that now consistently meets DEP standards.

Brownsville Revitalization

Over the past several years, the Redevelopment Authority has worked cooperatively with Brownsville Borough to implement the Brownsville Borough Targeted Revitalization Initiative, aimed at aggressively addressing the blight in the Borough's downtown area. In 2008 the Redevelopment Authority was able to facilitate another bold step in the initiative, working with the County Commissioners to approve the



Ohiopyle's water treatment facility uses sophisticated membrane filtration technology to guarantee clean water for residents and tourists.

Brownsville Redevelopment Proposal. This Proposal involves the acquisition of several properties and the implementation of additional enhancements in order to help alleviate some of the severe blight which exists in the Borough. Funding for the project was obtained by the Redevelopment Authority through a \$2.0 million grant provided through the Pennsylvania Main Street Growing Greener II program. Getting better is what we're all about

2 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Redevelopment Authority

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Date November 5, 200

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Uniontown Hospital

Uniontown Hospital is undergoing a \$59 million expansion that includes a new lobby and entrance, an expanded emergency room, consolidated outpatient services, and 56 private inpatient rooms. The Redevelopment Authority is proud to be part of this expansion by securing an \$8.44 million grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to support the project. The grant, which was applied for and approved in 2008, is provided through the State's Infrastructure Facilities Improvement Program (IFIP) and is paid out over a period of 20 years.

Fayette County Fairgrounds

With attendance at the Fayette County Fair close to 100,000 people, it's not surprising that events at the Fair's Outdoor Arena often attract large crowds. In order to support these popular events and to accommodate fair patrons, the Fayette County Fair Board partnered with the Redevelopment Authority and other local officials to apply for a \$450,000 grant through the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. The proceeds from this grant were used to construct a roof over the Outdoor Arena so that patrons can enjoy events during inclement weather. The grant also supported the construction of a press/announcers box, allowing reporters and announcers to safely view events.

Officials receive a grant for the Uniontown Hospital expansion project.

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Construction is completed on a new roof that covers the bleachers in the Fayette County Fair's Outdoor Arena.

Fayette County Business Park

Continued Expansion

The Business Park encompasses 270 acres in North and South Union Townships.

The Redevelopment Authority continued to expand the Fayette County Business Park in 2008. To help fund the Park's growing infrastructure needs, the Authority took



the unprecedented step of issuing bonds to fund development. The Authority partnered with Cedarwood Development, Inc. a private developer based out of Akron, Ohio, to issue \$6 million in bonds. These bonds are supported by the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Facilities Improvement Program (IFIP). Through this Program, the Authority receives an annual grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to repay the bonds over a ten year period.

In its continuing efforts to attract new businesses to the County, the Authority sold a parcel of the Business Park's undeveloped land to Synergy Development of Greenock, Pennsylvania. This parcel, which faces Route 40, will include additional retail and service-related businesses.

By the end of 2008, the Authority completed development of approximately two thirds of the land at the Business Park. The Authority is currently planning scenarios to develop the remaining portions of the Business Park.

MATTHEW DRIVE EXTENSION



In 2008 the Authority worked with South Union Township to complete the extension of Matthew Drive, a new fourlane, major road adjacent to the Park. This \$7.5 million project provides easy access between the Fayette County Business Park and other roadways in the County, including the Mon-Fayette Expressway. In addition to funding from the Redevelopment Authority, this project was supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.



P R O F I L E

THE AESTHETIC DENTAL GROUP

The Fayette County Business Park's convenient location in North and South Union Townships is attractive to new businesses as well as to existing small businesses looking to own property and expand within the County. One local business that recently moved to the Business Park is The Aesthetic Dental Group, which is owned and operated by Dr. Geoffrey Gwynn.

"Our new location is really great," Dr. Gwynn said when asked about his new office. "Some of the land near our office won't be developed, so we have the benefit of being located in a new development while also having trees and open space next to our building."

The Redevelopment Authority worked with Dr. Gwynn to help him find the ideal location in the Business Park for his practice. The lot needed to be large enough to support a growing practice, while also strategically located near trees and green space.

Dr. Gwynn selected a lot that is adjacent to a hillside, which provides the green space that he wanted. The building was designed to take advantage of the location; patient consultation areas have large windows that look out on to the hillside. "...we have the benefit of being in a new development while also having trees and open space..."

