CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 22: NUMBER 9 OCTOBER 2012

Wreck and Park

A little over a year ago, Hurricane Irene slammed into Connecticut with such force that we are still telling stories about it. The rain that fell on August 27 and 28, 2011, changed placid rivers and feeder streams into wild gushing torrents with no respect for banks, borders, or bridges. The winds that followed toppled trees onto power lines and across roads and strewed debris from one side of town to the other. Basements flooded, roads became impassable, bridges washed away. Power outages during Irene surpassed the state's record set in 2005; Cornwall lost 100 percent of its power for four days and restoration took over a week. We reeled from the damage.

Some two months later, October 29 to be exact, snowstorm Alfred roared into town. Power was lost again, this time for a week in some cases. More trees fell, as did temperatures, complicating life for those without power.

But in typical Cornwall style we rallied. The town crew was out there clearing roads and pumping basements, neighbors were looking out for each other, a shelter operated at CCS in the aftermath of the snowstorm, and it wasn't long before we were function-

ing again. In the process of coming back to normal (twice) some good things have happened.

Although "we'd rather not repeat that event," said Gordon Ridgway, first selectman, we are better prepared for the next time. We now have a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in place: trained volunteers who are able to help when first responders are not able to meet the demand for services. We have residents ready to offer emergency shelter and those who will go door to door to notify people who can't be reached in case of an emergency. And a lot more of the town is now equipped with generators. "The number one thing the town learned was how to deal with state agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA]," said Ridgway. "We were able to obtain disaster relief and rebuild the bridge on Lower River Road in record time."

As a result of the reconstruction on Lower River Road, the small park at the northeast corner of the covered bridge was

rebuilt and a new park on the southeast corner established. Combined, they are known as River Park. The brainstorm of Ian Ingersoll, the park became a joint effort of the West Cornwall Village Improvement

Association and the Town of Cornwall. Many citizens and organizations provided funds and wo/man power to establish the gardens: Don Bachman, the Ellises, the Geissers, the Greenes, Diane Ingersoll, the Rubins, Jim Vanicky and the town crew, Kent Greenhouse, who laid out the design, the Housatonic Fly Fisherman's Association, the Cornwall Conservation Trust and the Cornwall Foundation.

"It is in constant use daily by locals and tourists alike," said Ian Ingersoll, as he watered the flower beds of roses and day lilies in River Park one morning. The trees in the park are young but before long their branches will be shading the park benches and the wayfarers who stop by to rest and enjoy the peace and beauty. The area has already hosted its first wedding: in July, Peter and Mel Cusack were married by JP Julia Scott at twilight beside views of gilded water and the gentle murmur of the Housatonic.

—Brenda Underwood

If you would like to add your name and contact information to the town's Storm List, please call the Selectmen's Office. To sign up for the state's mass notification program, go to www.ctalter.gov. On the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department's website, www.cvfdept.org, there is a hurricane readiness plan.

