

Bridget,

I would love to see the replies you receive. With the aging population we have in Michigan it seems like this would be a great service.

Brenda Dunseth, Library Director

Highland Township Public Library

Hi, Bridget,

I haven't put together the type of support you're working on, but I do know that your local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association would be a great group to work with and/or get resources from if you haven't already.

Cheri Dobbs

Cheri Dobbs (she/her)

Upper School Librarian | PreK3-12 Coordinator of Library Services | Teaching & Learning Council

DETROIT COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

22305 W. Thirteen Mile Rd.

Beverly Hills, Michigan 48025

O: 248.430.1246

cdobbs@dcds.edu

I just started here at DPL and will be working with this population. If you would not mind I would like to see any results you get.

Thanks,

Mary Howard, Librarian II

Douglass Technology Center / MI10-Detroit Public Library

for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

Douglass Branch for Specialized Services

3666 Grand River

Detroit, MI 48208

Office: 313-481-1704 / 313-481-1791 / Fax: 313-833-4989

mhoward@detroitpubliclibrary.org

We love the Library. We love Detroit. We love what we do!

Hi Bridget: I'll ask and try to find out more for you. I know we've done this-- esp before COVID. I'm not sure if/how they're being done now.

Pre-Covid, a staff member visited a memory care facility and worked with the Activities Coordinator to bring in books. Sometime library staff would stay and present the books-- but usually she would leave the materials and the Activities Coordinator would use them for interactions.

Books requested were those with lots of pictures and subjects were all types of history books, woodworking, gardens, railroad, cars-- even children's picture books. I understood they were mostly used as prompts for memory and engagement: "Look, there's a picture of Neuman's General Store-- I remember going there to buy candy. Do you like candy?" etc.

Following this with interest. Good idea!

Sharon Crotser Toy

Director

St. Ignace Public Library

110 West Spruce Street

St. Ignace, MI 49781

(906) 643-8318

Hi, Bridget:

I am currently working on a similar project and would be interested in any replies you may receive on the subject. If it isn't too much trouble, would you be willing to share/forward what you learn?

Our library is currently starting off with 5 pre-made dementia care kits from MEternally. You are probably already familiar

with this company, but on the off chance you are not: <https://meternally.com/>

Thanks and good luck with your project,

Bree Stokanovich

Adult Services Librarian

Hamburg Twp. Library

Bridget, Jackson District Library has done this. They might be a good resource. Maybe reach out to Diane Anderson?

Karren Reish

Library Grants Coordinator

Library of Michigan

517-241-0021 / www.mi.gov/lsta

Hi Bridget,

I am Vickie Weyand from the Brighton District Library. I happened to see a short entry in the Parade magazine where another library had added them to their collection. We created 7 memory kits last year and recently added 2 cat companion pets. I will try to find the cost of just the memory kits as the funds came out of our library of things budget.

I'll let you know when I get a number for you. Sarah Neidert, who is now the director of the Cromaïne Library in Hartland, did the purchasing of materials. I'm looking at adding one on sports for the men...a suggestion from a patron! The kits have been popular!

[Here is a link to the kits in our Catalog](#)

Attached is a copy of our brochure along with a copy of the additional insert showing the 2 new cat companion pets.

Here is some information for you Sara used:

Honestly, the reason we could easily create these was because our Technical Services department was already very good at creating kits for our Library of Things collection.

There might be companies that sell them as kits ready to go, but Sarah pulled them together herself.

For ideas, she used (many are available on amazon):

<https://www.alzstore.com/default.asp>

<https://relish-life.com/us>

Lasting Happiness books (picture books with no words):

https://www.amazon.com/Lasting-Happiness/e/B084BZ14CL/ref=dp_byline_cont_pop_book_1

Playable art - I bought the cube and ball:

https://www.amazon.com/stores/page/C0428CC7-3253-4E7F-AA45-B4FFCC184749?ingress=2&visitId=0e203039-521a-41d3-ad5e-b89cd67d9179&ref=ast_bln

Keeping Busy Dementia Products:

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=keeping+busy+dementia+products&srefix=keeping+busy+de%2Caps%2C80&ref=nb_sb_ss_ts-doa-p_1_15

This is a write up from a press release from another library, but gives you ideas for groups that might be in your area that you could contact for ideas:

The library received input on the kits from many community partners including Our County Agency on Aging, Disability and Veterans Services, Alzheimer's Association support groups, PSU Institute on Aging, OHSU Layton Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Center, SAGE Metro Portland (LGBT Elders), Q Center, Friendly House, and the Multicultural Senior Center.

