



January/February 2010

# THE GLENCOE MEMO

675 Village Court • Glencoe Illinois 60022-1699 • 847-835-4114 • [www.villageofglencoe.org](http://www.villageofglencoe.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Neighbor:

I hope everyone has had a happy and healthy holiday season, and that all of us can look forward to a new year with those characteristics as well. Certainly there are aspects of this past year that can stand some substantial improvement.

**Boring Budget Stuff:** One area where I hope we see some positive change is the general public financial situation. This is the time of year when the Village Board is reviewing both year-end financial prospects (Glencoe's fiscal year-end is February 28) and the budget for the next year (Fiscal 2011). Often, even those of us directly involved with the process find it tedious and boring. Not this year. Unfortunately.

*(continued on pg. 2)*

### THE INSIDE STORY...

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Holiday Light Recycling Pg 5

Snow and Ice Control Pg 6

## VILLAGE BOARD WORKING ON FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET

The current Village budget year (Fiscal Year 2010) comes to a close on February 28, 2010. When the FY2010 budget was approved last February, it anticipated significant reductions in revenue, and a final budget was approved recognizing the impact of the economy in the Village. During the course of the year, an additional shortfall of approximately \$900,000 in revenue for the Fiscal Year was forecasted. The additional shortfall is being reconciled in part by additional spending cuts, including the deferral of capital projects and cutting operational expenditures by 10%.

The Village is working to formulate a final budget for Fiscal Year 2011 (March 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011) that further recognizes the factors that have impacted the current budget. As a non-home rule community, the Village is bound by the property tax extension limitation law. This year the maximum allowed increase is 0.1% (approximately \$8,000) in total property tax increase for the Village. With the additional minimum requirement for funding the public pension funds (see article below) and the anticipated continued downturn in sales tax (from 2008 levels) and building project revenues, the Village will be required to consider additional expenditure and revenue adjustments in the upcoming Fiscal Year.

The Village Board is dedicated to providing the community with cost effective, high quality services and programs that distinguish this community. Every effort will be made to maintain these values while recognizing the impact of the economy on our residents. The Village Board will continue to review and discuss the budget at its January 21 meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, tune in the live web-casting through [www.villageofglencoe.org](http://www.villageofglencoe.org).

If you have questions, please call the Village Manager's Office at 847-835-4114. ▼

## PUBLIC PENSION FUNDING IMPACT ON THE VILLAGE OF GLENCOE

Economic conditions that have affected the nation have had a significant impact on the ability of the Village of Glencoe to fund its public pension funds.

The Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), which is a State fund that includes all Village employees other than sworn public safety officers, lost approximately 26% of its value in 2008 alone. By law, any employee of a municipality working over 1,000 hours per year is required to participate in this program. The separate Police Pension Fund, which is also established by State law, but is controlled and managed locally, experienced a similar decline. In 2008, the Police Pension Fund plan assets declined more than 22%.

*(continued on pg. 4)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE(cont.)

The problems are easy to identify: revenues are down substantially; expenses are up - some very substantially. "Solutions" are not easy to find.

Current projections for Fiscal 2010 gross revenues are for an approximate \$900,000 revenue shortfall from the Fiscal 2010 budget adopted last February. The biggest shortfall from budget was in reduced revenues from building permits (only six new home permits were issued in 2009 vs. 18 in 2008 and 31 in 2007) – even more drastic reduction than expected. Water fund revenues also were substantially less than expected, due to a drop-off in water usage. And, of course, that budget had already contemplated significantly reduced sales tax and permit revenues.

The big issue for next year, however, requires facing some hard facts in two other areas: real estate tax revenues will not increase, and certain expenses will increase substantially. In neither case does the Village have the ability to change the situation.

As you know, the Village is a non-home rule community, and as such is limited to a "cost-of-living" percentage increase in its real property tax levy (calculated by reference to a general COLA formula, not one tailored to Village expenses). For next year, that increase is about 0.01%. That should be good news. And maybe in some years, it would be. This year, however, the Village will instead be forced to look elsewhere for additional revenue. We will need to impose additional fees to provide revenue to pay for increases in expenses. Perhaps the largest item in that category is our pension expense.