OCTOBER 2012

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 *Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall *Park & Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall Democratic Town Comm Meeting 7:30 pm WC Firehouse	◆ Inland Wetlands 7:30 pm Town Hall ◆ Affd. Housing Luncheon 11:30 am-1 pm Wandering Moose	3	◆ CPR Class 10–11 am Parish House	Library Anniversary Celebration 5–7 pm Library	6 • Book Sale 10 am-3 pm Library • CCS Lobster Sale 4-6 pm CCS • Meet Republican Candidates 4-6:30 pm Foote Fields • Family Country Dancing 7 pm Town Hall
7	$-\frac{8}{\sqrt{8}}$	9	10	11	12	13
◆ Visit To Original Mohar Lodge 2–3 pm ◆ Home Heating Oil Co- 4 pm Library	Blood Pressure Clinic	◆ Economic Development Committee	◆ Republican Town Committee 7 pm Library		◆ CCS Walkathon 1 pm	Motherhouse Pie Class 10:30 am-1:30 pm Local Farm Betty Krasne Reception 3-5 pm Library *The Best Man Movie 7:30 pm Library
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	◆ Deadline: November Chronicle Copy	Board of Education 3:30 pm CCS Library Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall		Iza Trapani Program 3–5 pm Library Cornwall Conservation Commission 7 pm Town Hall Board of Finance 7:30 pm CCS Library	◆ CCS Walkathon Raindate 1 pm ◆ Family Pizza And Movie Night 6:30 pm Library	◆ Hazardous Waste Day 9 am-2 pm Torrington ◆ John Tauranac Talk 4 pm Library
21 (7 22	23	24	25	26	27
]s	a control of the cont				◆ Town Meeting 7:30 pm CCS	Paper Shred And Electronic Waste Day 9 am-1 pm Litchfield HS Rev. Christopher Webber Reading 4 pm Library
Pet Parade 2 pm UCC	Scholastic Book Fair CCS Gathering Room	Scholastic Book Fair CCS Gathering Room Committee for Seniors 7 pm Town Hall	Scholastic Book Fair CCS Gathering Room Halloween Gathering 5–8 pm Town Hall	Tuesdays: Adult Volleyba Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 6- Women's Ba Thursdays: Toddler Play Saturdays: Cornwall Far	ch Clinic, 11 am-noon Parish all, 7:30 pm CCS gym 9 pm Town Hall; Karate, 6:30- asketball, 7:30 pm CCS gym Group 10:30-11:30 am Libra m Market 9 am-12:30 pm Wi 2 pm, call Debra for location, 6'	.7:30 pm CCS; ary sh House Lawn

Fair Weather?

According to Bill Dinneen, chairman of the Agricultural Advisory Commission, the Ag Fair has been postponed only once in its 20 years. This year it poured lambs and piglets, but loyal fans persisted in having a grand time till the cows ended the day with a triumphant plop. From setup to cleanup, the fair is lots of work by some for the enjoyment of many, and is one of the most satisfying events in the town calendar.

The Hurlburts' Hautboy Hill Farm was honored in a Town Hall exhibit that included 1979 coverage of the Connecticut Dairyman of the Year award won by Allyn Hurlburt, Jr. Newspaper clippings with family photos make you wonder why Anita wasn't simultaneously crowned Ms. Connecticut of 1979

One way or another, the fair is overwhelmingly about food, and intake began Friday evening as the Ag Commission, the firemen and their Juniors set up tents and marked off squares for Cow Chip Bingo. The CVFD supplied pizza, while Susan Saccardi laid out fodder ranging from wholesome to wicked.

On Saturday, the Green was filled with equal eating opportunities: the CCS eighth grade provided sandwiches and hot dogs, Local Farm roasted corn, while St. Peter's Lutheran Church zeroed in on your sweet tooth. The Chapel of All Saints presented a staggering array of condiments.

With the relentless Hector Prud'homme absent, many other gardeners came into their own, exhibiting fruits and vegetables from blueberries to pumpkins. My personal Best of Show were a cunning collection of brown and pale eggs laid out like a checkerboard and Kate Wolfe's flowering artichokes. I cannot say who won Maple Syrup, as Fred Scoville and Larry Stevens were still spooning off samples when the fair closed.

In between downpours were the games. After many false starts in the Bag Jump Race, Trevor Hampson and Sophia Woods emerged as victors. Despite the triple handicap of braces, an expander, and a parental no-chew order, Reilly Hedden managed to bring home a blue in the bubble gum contest.

This year's display animals came from the Saccardi and Kennedy micro farms. Two Brown Swiss and a Holstein, two donkeys and two llamas, many ducks and rabbits entertained visitors, while Freddy the Ferret lolled languidly in his hammock.

I spent the evening drying out and reading Joseph Markow's informative account of Cornwall's natural treasures, sold at the fair by the Conservation Commission of which he is a member; it's a municipal treasure itself. —Margaret Cooley

School Solutions

When Michael Croft began his first year as principal at Cornwall Consolidated School last September, the walls were bare as was his slate. Now the walls are brightened by student art and an 1854 map of Cornwall, and the principal's slate is full; as he says, "I have to own everything."