Ideas for contents:

- An adult picture or photography book
- A respite video
- A DVD of a television series
- A feature film that can be enjoyed by all ages
- A game that can be enjoyed by everyone
- A jigsaw puzzle
- A game that can be enjoyed individually
- A book of short readings for care-partners

I reached out to our local Alzheimer's Association which supplied us with more information to include in the kits, many of which the patrons are allowed to keep. I have attached many of them below. One of them is about a support group for caregivers for Brighton as a model. I'm sure they have them in your area. It would be good to find your local Alzheimer's Association. I know they will also have suggestions on what to include in the kits!

I hope this information helps. Please feel free to email or call if you have any other questions.

Good Luck!

Vickie Weyand
Outreach Librarian
Brighton District Library
100 Library Drive
Brighton, MI 48116
vweyand@brightonlibrary.info
810-229-6571 x240

Hi Bridget,

Unfortunately, I don't have any information to give, but I would love to hear the responses you get. What a lovely idea!

Trista

Trista Reno (she/her)
Head of Information Services

Commerce Township Community Library

Phone: 248-669-8108 Ext. 113
Fax: 248-387-6240

Hi Bridget,

I'm a librarian at Salem-South Lyon District Library, and I'm also curious about acquiring senior memory kits! If you receive any good responses, I would be so appreciative if you're willing to please share what you learn! Thanks so much either way!

Have a great day,
Cécile

Cécile Bosshard
Librarian
Salem-South Lyon District Library

Good afternoon Bridget,

I presented at a library conference last year on the memory kits that I put together for our library. I've attached the presentation [here](#), which hits most of your questions. Let me know though if there's anything else I can answer! I hope this helps!

Natalie Nowak
Adult Programming and Marketing

Bayliss Public Library

Currently Reading: *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold

Good Afternoon Bridget,

We are interested in memory kits too. Please share any info. that you get.

Thanks,

Maria

Maria McCarville, MBA MILS

Director

Public Libraries of Saginaw

505 Janes Avenue

Saginaw, MI 48607

989.755.9820

Hi Bridget,

When I was working at KDL, we launched a pilot program at the Englehardt branch in Lowell inspired by Music and Memories. One of the project leads is still working there. Her name is Lori Gerard. You may want to reach out to her about this.

Hope this helps.

Heather

Heather Wood-Gramza

Michigan eLibrary Coordinator

she / her / hers

Library of Michigan

702 West Kalamazoo Street

PO Box 30007

Lansing, MI 48909-7507

Office: 517.335.1497

Non-Michigan Response

Hi Bridget,

I am happy to share anything I can about the creation of our Memory Care Kits (MCKs). First we did a lot of research and partnered with local Alzheimer's and Dementia organizations in the community. Our first meeting was in fact a partner from a local Dementia organization who had experience with a type of MCK. She gave us good tips like don't include children's books even though they have great pictures.

Then we decided what we could put in the kits for activities that are sustainable. We did not want to put things with pieces like puzzles in the kits for obvious reasons and we do not purchase music or DVDs at our library. We made our own paper activities like Memory Games, Conversation Starters, Coloring Pages (we provide markers too), and then we made a libguide that patrons get a qr code for that gives them access to library database resources with links to films and videos related to the theme. We include our digital magazines in that as well. We also link to non-library videos that we think are appropriate for this population (we put a disclaimer on the libguide about pop-up ads etc., not being endorsed by us).

The hardest part was finding books that were not made for children but had more pictures than words. We put 3 books in for the caregiver and 3 for them to look at together. Our first 50 bags have a wide variety of books in them, but our expansion we are currently working on has books that we found specifically made for those with dementia and have things like baby faces, puppies, etc. Things that elicit feelings and memories.