I have written about this issue before, and elsewhere in this *Memo* (on page 1) is an article containing a little more detail about our public employee pension system. For next year's budget, we will be required by state law to increase our contribution to the various pension funds by approximately \$350,000. For our little Village, that is a fairly big hit for a single year. (Were we free to do so, to raise that amount from real property taxes alone would require an approximate 3.5% increase in the Village tax levy.)

What to do? There are always two choices: raise revenue or reduce expenses. But reducing expenses means reducing Village services – and under our system of

multiple local governments, that presents significant issues for all of us. The Village is principally responsible for public safety and public works – and not much else. Should we collect garbage less often than weekly? Or advise Glencoe's residents not to get sick on weekends because we have had to furlough our paramedics? Or plow our streets only when it snows more than 8 inches? We are already deferring some maintenance tasks, but that can go on only so long before our community starts to deteriorate.

Because of the division of responsibilities among local governmental units, there are few "non-essential" services in the Village portfolio.

If we do not make substantial cuts in service, however, more revenues are needed. Although decisions have not yet been made, the Village Board is considering a number of fee increases. Our rate for water sales has already been raised to reflect this past year's usage and results.

I suspect that another significant fee increase that will be imposed for next year is a "garbage fee" (no pun intended). You may recall that, just a few years ago, we were able to eliminate a previous garbage fee when we adopted the once-per-week pick-up schedule. For the last several years, residential garbage operations have been funded primarily out of the General Fund, and therefore mainly by tax revenues. In the current year, approximately \$700,000 of General Fund tax revenue has been used to support the garbage program. Some, or perhaps all, of those costs will now need to be funded with a new fee (thus freeing up General Fund revenues for payment of the pension expense and other items).

The bottom line for next year: no new taxes from the Village – new fees instead. As I said earlier – "solutions" are hard to find. I wish I had better news to report.

And, as always, "thanks for listening". That's especially true when the message isn't a happy one.



Scott Feldman

## VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS

The following are key actions approved by the Village Board during the months of November and December:

- Approved an ordinance amending water rates and charges – The Water Fund required a modification in rates to meet minimum fund balance policy requirements. The Board approved an ordinance to raise the water rate from \$2.772 per 100 cubic feet to \$3.188 per 100 cubic feet, effective December 1, 2009.
- Reviewed recommendations of the Plan Commission regarding regulation of steep slope areas – The Board heard the report of the Village Plan Commission regarding their review of steep slope impacts on properties in the Village and the recommendation to adopt regulations for their control.
- Reviewed information concerning the fiscal status of the Glencoe Golf Club – The Village Board reviewed the current, historical and potential future financial status of the Golf Club.
- Conducted a public hearing and approved an ordinance for the 2009 Tax Levy – Annually, the Village Board conducts a public hearing to receive public comment prior to approving the Tax Levy Ordinance.
- Approved an ordinance regarding modifications to the Freedom of Information Act to comply with State law, effective January 1, 2010 – The Board approved an ordinance adopting rules, regulations, and forms for the implementation of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act.
- Approved an ordinance for a new liquor license classification for Glencoe Roast Coffee – The Board approved a new liquor license classification pursuant to a request by Glencoe Roast Coffee to allow for the service of wine and beer by the glass accompanied by the service of food.
- Approved an ordinance for a liquor license for Walgreens – The Village Board approved a liquor license for the sale of beer and wine in the original package at Walgreens in the Hubbard Woods Shopping Plaza.
- Approved a resolution in support of actions to attain long-term pension sustainability – In light of funding issues associated with supporting public pension funds, the Board approved a resolution in support of legislative modification to State pension laws. (See article on page 1.)