- Dr. Geoffrey Gwynn

Since The Aesthetic Dental Group opened in the Business Park in the summer of 2008, business has been strong. According to Dr. Gwynn, his business has already grown at this new location and he is considering expanding his business to include another young dentist. The lobby of The Aesthetic Dental Group office is designed to be both inviting and calming.

New Businesses

Several new businesses opened in the Fayette County Business Park in 2008, including a new 203,000 square foot Wal-Mart Supercenter. This store employs over 530 associates and offers several amenities including a grocery store, a lawn and garden center, and a pharmacy. In addition to the Wal-Mart Supercenter, Sonic Drive-In, International House of Pancakes (IHOP), and The Aesthetic Dental Group opened in 2008. All of these new businesses add to the already diverse offering of retail stores, restaurants, medical offices, and professional services at the Business Park.

Total Investment

The Business Park represents a multi-million dollar initiative including public investment of over \$15.3 million from federal, state, and local sources. This public investment leveraged over \$50 million in private investment to develop the Business Park.

Taxes Generated

With the addition of the new businesses that opened in 2008, the Fayette County Business Park now contributes over \$610,000 in property taxes to Fayette County. Before the Redevelopment Authority developed the Business Park, the land was unused and did not generate any tax revenue.

Estimated tax revenue is based on 2008 millage rates and land and building values available from the Fayette County Tax Assessment Office.







CAPTIONS (clockwise): 1. A panoramic view of the Fayette County Business Park focuses on Fayette Crossings, which was developed by Cedarwood Development, Inc. **2.** Pasta Lorenzo is a locally owned restaurant in the Business Park. **3.** McMillen Engineering relocated its offices to the Business Park. **4.** Laurel Pediatrics represents one of the many medical offices located in the Business Park. **5.** These businesses opened in the Business Park in the fall of 2007.

Financials

Expenditures by Program

The Redevelopment Authority receives funding from a number of federal, state, local, and private sources. Some of the funding that supports the Authority's programs includes:

Special Fayette County Projects **Business Park** 8.2% 32.3% Housina 8.4% Planning & Operations 9.8% Weatherization 13.9% Community Development 27.4%

Housing Programs

The HOME Investment Partnerships Program is the primary funding source for the Homeowner Rehabilitation Program. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers the HOME Program and provides grants to states to support affordable housing initiatives. The Authority applies for and receives its HOME funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). In addition to HOME funds, the Authority also supports it Housing Programs with the Pennsylvania Access Grant Program, the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program, and funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Weatherization

The Authority's Weatherization Program is funded with both public and private sources. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally-funded program operated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Authority receives LIHEAP funds through the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare to weatherize the homes of low-income individuals and families. In addition to LIHEAP funding, the Authority receives funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program and from private energy companies such as Allegheny Power and Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania.

Community Development

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is the primary source of funding for Community Development activities (see page 6). CDBG funding leverages additional funding from a number of sources including the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local investment.

Special Projects

A primary source of funding for the Authority's special projects in 2008 is the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. This competitive statefunded program offers grants to support local economic development projects that seek to increase employment opportunities, tax revenues, or other economic activity. The Authority applied for and received funding through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program to support the Fayette County Fairgrounds improvement project.

Fayette County Business Park

In 2008, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the U.S. Department of Transportation were the two primary sources of funding for the Matthew Drive Extension project at the Fayette County Business Park. In addition to this funding, the Business Park was also supported with funding from the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program and from local sources.

Board & Thanks

Board Members

Kenneth M. Finney, Jr. Chairman Board Member Since 1979

Ross F. DiMarco Vice Chairman /Assistant Secretary Board Member Since 1984

James S. Woleslagle Treasurer Board Member Since 2000

Odilia A. John Secretary Board Member Since 2006

Robert W. Sleighter Assistant Treasurer *Board Member Since 2004*

Special Thanks To

Fayette County Commissioners

Vince Zapotosky Chairman

Vincent A. Vicites Vice-Chairman

Angela M. Zimmerlink Secretary

Solicitor

Herbert Margolis Margolis, George & Port

Fayette County Townships and Municipalities



Front Row: Ross F. DiMarco and Odilia A. John Back Row: Robert W. Sleighter, James S. Woleslagle, and Kenneth M. Finney, Jr.





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