The first program Croft owns is a coteaching plan. With an enrollment of ten children in first grade, five in third grade, and four girls out of 16 students in fifth grade, expanding peer groups became a major goal. Without printing a spread sheet, suffice it to say that some grades will be combined for certain specific classes. For example, grades one and two will have combined reading classes for the second half of the year; grades three and four will combine all

year for reading classes; grades six and seven will share social studies. Furthermore, genders have been separated and grades combined for music, physical education, and library.

A second program introduced this year is Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS). A committee including every category of the school's population developed behavioral expectations. Those expectations are posted throughout the school and on the buses and were presented to the entire school in four assemblies over the first four days of school. The new twist to this program is the awarding of tickets for positive behaviors; those tickets are entered in a weekly raffle with the hope that each student will receive at least one ticket each week. "Winning" students choose from a variety of rewards; the most popular has been a chance to dissect an eyeball with science teacher Kathy West.

Custodian Pete Selino has coordinated improvements to the physical plant at CCS. A new air handler in the gym, added insulation throughout the school, and a more efficient heating control system will lead to better energy use and reduce electricity and heating oil costs.

As in past years, the Cornwall Consolidated School Fund for Excellence has provided funds for a staff member to improve skills. This year special education teacher Buffie Clarke will attend a seminar on how to adjust the sensory environment in classrooms and how to use physical activity in order to focus attention and

thus enhance learning.

Across the road from CCS at the Cornwall Child Center (CCC),
Director Amy Bresson is pleased that there has been no staff turnover.
The toddler program for one- to three-year-olds is at near capacity.
The pre-school program for three- to five-year-olds "lost" seven children to kindergarten so is not quite full; but total enrollment is up significantly. The hours of operation have been expanded to 7:30 A.M. to 5 P.M., and the After School Kids Klub now meets at CCC for K through grade 5.

Cornwall's schools are indeed providing new solutions for ongoing challenges.

—Barbara Gold

Welcome

Owen Alexander Julian to Diana and Justin Julian

Logan Michael Hern to Amelia (Molly) Packard and Daniel Patrick Hern

Goodbye to Friends

John Nuese Antonio Thibault

Congratulations

Jessyka Lee Dalena to Daniel Joseph Sanford Amanda Rose Stevens to Michael David Johnson

Land Transfers

Lindsay Schieffelin and John S. Schieffelin to Marguerite W. Purnell, 53 acres of land with buildings and improvements thereon at 121 and 125 Popple Swamp Road, for \$815,000.

William S. and Adriane R. Lyon to Cornwall Pine Street, LLC, 1.5 acres of land with buildings and improvements thereon at 19 Pine Street, for \$690,000.

Gerard & Robin Mollica to Citimortgage, Inc., property at 100 Kent Road.

Marjorie S. Hodgman to Christopher D. and Amy R. Baldwin, land with buildings thereon at 64 Valley Road, for \$590,000.

Maureen L. Morrill to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, Trustee, property at 71 Todd Hill Road.

Estate of Helgard Mittwoch to Nicholas Tarasov, real property known as 313 Kent Road, for \$290,000.

Alfred S. Dietzel to Kristin Baker and Samuel D. Kusack, property with improvements thereon at 256 Dibble Hill Road, for \$526,213.

Return to Pine Ridge

Erica and Wynne Kavanagh; Pam, Jim and Madeleine Longwell; and Micki Nunn-Miller returned recently from a week of volunteer work in the dry, browned

plains of South Dakota. The Cornwallites, with seven others from neighboring towns, joined in building projects organized by Re-Member for the Oglala Lakota people at Pine Ridge Reservation.

Although temperatures soared to 100 degrees, volunteers chugged liters of water and built decks, outhouses, and bunk beds; they roofed houses, mixed mud and straw for new construction, and carted truckloads of debris to the local dump. Pine Ridge is one of the poorest places in the United States and volunteers found the work rewarding. As Jim Longwell said, "The projects may look small, but you are doing something to

make someone's life a lot better."