The following items are tentatively scheduled for the January and February Village Board meetings:

- Continue review and final approval of the Village's budget for Fiscal Year 2011 (See article on page 1.)
- Continue review and final approval of the Glencoe Golf Club budget for Fiscal Year 2011
- Consider an Ordinance for steep slope regulations
- Consider a Resolution to refer a Sustainability Study for "Green Architecture" to the Plan Commission
- Consider cellular antenna lease agreement for the Water Tower site on Frontage Road

Follow these items as they appear on the Village Board agendas by accessing the Meetings icon on the Village website at [www.villageofglencoe.org](http://www.villageofglencoe.org) ▼

The public is always invited to attend all Village Board meetings. Village Board meetings are also aired live through the Village website.

Archived video playback of recorded Village meetings for the last year can be accessed through [www.villageofglencoe.org](http://www.villageofglencoe.org). ▼

### VILLAGE WEBSITE DOMAIN NAME CHANGE

The Village website domain name has been changed from [www.goglencoe.com](http://www.goglencoe.com) to [www.villageofglencoe.org](http://www.villageofglencoe.org).

However, if the old URL address is used, it will automatically be redirected to the correct website.

Please change your address book.

## **PUBLIC PENSION FUNDS(continued from page 1)**

As designated by State law, the Village has a legal responsibility for funding the pension benefits of public safety officers and other municipal employees. Not only are the losses experienced by these funds to be made up, but the escalating normal costs to fund these pensions, which have nearly doubled over the past decade, also must be provided by the Village. Funding for public employee pensions comes from three sources: employee contributions, employer contributions, and investment returns from the funds held in reserve to pay for pensions. Since contributions by employees are capped by the General Assembly, the fiscal burden to fund the entire balance of these pensions is the responsibility of the Village.

Based on the most recent determination by the State, the Village will need to increase its annual minimum contribution by \$306,456 to \$1.408 M for Fiscal Year 2011, beginning March 1, 2010. Current State Law requires full funding of the Police Pension Fund obligation by 2033.

The Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) recently took steps to mitigate the effect of its investment losses by offering an option to municipalities to cap their fund contributions for municipal employees (excluding public safety officers) to a 10% increase per year by increasing the payment schedule. The 10% increase in the IMRF rate changes the Village's cost from an estimated \$421,900 to \$468,700 in FY2011. However, a similar cap on contributions to Police and Firefighter Pension Funds requires separate legislative action by the Illinois General Assembly. Legislation to effect a similar modification was introduced and supported by most of the municipal conferences, but that legislation was blocked by legislative leaders and union lobbyists.

As noted, without that legislative action, the Village will be required to fund an additional \$306,456 for the Police Pension Fund in 2010. Because the Village as a non-home municipality is prohibited from raising property taxes beyond an average "cost-of-living" number (which for 2009 was essentially zero), this required pension fund increase will significantly reduce the amount of our property tax revenue otherwise available to the Village to pay for Village operations. These circumstances require the Village Board to consider increases in fees and reductions or modifications in services offered by Village government.

Without meaningful pension reform by the State Legislature, currently legislated pension benefits are not financially sustainable on a long term basis.

At its December 17 meeting, the Village Board passed a Resolution in Support of Regional Actions to Attain Long-Term Pension Sustainability. As a member of the Northwest Municipal Conference, the Village will work with the other 46 municipalities in the conference to raise public awareness of the pension crisis and seek reform in the State Legislature. ▼



### **CELEBRATE THE GLENCOE LIBRARY**

The Glencoe Public Library is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year as it was first organized in 1909. The Library has grown both in building size and in services, beginning in one room of the old Central School with a collection of books from the Woman's Library Club, the Glencoe School, and the Congregational Church and moving to its present building in 1941 where its collection has expanded to include over 80,000 books.

The Public Library is recognized in the Village's Comprehensive Plan as an asset that contributes to downtown Glencoe's vitality by drawing residents to the area and providing opportunities for interaction and enrichment and receives strong community support evidenced by its high user rate – 7,800 borrowers.

On behalf of Glencoe residents, the Village President and Board of Trustees extend their congratulations in recognition of the Library Centennial, and extend their sincere appreciation for the services the Library provides to the community.

At its December 17 meeting, the Village Board of Trustees approved resolutions recognizing the Library Centennial and the Woman's Library Club for its early contributions to the Glencoe Public Library.