I will say the most important part to all of this has been using our partnerships for information and resources. We are also linked up with both our local Alzheimer's Association and researchers from Duke University Medical School that do free virtual programs for our patrons about memory issues and how to deal with a dementia diagnosis.

It has been a very fulfilling experience and I am happy to share anything you are interested in.

Thanks,

Dayna Shields (she/her)

Adult Services Manager

Wake County Government

Community Services /Wake County Public Libraries

Dayna.Shields@wakegov.com

919.463.8507 office

4000 Louis Stephens Drive

Cary, NC 27519

wakegov.com

KIT #7

- Picture Book of Gardens
- Autumn Market Puzzle
- Fabric Sensory Mat
- Fidget Widget
- with Instructions
- Conversation Game
- Category Snap Card Game
- Laminated Tips Sheet



ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

National Organization

www.alz.org

For caregiver programs and resources

alzconnected.org

To extend your network of support with the ALZ online community

Brighton Dementia Caregiver Support Group

First Monday of the month
6:30 to 8 p.m.

Independence Village,
7700 Nemco Way, Brighton

Howell Dementia Caregiver Support Group

First Tuesday of the month
3 to 4:30 p.m.

Livingston Educational
Service Agency
(Howell Room)

1425 W. Grand River Rd, Howell

To register, please call 800.272.3900
or email helplinegmc@alz.org



Brighton
District
Library

100 Library Drive Brighton, MI 48116
810-229-6571 • www.brightonlibrary.info



BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY MEMORY CARE KITS

KIT #1

- Animal Album
- Reminiscence Cards Box
- Farm Life Book
- Match the Dots Game
- Conversation Game
- Art Cube Wooden Puzzle

KIT #3

- The Magnetic Picture Board
- Fidget Widget Bag with Instructions
- The Picture Book of Baby Animals
- The Ungame
- Laminated tips sheet

KIT #2

- The Picture Book of Trains
- Seaside Nostalgia Puzzle in Box
- Slide Fidget Widget with Instructions
- Sensory Buckle Pillow
- Musical Bingo Game in Box
- Laminated Tips Sheet

KIT #5

- Baking Cupboard Magnetic Picture Board
- Picture Book of Dogs in Costumes
- Cat's Whiskers Puzzle
- Fidget Widget with Instructions
- Animal Snap Card Game

KIT #4

- Sensory Hand Muffler
- The Picture Book of Hymns
- Home Album
- Reminiscence Cards
- Fidget Widget with Instructions
- The Ungame—Seniors Version with Cards & Instructions
- Laminated Tips Sheet

KIT #6

- Picture Book of Natural Wonders
- Playable Art Wooden Angle with Idea Sheet
- Wooden Tetris Puzzle
- 3 Wooden Shape Puzzles
- Animal Bingo Game
- Laminated Tips Sheet

KITS #8 & #9



Companion Pets have soft fur and sensors that allow them to respond to motion, touch, and sound. They react with purrs and meows. They move their legs, head and torso in reaction to touch, much like a real cat.



EDUCATION & AWARENESS PROGRAMS

Please review our menu of education programs that can be provided in a virtual or in person setting.

We also offer brief introductory talks on dementia and Alzheimer's Association services for any length of time that fits the needs of your agency. Please contact us to learn more.

Program Descriptions

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's | 30- or 60-minute classes*

Alzheimer's and other dementias cause changes in memory, thinking and behavior that interfere with daily life. Join us to learn 10 common warning signs and what to watch for in yourself and others.

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia | 30- or 60-minute classes*

Learn the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, Alzheimer's stages and risk factors, current research and available treatments and ways the Alzheimer's Association can help.

Effective Communication Strategies | 30- and 45-minute classes

Learn to decode the verbal and behavioral messages delivered by someone with dementia and identify strategies to help you connect and communicate at each stage of the disease.

Understanding & Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors | 30- or 60-minute classes

Learn about common triggers for behaviors associated with dementia, how to assess a person's needs and how to intervene effectively.