Time at Re-Member was not just handson labor. Wynne Kavanagh was impressed with the organization's philosophy, "which places as much importance on building relationships and cultural understanding as on repairs and construction." To that end, volunteers toured places like Wounded Knee and heard Lakota speakers explain their side of the Westward Expansion story. The group attended a powwow and stood at dusk on a hillside as witnesses during a Lakota blessing upon the recent marriage of a volunteer couple from Philadelphia.

Pine Ridge reservation is also home to Marian White Mouse, who recently traveled here to participate in the Cornwall and Goshen ceremonies held for Yellow Medicine Dancing Boy, the white buffalo calf. (See *Chronicle*, September 2012.) In an impromptu visit, Marian described her life on the reservation, including the abuse she suffered as a child at boarding schools designed to eradicate any hint of Lakota culture.

More than one visitor noticed how the Lakota incorporate their values and spiritual beliefs in their daily routines. Nunn-Miller noted, "[It] teaches us that the Western European way of looking at life and living it is not the only way, even if it is the dominant way in our country." — Pam Longwell

Zucchini

Enough with the zucchini jokes.

No more, please—no more tired old stories of foundling zucchini discovered on the back seat of your unlocked car. No more snickering at zucchini big enough to use as ottomans. No more comments on the tidal wave of zucchini that advances from garden to kitchen to compost. Enough!

No, let us dwell instead on the hand-someness of zucchini—the sleek lines, so aerodynamically efficient that you wonder why that fairy godmother preferred a pumpkin when she needed a coach. Let us consider the intelligence of it, lurking craftily under its huge leaves, resisting capture so as to perform its task, which is to grow. And grow. And grow. Perhaps this is what Andrew Marvell had in mind when he said his "vegetable love should grow/ Vaster than empires, and more slow," though he must not have realized that zucchini can be *speedy*.

Which brings us to the zucchini of the poets. Try substituting *zucchini* for the most important word in the line of poetry—just try it! How about Emily Dickinson: "Because I could not stop for zucchini,/ It kindly stopped for me." Or Yeats: "Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;/ Mere zucchini is loosed upon the world." Or of course Shakespeare, so that Macbeth can say, "Zucchini, and zucchini, and zucchini, Creeps in this petty pace from day to day." It even scans.

—*Franny Taliaferro*

Letter to the Chronicle

A HOME ENERGY SOLUTION FOR WINTER Cornwall Energy Task Force (CETF) is undertaking a campaign to help homes tighten up this winter. Under the Home Energy Solutions program, subsidized by your electric bill, an approved contractor will come to your home to test insulation, lighting and other energy use factors. Free light bulbs, coupons for upgrades, and state incentive advice will be given. The value of this audit is \$750 minimum. The co-pay is \$75 with a \$50 rebate that can be donated to CETF or returned to the homeowner.

As an extra incentive, CETF is issuing 25 stimulus coupons for \$25, so if you act fast, you will get this service free. Look for announcements and demonstrations in the coming months.

Sign up with our program: http://bitly.com/cornwallhes. See more information on our website: www.cornwallctenergy.org. See the CT Energy Efficiency Fund info and video: http://www.ctenergyinfo.com/dpuc_home_energy_solutions.htm. Or sign up with a call to 1-888-403-3500.

Thank you, — Katherine Freygang, CETF

Cornwall Briefs

• Elections: They're coming up on Tuesday, November 6, a whole raft of contests for: president, vice p., U.S. Senate, House (5th C.D.), state Senate and Assembly and two uncontested local offices, registrars of voters. But before that, there's the matter of absentee ballots. Applications for such become available from the town clerk after October 5. They can be mailed to you or you can pick one up at the Town Office. You're supposed to have an excuse; the most frequent one is absent from Cornwall on

Election Day. You can also be ill or in the service. Once you fill out the application, a ballot is issued to you in person or by mail.

After voting, you drop it in the mail or drop it on the desk of our town clerk, Vera Dinneen.

• Cow Chip Results: Most Ag Fair goers don't necessarily stick around for the actual cow plopping to find out who won. So, as a public service, here

we go. Some of the lesser prizes ended up with Ralph Gold and Mark Gray, but the big one—300 smackers—was won by George Charleton of the Furnace Brook Charletons.