A full series of programs is scheduled for the celebration. Call 847-835-5056 or go to [www.glencoepubliclibrary.org](http://www.glencoepubliclibrary.org) for details. ▼

## VILLAGE COURT PARKING LOT UPDATE

Work has been completed for the season on the Village Court parking lot. Brick paver sidewalk work and landscaping were completed for much of the lot except the area adjacent to the Commonwealth Edison vault.

Com Ed is relocating new equipment north of the vault and once it is completed will demolish and remove the old vault this winter. The entire parking lot and new spaces on Vernon Avenue will be available for customer parking through the winter months. Work to be completed in the spring includes the construction of new stone planter walls at the Vernon Avenue driveway entrance, final landscaping and paving the final surface on the interior of the lot.

Not only has the lot become more aesthetically appropriate for the center of the business district, but an additional 20 parking spaces are now available.▼

## PRIMARY GENERAL ELECTION

**February 2, 2010**

The Primary General Election will take place on Tuesday, February 2, 2010. Key dates to remember are:

- 1/5/2010 Last day to register to vote
- 1/11/2010 First day for Early Voting
- 1/28/2010 Last day for Early Voting
- 2/1/2010 Last day mail-in absentee ballots can be postmarked for acceptance by the County Clerk's Office

For additional information regarding the Primary General Election, go to [www.cookcountyclerk.com](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com).▼

### Reminder about Political Signage

In 2008, the Village Zoning Code was clarified to identify time frames for the display of election signs. The date for display of a political sign is based on when the candidate or election question is "certified" by the provisions of the Illinois Election Code. For the upcoming primary election, the date for first allowing election signs to be posted on private property was December 3, 2009.▼

## 2010 CENSUS

The 2010 Census will help communities receive federal funds each year for things like:

United States  
**Census  
2010**

- Hospitals
- Schools
- Senior Centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other public works projects
- Emergency services

The data collected by the census also helps to determine the number of seats Illinois has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In March, census forms will be delivered to every residence in Glencoe. When you receive

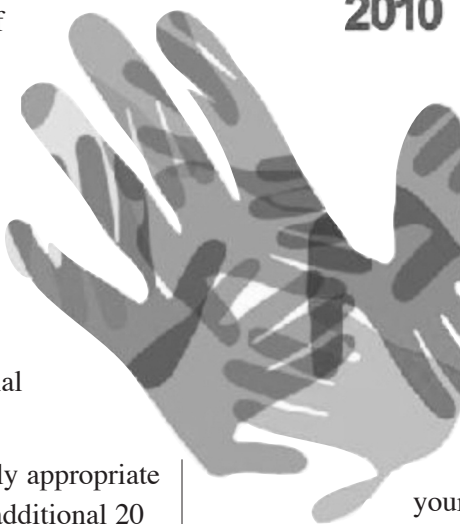
yours, answer the 10 short questions and mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the form.

Don't forget that if you spend the winter elsewhere, be sure that your Glencoe form is forwarded to your temporary address. Every census form is bar-coded with the location to which it is mailed. Be sure to fill out your Glencoe census form so that the Village can benefit from your residency.

More information about the 2010 Census can be found at: [www.2010.census.gov](http://www.2010.census.gov).▼

## NEW THIS YEAR! – HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and the Village are offering a holiday light recycling program this year free of charge. Residents can drop off old string lighting at the Public Works Garage at 325 Temple Court from December 26 – February 1 between 6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Materials accepted for recycling include: mini-lights (or Italian lights), C7 lights, C9 lights, rope lights, LED lights and extension cords. All colors and lengths will be accepted. The Village cannot accept garland, live greens, and wreaths. Those should be placed in your regular garbage.▼



## SNOW AND ICE CONTROL

### Important Facts and Information

It is that time of year when it is good to review the Village's efforts to keep streets and sidewalks open during the winter months. The Village has a Snow and Ice Control Plan that is implemented each year by the Public Works Department. The goal of the Department is to have all of the streets cleared and pavement in a safe and passable condition within 8 hours following a snowfall event. The Village has been divided into six plowing and salting routes, and within each route streets are assigned a priority so that major thoroughfares are cleared first followed by side streets and cul-de-sacs. Snow and ice control efforts are dictated by a number of factors including snowfall totals, duration of the storm, temperature and the moisture content of the snow.