Dementia Conversations: Driving, Doctor Visits, Legal & Financial Planning | 30- or 60-minute classes

Learn to have honest and caring conversations about common concerns when someone begins to show signs of dementia.

Healthy Living for Your Brain & Body | 45- or 60-minute classes*

Learn what research has shown about lifestyle choices that may help keep your brain and body healthy as you age. Hear practical ways you can incorporate changes into a plan for healthy aging.

Alzheimer's Research Update | 5-, 10-, 15-, or 30-minute classes

Learn about advancements in Alzheimer's treatments, what is coming down the pipeline, risk reduction and lifestyle intervention studies, local research grants, and availability and pathways for access and Alzheimer's Association resources.

Managing Money: A Caregiver's Guide | 60-minute class*

If you or someone you know is facing dementia or another chronic illness, it's never too early to put financial plans in place. Join this evidence-based program to learn tips for managing someone else's finances, how to prepare for future care costs and the benefits of early planning.

Living with Alzheimer's: For Care Partners (Early-Stage) | 3-part series*

In the early stage of Alzheimer's disease, families face new questions as they adjust. What does the diagnosis mean? What kinds of plans need to be made? What resources are available to help? Join us for this three-part series to hear practical answers to the questions that arise in the early stage. Hear from those directly affected and learn what you can do to cope with changes that come with an early-stage diagnosis.

Living with Alzheimer's: For Caregivers (Middle-Stage) | 3-part series**

In the middle stage of Alzheimer's disease, those who were care partners now become hands-on caregivers. Join us for this three-part series and hear caregivers and professionals discuss helpful strategies to provide safe, effective and comfortable care in the middle stage of Alzheimer's.

Living with Alzheimer's: For Caregivers (Late-Stage) | 2-part series*

In the late stage of Alzheimer's disease, caregiving typically involves new ways of connecting and interacting with the person with the disease. Join us for this two-part series and hear from caregivers and professionals about resources, monitoring care and providing meaningful connection for the person with late-stage Alzheimer's and their families.

Living with Alzheimer's: Younger-Onset | 90-minute class*

When someone under 65 is diagnosed with Younger-Onset Alzheimer's disease or related dementia, the first reaction is often shock or denial. What does the diagnosis mean? What kinds of plans need to be made for everyone? What about work? Learn answers to the questions that arise for people concerned about Younger-Onset Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

Living with Alzheimer's: For People Living with Alzheimer's | 3-part series*

A diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease is life-changing and leads to many questions. In this three-part series, you will hear from others who have been where you are. You'll learn what you need to know, what you need to plan and what you can do as you navigate this chapter of your life.

Dementia and Disabilities Supportive Services Series | 60-minute classes

Education programs about dementia in individuals with developmental disabilities designed for professional and family caregivers. Topics covered include behavior and ADL changes, activity planning, communication changes and more. CEs available for nurses and social workers.

HIV Supportive Services Series | 60-minute classes

Education programs about dementia and HIV designed for professionals and family caregivers. Offerings include *Protecting Your Brain While Living with HIV* and *Introduction to HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorder (HAND)*.

LGBTQ+ Focused Programs | 30- or 60-minute classes

Specific programs, including 10 Warning Signs, Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body and more, are available in a modified format to address the unique needs of the LGBTQ+ community.

***Available in Spanish | **Available in Arabic**

Revised 1/6/23

How Should I Clean the Companion Pet?

Proper cleaning is essential to avoid damaging the electronics inside and to ensure safe handling.

Cleaning soiled fur:

1. Spray the soiled area with Dapple cleaner (or similar non-toxic product) and gently wipe with a clean towel. Repeat if needed.
2. Let fur dry.
3. Brush fur with Companion Pet brush.

General disinfecting:

1. Wipe fur with Sani-Wipes.
2. Let fur dry.
3. Brush fur with Companion Pet brush.

DO NOT soak the fur or place under running water.