• Great Hill Detour: The long-anticipated work on Great Hill Road, above where it intersects with College Street, is expected to begin this month. It will be closed to through traffic while the road is being repaired, and drivers will use College Street to get around the work. The winning bid came in ten percent under budget at \$453,000 and 80 percent of that will be reimbursed with state and federal funds.

•Cell Tower News: Not a lot to report although Town Hall thinks the Verizon people may soon be working at the site off the former Bell Road. It has been posted with "private property" signs by its owner, Ralph Gulliver. The Board of Selectmen declined to act on a petition signed by several hundred names asking the town to reopen the road as a recreation trail. The time for such action would have been many years ago when the road was closed, according to the town attorney.

—John Miller

Thank You, Sydney M. Kaye!

Who? Oh, right, there's some fund advisory committee with his name on it listed in the Town Report. But what's all this about?

Here I should reveal that the selectmen appointed me last spring to replace a retiring committee member, and I really didn't know more than is admitted in the paragraph above.

I discovered that in October 1981, the annual Town Meeting approved a "Resolution for Establishing the Sydney M. Kaye Fund." Kaye, a Whitcomb Hill resident, had left a bequest of \$20,000 to express his appreciation of Cornwall and to forward the well being of its inhabitants.

Over the 20 years since, Cornwallians have appreciated a variety of benefits, from six wheelchairs for the Bradford Walker Health Association to six years of stocking fish for the Cornwall Youth Fishing Association. In between, at least 15 other grants have helped Cornwall in many ways, including the flagpole on the Green, the Vietnam and Korean Veterans' Memorial, and playground equipment at CCS and the Cornwall Child Center. In dollars, all this adds up to \$34,088.

Right now with very low interest rates, the fund stands at \$21,349.59. Proposals for a possible grant should be submitted at least by April so that the committee can make a review and advisory recommendation by June.

—Ginny Potter

Events & Announcements

Bend & Stretch Clinic for older adults will be offered by VNA Northwest Mondays, 11 A.M. to noon, October 1 through November 5, at the UCC Parish House, 10 Bolton Hill Road. Instructor Ruth Ellen Griffen will help individuals gain flexibility and reduce the possibility of falls. There is no charge to the participants. Call 567-6000 to register or to request more information, or visit www. vnanw.org.

Affordable Housing Luncheon Tuesday, October 2, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Wandering Moose. Update on the affordable housing project. No reservations required. Information: Jane Prentice at 672-6101.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

CPR Class Offered by the Cornwall Woman's Society, with video and demonstrations. Thursday, October 4, 10 to 11 A.M. at the UCC Parish House, 10 Bolton Hill Road. Given by Dave Cadwell, faculty member of the American Heart Association and Cornwall EMT. All welcome. Refreshments. 860-248-3089.

At the Cornwall Library

The 10th Anniversary Celebration and Preview Party will be held Friday, October 5, from 5 to 7 P.M. Cost is \$10 per person at the door, children under 10 free. *Newish* books will sell for \$10 or older books 10 for \$10. Sweets, savories, and libations will be offered.

The Columbus Day Weekend Book and Bake Sale will be held Saturday, October 6, at 9 a.m., Early Bird Special for \$10; open to everyone from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, October 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the \$5 bag sale will be held.

Toddler Play Groups meet every Thursday, 10:30 to 11:30 A.M.; for parents and children age 18 months to pre-school.

An artist exhibit, "Northwest Seasons", featuring pastels by Betty Krasne, will be on display from October 9 through November 10. Opening reception Saturday, October 13, 3 to 5 P.M. In the glass case will be wood carvings by Ed LaPorta.

An evening of film offered by the Friends of the Library featuring Gore Vidal's *The Best Man* will be held Saturday, October 13, at 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation: \$6/person and \$10 for two.

Children's author and illustrator Iza Trapani will read and demonstrate illustration techniques to kindergartners, first-graders and children from the After School program Thursday, Oct. 18, from 3 to 5 p.m. Rufus and Friends: School Days is her newest release. Her books will be available for sale and signing. Parents are welcome. Flyers and permission slips to take the bus to the library will go out in back packs.