### Duration Makes a Difference

The faster a storm moves through the Village, the better. It's generally easier and requires less manpower, equipment and salt to clear six inches of snow that falls in eight hours than three inches spread out over 24 hours.

### Moisture Content of Snow

The higher the moisture content of snow, the more difficult it is to remove. A 10-inch accumulation of dry, fluffy snow is easier to remove than 4 or 5 inches of heavy, wet snow. Freezing rain can turn a street into a skating rink within minutes and hampers Village salt crews if pavement has not been pre-treated.

### Timing Matters

Storms that begin in late evening and end in the early morning hours generally can be cleared from the street in time for the morning commuter traffic. Storms that arrive during the morning or evening rush hour hamper snow removal efforts considerably as the Village plow trucks have to negotiate slow moving vehicular traffic.

### Salting Streets

Keeping streets cleared of snow and ice requires the use of de-icers as well as equipment. The Village uses road salt, liquid calcium chloride and brine to supplement the snow and ice control efforts. Road salt is most effective at temperatures above 25 degrees and less effective at temperatures below 10 degrees. Liquid calcium chloride is used to make road salt more effective at temperatures below 25 degrees. Brine (salt dissolved in water) is used as a pre-treatment prior to an oncoming storm to provide a

barrier on road surfaces to prevent adhesion of snow and ice to pavement. Timing is very important in the use of salt and brine to insure the most effective result.

The Village plows and salts streets on a priority basis. Priority one streets (Dundee Road, Sheridan Road, Green Bay Road, etc.) are cleared and salted first to maintain safe collector routes for all vehicular traffic. Side streets are cleared next and salt is used primarily at intersections, curves and hills. The Village's policy is to control salt use to reduce the impact on infrastructure and equipment. Cul-de-sacs and dead end streets are plowed using smaller trucks and are farther down the priority list.

### Sidewalks and Driveways

Sidewalks are plowed by the Village only after a snowfall of 3 inches or more. Like street plowing, priority is given to major routes and sidewalks around the schools and in the downtown business district. Residents are encouraged to clear snow from the sidewalk around their homes to prevent ice build-up on sidewalks.

Questions concerning snow and ice control operations should be directed to the Public Works Department at 847-835-4111. ▼

## HELP KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR OF SNOW

With 450 fire hydrants in Glencoe, it is not possible for Village staff to clear them all after a major snow storm. Fire hydrants that are buried or blocked by piles of snow could result in the Public Safety Department not able to locate them in an emergency.

The Village asks that you help to keep fire hydrants accessible to firefighting operations by keeping space clear around all sides of the hydrant as you do your shoveling or snow blowing. If you notice a damaged or leaking fire hydrant, please call the Public Works Department at 847-835-4111.



## SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 10

Comcast gave notice of its intention to close the public access channel studio and playback facility, located in Highland Park, effective November 30, 2009. The largest user of the Comcast facility was the City of Highland Park that decided to relocate the Comcast facility to the City's Public Safety Center.

Communities that utilized the public access channel were asked if they wanted to participate in the cost-sharing of the Highland Park operation.

At its November 19 meeting, the Village Board reviewed the benefits vs. costs of maintaining the public access channel. With the high level of resident usage of the Village website, the implementation of video streaming and on-demand playback, and the reliance on the website for timely information, it was decided not to participate in the Highland Park facility. ▼

## VILLAGE STICKER CONTEST WINNER

The Glencoe Human Relations Forum sponsored a Village vehicle sticker logo contest for children in kindergarten through 8th grade again this year. Children were asked to draw their ideas to illustrate "Bringing Neighbors Together". The winning entry, submitted by second grader, Juliet Lippman, will be used on the Glencoe vehicle sticker for 2010. ▼



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration will be on Wednesday, February 24 and Thursday, February 25 in the South School Library, 266 Linden Avenue, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Children are eligible for enrollment in Kindergarten if they have reached their fifth birthday on or before the first of September. An original birth certificate must be presented at the time of registration. In addition, all families must provide proof of residency.