MEMORY CARE KIT #6

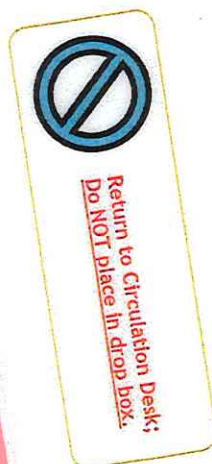
Contents:

- Picture book of Natural Wonders
- Playable art wooden angle with idea sheet
- Wooden Tetris puzzle
- 3 Wooden shape puzzles
- Animal bingo game in box
- Laminated Tips sheet
- Carrying bag

PLEASE NOTE: 2 Memory Care Kits per person

LIBRARY
OF THINGS
WHY BUY WHEN YOU CAN BORROW?

BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY



**PLEASE NOTE:
\$5.00 PER DAY OVERDUE FINE**

RESPITE CARE ASSISTANCE

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS

\$2,000 scholarships available to Michigan residents living in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne.



The respite care program offers financial assistance to families who care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. They are aimed at helping to reduce the financial burden and stress of caregiving. The assistance provided can be used to cover the cost of day programs, in-home and/or overnight care by others, including professional caregivers, family, neighbors or friends.

Eligibility Requirements

- Service must be provided in the area in which the person with dementia OR the caregiver resides.
- The caregiver needs to be caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia.

*Funding provided by the
Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.*

Call our 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900 or send an email to helplinegmc@alz.org for an application today.

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®



Brighton Dementia Caregiver Support Group

Presented by:
Alzheimer's Association
Michigan

First Monday of the month
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Independence Village
7700 Nemco Way
Brighton

To register, call
800.272.3900
or email helplinegmc@alz.org

Visit alz.org/gmc to learn more about caregiver programs and resources. To further extend your network of support, visit ALZ connected®, our online community, at alzconnected.org.

Build a support system with people who understand.

Alzheimer's Association® support groups, conducted by trained facilitators, are a safe place for people living with dementia and their care partners to:

- Develop a support system.
- Exchange practical information on challenges and possible solutions.
- Talk through issues and ways of coping.
- Share feelings, needs and concerns.
- Learn about community resources.



Joy for All Companion Pets Guide for Family Caregivers

What are Joy for All Companion Pets?

Robotic companion pets offer an alternative to traditional pet therapy, and research shows them to have similar positive effects. Ageless Innovations' Joy for All Companion Pets cats and dogs are designed with soft fur that feels real and sensors that respond to motion, touch, and sound, allowing them to react and interact. The cat purrs, meows, and moves its leg, ears, head, and torso in reaction to touch, much like an actual cat. The dog barks when spoken to, wags his tail, nuzzles, turns his head toward sound, and its heart beats when petted.

Your Family Member Living with Dementia:

Is capable of experiencing well-being.

Well-being is generally thought of as being comfortable, healthy, or happy. People with dementia have trouble creating well-being for themselves. Companion Pets help create a sense of well-being.

Retains abilities throughout the disease.

Each person with dementia has capabilities that don't weaken, no matter the stage of dementia. Your loved one can:

- Love, feel, think, respond, play, sense, and have relationships.
- Experience human emotions.
- Express human emotions.
- Respond to music.
- Access memories of long ago.
- Respond to nature.
- Recognize facial expressions and gestures.
- Understand the meaning of human touch.



How Might my Family Member Benefit?

- Increases interaction with others and the surroundings
- Connects to memories of family pets
- Decreases anxiety and agitation
- Uplifts mood
- Stimulates the senses

What is the Best Way to Introduce the Pet to My Loved One?

1. Hold the Pet like you would if it were real.
2. Approach from the front, getting into eyeshot.
3. Draw his attention to the Pet, placing it so he can see it.
4. Ask, "What do you think of this?" or "Look what I have." Be neutral. When introducing the Pet, don't present it as real or not real. Let your loved one decide. If she doesn't see the Pet as real, don't try to convince her that it is.



Encourage Interaction: You might ask:

- Would you hold him for me?
- What should we call this cat (dog)?
- What do you think he's thinking right now?
- Did you have a cat (dog) when you were growing up? What was his name? What did he look like?
- Do you like cats or dogs better?
- Share a brief story about something funny that cats (dogs) do. Ask if she has a funny story, too.