Family pizza and a movie night featuring *Matilda* with Danny DeVito,

News about October

Did you know that October starts on the same day of the week as January in non-leap years and ends on the same day of the week as February every year? This is the same admirable consistency the *Chronicle* finds in its donors, year after year. Please join them! Thank you.

Rhea Perlman, and Mara Wilson as Matilda will take place Friday, October 19, at 6:30 P.M. This film is based on Roald Dahl's book of the same title and is rated PG. Please call by Thursday, October 18, if coming. Movie begins at 7 P.M. Donations for the pizza are welcome.

John Tauranac talks on the history of Grand Central Saturday, October 20, at 4 P.M.

The Rev. Christopher Webber reads from his newest book, *Yrfa's Tale*, the third in the Beowulf Trilogy, Saturday, October 27, at 4 P.M. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Motherhouse Activities

Saturday, October 6, 7 p.m., Family Country Dancing, Town Hall. Teaching caller David Kaynor and music by Still, The Homegrown Band. Donation: \$3-5/child, \$5-10/adult. Information: Jane Prentice, 672-6101

Free Family Wreath Making Workshop on October 8, from 1:30 to 3 P.M., at the Local Farm barn. Bring ribbons and dried flowers; twine, hangers, and tools will be supplied. Registration: 672-0229.

On October 13, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 p.M., join Motherhouse in celebrating the harvest season with a homegrown "pumpkin" pie made from scratch. Potluck lunch. \$35/family. Attendees must preregister. Please email Debra@Motherhouse.us or call 672-0229.

Home Heating Oil Co-op for Cornwall will have its second meeting October 7, 4 P.M. at the library. Bring address, tank size, and annual usage (see bills or ask current company). Light refreshments are welcome.

Cornwall Historical Society will host a talk, "Skiing Out of the Woods," on Sunday, October 7, 2 to 3 P.M., at the recently refurbished Pine Lodge at Mohawk Mountain Ski Area. Refreshments will be served. For information: call 672-0505 or visit http://www.cornwallhistoricalsociety.org/.

The Tenth Annual CCS Walk-A-Thon will set off on October 12, 1 P.M., from the corner of Cherry Hill and Cream Hill roads. Rain date is October 19. Money received will support Water for Sudan and The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp as well as each class's eighth-grade trip.

Hazardous Waste Day will be October 20, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M., at Bogue Road in Torrington.

A ticket is required; call the Selectmen's Office at 672-4959.

Town Meeting to review the town's annual report and five-year plan will be held Friday, October 26, 7:30 P.M., in the CCS Gathering Room.

Paper Shredding and Electronic Waste Day will be October 27, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M., at Litchfield High School. Proof of Cornwall residency is required.

Pet Parade October 28, 2 P.M., corner of Pine and Jewell streets. Pets (of all kinds) must be on a lead, leash, or otherwise under owner control. Decorations and small floats welcome. An ecumenical blessing of all animals will occur on the Green when the parade ends. Refreshments.

Scholastic Book Fair will be held at CCS October 29 to November 2 to raise money for the PTA. All are welcome to come and purchase books.

Park & Rec will host a Halloween gathering at the Town Hall on Wednesday, October 31, 5 to 8 P.M. Soups, salads, sandwiches, and beverages will be provided.

The Cornwall Conservation Commission has published its first in a planned series of

bulletins examining conservation issues in Cornwall and the Northwest Corner. *The Land and the People of Cornwall* provides an introduction to the historical and geological events that shaped Cornwall and that influence the conservation issues our town faces today. A copy can be purchased for \$5 at the Town Clerk's Office; it is also available in color as a pdf file at www.cornwallct.org.

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Roxana Laughlin, Illustrator Barbara Gold and Franny Taliaferro, Editors

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Ella Clark and Janet Sanders, Editors ella_c@sharon-ct.org or cornwallsanders@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR Ruth Epstein CALENDAR EDITOR Erin Hedden Mom917@sbcglobal.net

CIRCULATION Nan and John Bevans Lucy and Jack Kling

DIRECTORS

Paul De Angelis, PRESIDENT
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