For details of registration documentation, contact South School at 847-835-6400 or email at [southoffice@glencoeschools.org](mailto:southoffice@glencoeschools.org). Please visit the student registration link at [www.glencoesouth.org](http://www.glencoesouth.org) for more information. ▼



Dear Glencoe Residents,

The Glencoe Golf Club staff would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! We are looking forward to a great season in 2010. Even though it is still cold outside, we would like you to be aware of some of the programs that are now available.

The Glencoe Golf Club offers a permanent tee time package. This package includes 19-weeks of reserved tee times, walking, on either Saturday or Sunday mornings. The season will begin on the weekend of May 1-2, 2010 and will continue through the weekend of September 4-5. A complete foursome is required to obtain a permanent tee time. Also included in your membership is a CDGA handicap membership, a Glencoe Golf Club memento tee-gift, and member-only special events. For additional information and exact times that are open, please contact the golf shop at 847-835-0250, or visit our website [www.glencoeclub.com](http://www.glencoeclub.com).

Senior membership cards are now available for the 2010 season. The senior membership is open to all golfers 60+ years old and offers discounted rates everyday of the week. Stop by the golf shop to pick up yours so you can start saving with your first round of the season. The fee for the card is \$25.00. All of the discounted green fees can be found on our website.

Summer may still be months away but it is not too soon to start thinking about the 2010 golf season. Please visit our website at [www.glencoeclub.com](http://www.glencoeclub.com) for information on golf lessons, lesson packages, Nike Club fitting, and range memberships. Spring is around the corner and we hope to see all of you soon!

Stella Nanos,  
General Manager, Glencoe Golf Club

# January/February 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Village Hall closed	
3	4	5 Historic Preservation Commission 7:30pm	6	7	8	
10	11 Glencoe School District #35 Board Meeting 7:30pm	12 Golf Course Development Committee 7:00pm	13	14		
17	18 Golf Advisory Committee 7:00 pm MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	19 Glencoe Park District Board Meeting 7:30pm	20 Human Relations Forum 6:30pm Glencoe Public Library Board Meeting 7:30pm	21 Finance Committee 6:30 pm Village Board Regular Meeting 7:00pm	22	
24	25	26	27 Plan Commission 7:30pm	28		
	1 Zoning Board of Appeals 7:30pm	2 Historic Preservation Commission 7:30pm PRIMARY GENERAL ELECTION	3	4		
7	8 Glencoe School District #35 Board Meeting 7:30pm	9	10	11		
14	15 Golf Advisory Committee 7:00 pm	16 Glencoe Park District Board Meeting 7:30pm	17 Human Relations Forum 6:30pm Glencoe Public Library Board Meeting 7:30pm	18 Finance Committee 6:30 pm Village Board Regular Meeting 7:00pm		
21	22	23	24 Plan Commission 7:30pm	25		
28	29	30	31			
Please check the Village's website <a href="http://www.villageofglencoe.org">www.villageofglencoe.org</a> or call Village Hall 835-4114 to confirm meeting dates.						

**Holiday trees placed at the curb will be collected Wednesdays only in January. Please put garlands and wreaths in the garbage.**

## MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY CELEBRATION

Join neighbors and friends at **St. Paul AME Church** **Sunday, January 17 at 4:00 p.m.** for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day celebration. There will be a service with a reception immediately following. For more information, please call the AME Church at 847-835-4421.

## USED BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Glencoe Library  
At the Glencoe Public Library  
320 Park Avenue  
(corner of Park Ave. and Green Bay Rd.)  
**Saturday Feb. 27, 9 to 5**  
**Sunday Feb. 28, 1 to 5**  
Everything Half Price  
**Monday March 1, 9 to 12**  
Bag Sale - \$2/BAG  
Proceeds benefit the Glencoe Public Library



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