



# Town Bulletin

[www.washingtongrovermd.org](http://www.washingtongrovermd.org)

301-926-2256

August 1, 2022

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## Town Council News

**Next meeting: Monday, August 8, 2022, 7:30 pm.**

**[Join Zoom meeting](#)** (or dial in to 301-715-8592 using meeting ID: 297 850 640 and password 074385).

### Actions at the July Town Council Meeting

- Confirmed Mayor's appointments of Dave Hix (full member) and Jonathan Dail (alternate) to the Planning Commission.
  - Approval of Resolution 2022-05, Authorizing Deer Management Bow Hunting Sessions in the East and West Woods.
  - Approval of Resolution 2022-06, Authorizing Joint Town of Washington Grove and Montgomery County Parks Deer Management Bow Hunting Sessions in Conservation Meadow and Piedmont Crossing Local Park.
  - Approval of language changes to the Comprehensive Plan.
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- Mayor's Kudos:
  - To the Recreation Committee and resident volunteers who "orchestrated" the widely enjoyed Music Weekend events, and who stepped-in to organize the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration parade and varied sporting competitions in which so many participated.
  - To Emily Cavey and all the volunteers who made possible Summer in the Parks again this year.

## **FY23 Deer Management Bow Hunting to Take Place in the East and West Woods, and in the Conservation Meadow-Piedmont Local Park**

The bow hunt deer management program has been in place for the past few years to help reduce deer damage and restore the health of the Town's woods. This year, a Woods Committee proposal was approved by the Town Council to expand hunting to the Washington Grove Conservation Meadow Park and Piedmont Crossing Local Park managed by Montgomery County Parks.

The Montgomery County Parks Department has provided the following description of how the archery deer management program will be conducted in the two parks.

"To address localized, public safety, ecological, and social impacts of white-tailed deer, Montgomery Parks plans to expand existing archery managed deer hunting programming, already in place within the forested open space of the Washington Grove community, to include Washington Grove (Meadow) Conservation Park/Piedmont Crossing Local Park.

"Beginning in September 2022 (September – January, annually), a pre-selected, insured Archery Managed Deer Hunting Group will conduct archery hunting in this park location within strict, clear regulations and qualifications.

"Note: During this time, the park will remain open to the public as usual. Hunting will occur safely and discretely and will exceed the County's archery hunting discharge legal requirements for distance from occupied buildings. Montgomery Parks and Washington Grove archery managed hunting programs have been safe, successful, and very low impact to park use and the surrounding community. Hunting will be permitted Mondays – Saturdays but **not** necessarily occurring daily.

"Please visit [www.parksdeermanagement.org](http://www.parksdeermanagement.org) for further details and for answers to frequently asked questions regarding Montgomery Parks deer population management."

## Notices to Residents

**Road Work Scheduled:** AB Veirs will be doing road repaving throughout the Town on August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Safety Reminder:** In our Town Ordinances, Article VII, Section 3.327b states: No wall, fence, shrubbery, or other obstruction to vision over three feet in height above the curb level may be constructed, planted, or maintained within 25 feet of the intersection of two street lines, measured from the center of the two intersecting streets.

Please be aware of the safety reason for requiring clear views of oncoming traffic (both vehicular and pedestrian). You may have a three-foot fence in this area for safety reasons, so please don't allow your plants/shrubs to exceed the three-foot height limit either. We all want everyone, especially our children, to be as safe as possible on our Town streets which also function as our de facto "sidewalks". Many thanks for your cooperation in this important safety matter.

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## News from Grove Boards and Commissions

### Historic Preservation Commission News

**Next meeting: Tuesday, August 16, 2022, 7:30 pm.** The public is invited to attend this virtual meeting via ZOOM. For a copy of the agenda, email Chair Bob Booher at [booherfamily@comcast.net](mailto:booherfamily@comcast.net).

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

### HPC Reviews the Edible Garden Group's Proposal

The Edible Garden Group (EGG) proposal to create a pilot-scale (approximately 500 sq. ft.) edible garden in Washington Grove, to be located in Woodward Park in a grassy portion within the fenced-in area of the hard tennis court near Grove Road, was presented to the Town Council and was approved at the Council's June meeting.

The objectives for the garden, as described in the EGG proposal, are threefold:

- to educate residents, including children, in the practice of growing food;
- to increase local food security beyond the municipal boundaries; and
- to make a positive contribution to the social cohesion of Washington Grove.

The EGG proposal was also presented to the HPC at its June meeting and was reviewed for issues of compatibility and impacts on the integrity of the Washington Grove Historic District. [HPC's written review \(PDF\)](#) was provided to the Mayor and Town Council in July.

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## Planning Commission News

**Next meeting: Wednesday, August 3, 2022, 7:30 pm.** The public is invited to attend this virtual meeting via ZOOM. As part of the Town's response to the COVID-19 crisis, this Planning Commission Meeting will be conducted online, rather than in person. Residents and the public may access these meetings [by Zoom videoconference](#), or dial in to 301-715-8592, meeting ID: 881 3713 5118 and following the audio instructions.

Please make sure your name is associated with your zoom device in order to be admitted from the Waiting Room.