How can I Tell how My Loved One Feels about the Pet?

It might be difficult to recognize how your loved one is feeling.

Positive signs tell you she is engaged and reacting to the Pet in a way that fosters well-being and makes use of remaining abilities.

- Smiles or expression brightens when he first sees the Pet.
- Says, "Hi, kitty/puppy!"
- Responds when the Pet meows or barks or moves.
- Strokes, pats, or holds the Pet.
- Holds a give-and-take conversation with the Pet.
- Looks alert and bright-eyed, smiles, laughs.
- Takes care of the Pet by combing it, attempting to feed it, giving it rides on a walker, etc.

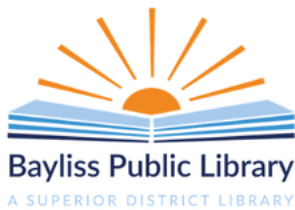
Negative signs tell you that he is not engaged and experiencing feelings that create a lower state of well-being. The reaction can be verbal or physical.

- Pushes Pet away.
- Becomes upset or anxious.
- Shows no interest, or is too tired to engage attention.
- Needs repeated prompting to acknowledge the Pet.





Friday, April 28, 2023



Outreach and Memory Kits at Bayliss Library

January 11, 2022 3:52 pm by [Staff Report](#)

Bayliss Public Library is excited to announce that we will now have four memory kits available for checkout! Our kits are designed to be used with any individual who is experiencing memory loss, especially Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. By focusing on a topic that was an important part of an individual's life, the kits are intended to stimulate memories and conversation. Each kit has a different theme – pets and animals, sewing, baseball, and 50s/60s/70s nostalgia. The kits contain a variety of media and items, including books, films, lots of Upper Peninsula resources and brochures, and sensory items. Each kit also contains a different book meant for caregivers and guardians on coping with their loved one's memory loss. There is also a notebook included in each kit for families to write down their positive experiences and advice for future checkouts. Not included in the kits – but also available for checkout – will be four large print easy reading adult books. These books can be used by many different individuals, including those with memory loss, lower reading levels, or with vision loss. Each kit and the four large print books will be placed on the shelves next to our new materials.

The kits can be checked out for up to three weeks. Kits will not be available through interlibrary loan, but they can be checked out by any individual who holds a Superior District Library branch card. If an individual is interested in checking out a kit but does not have a card, they are encouraged to come into the library and apply for one! We cover many of the areas in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, but even those who live outside of the boundaries can apply for a card (in this case, there is a fee associated with having a card).

Our memory kits are part of an expanding outreach plan to bring library materials to those who cannot easily access one of our branches. Natalie Nowak, Adult Programming and Marketing Coordinator, has been working with Freighter View Assisted Living in Sault Ste. Marie to bring reading materials to the residents and to read with them. Every other week, the group focuses on a different topic with different kinds of reading and listening materials, including plays, musicals, book excerpts, and historic newspaper articles.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach the library at (906) 632-9331, or email Natalie at nnowak@superiordistrictlibrary.org.

MEMORY KITS

AT BAYLISS PUBLIC LIBRARY!

WHO?

These kits are intended to be used by any person with memory issues, cognitive impairment, or any type of dementia! Caretakers/guardians are encouraged to keep track of returning all the items.

WHAT?

We have four kits: baseball, sewing, animals, and nostalgia. Each kit comes with a variety of media, books, and items meant to stimulate good memories and conversations with individuals.

WHEN?

Each kit can be checked out for three weeks!

WHERE?

Our kits do not require an Internet connection and thus can be used in a variety of places: homes, residential facilities, the library, or anywhere else!

WHY?

Memory kits are a useful tool in caretaking that can bear some of the responsibility of the guardian. Each kit also contains a different informative book on coping with a diagnosis and caretaking. Also, they're fun to explore together!

HOW?

Open and read the folder first. Please take any brochures that may help you. Use the pictures and idea cards to stimulate conversation. The rest of the items can be used creatively by you!



Staff Report

This story was prepared by the staff at EUP News or contributed from an outside source.



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☐ Save my name, email, and website in this browser for the next time I comment.

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