## Building Permit Submission Deadline

The deadline to submit a building permit application for approval by the Planning Commission and review by the Historic Preservation Commission is **the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month** prior to the PC meeting at which the permit will be reviewed (this will be in the following month). This timing ensures the HPC will be able to complete a formal review before the PC meeting as this review is required for the PC to approve the permit in a timely fashion. If you are considering any renovation or building project at your house, be sure to get a copy of the procedures to apply for a Town Building Permit which will help you through the Town's process.

## Building Permits Approved in July

- None

## Public Ways & Property Permits (PW&PP) Approved in July

- None

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## News from Grove Committees

### Emergency Preparedness and Safety Committee News

**Next Meeting: Thursday, August 25, 2022, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 893 3775 4668

Passcode: 968898

### Portable Generator Usage and Safety Tips

Severe weather events can result in prolonged electrical outages. If you own a portable generator or are interested in learning about their functionality, please see information provided by [OSHA](#) and [The American Red Cross](#).

### Summer Heat Safety Guidance

During extremely hot and humid weather, it is important to know the symptoms of excessive heat exposure and the appropriate responses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides a list of warning signs and symptoms of heat illness and recommended first aid steps. For more information on all of these heat related illnesses, see the [CDC's Extreme Heat web page](#).

The EPA, NOAA, CDC, and DHS also have [collaborated to provide guidance on excessive heat safety](#).

It is also never safe to leave a toddler, disabled person or pet locked in a car. The National Safety Council (NSC) offers a 10-minute online training module "[Children in Hot Cars](#)" which has a wealth of valuable information.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and ASPCA have guidance to protect pets and other animals safe from excess heat. See these web links from the [Humane Society](#) and the [ASPCA](#) for more information.

### Fire Safety Training Event Planned!

The EPSC and Recreation Committee are coordinating with the Washington Grove/Gaithersburg Fire Department to conduct a fire safety training for adults and kids this summer. The date will be announced soon – stay tuned!

## **We are Actively Seeking New Committee Members**

One committee goal is to promote a shared sense of preparedness, vigilance, and resilience to help strengthen our community. We welcome your input and ideas on how to achieve this and any other goals related to preparedness and safety. Please join us at our next meeting.

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## **Forestry & Beautification News**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 7:30 p.m.**

[Join ZOOM Meeting](#)

We will discuss fall tree planting. The meeting will take place on ZOOM at 7:30pm at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2289422486> . If you have a suggestion for where a new tree is needed, please contact one of the F&B Co-Chairs Georgette Cole ([georgettewg@gmail.com](mailto:georgettewg@gmail.com)) or Audrey Maskery ([trees.beautification@gmail.com](mailto:trees.beautification@gmail.com)) or our Council Liaison Barbara Raimondo ([baraimondo@me.com](mailto:baraimondo@me.com)).

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## **Gateway Committee News**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, August 11, 2022, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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## **Lake Committee News**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, August 18, 2022, 7:30 pm**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

The Lake Committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7:30 via Zoom, until we can meet at the Town Hall. New members welcome and encouraged! Call John Hutchinson or Tom Land if you have any questions or suggestions.

## **Swim at Your Own Risk**

We are fortunate to have some Lifeguards at the Lake but are unable to staff as sufficiently as we have in the past. Therefore, we are not planning to have a diving board. Parents are responsible for their children and should always watch them when they are in the water.

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## Lighting Committee News

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 7:30 pm. There will not be an August meeting.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 961 798 0177

### The Lighting Committee would like to share some recommendations concerning Dark Sky residential lighting.

#### Why should our residential lighting try to be dark-sky compliant?

There isn't much we can do about glare from our streetlights until we purchase them from Pepco, but we can make important, incremental changes to residential lighting to improve our health and that of the wildlife we depend on. At the same time, we may reduce energy consumption. By directing light down to walkways, paths, and driveways we protect the dark night sky and the myriad creatures who need it for finding food, navigating, mating and migration. Our own circadian rhythm would not be disrupted by glare, giving a better night's sleep and associated health benefits. Remember, Dark Skies do not mean darker walkways! Directing light down instead of up can help rather than hinder safety.

International Dark Skies (IDS) estimates that 30% of light is "wasted" and a whopping 15 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted to power residential lighting!

#### This is what you can do around your property:

1. Assess your external lights. Are they all necessary? Does the light fall only when and where it is needed?
2. LED bulbs can be more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs. For warmer light use LED bulbs that are rated 3000 Kelvin or less.
3. A Lighting Committee member just bought some LED motion-sensitive bulbs. This motion-sensitive bulb looks just like any other 60W LED, except for the small switch which is the black spot you see on the bulb. The switch controls whether the bulb comes on any time it detects motion, or only at night. This technology is still evolving but motion detector lighting, including specialized bulbs, is an effective way to minimize light pollution while still having it available when needed.
4. Improve your lights by replacing fixtures with those that are [dark-sky compliant](#).

*Dark Sky – denoting or located in a place where the darkness of the night sky is relatively free of interference of artificial light.*

If you're handy, some lights can be retrofitted with a simple shield to prevent light traveling up into the sky.

Questions, ideas or concerns? Please contact Virginia Quesada at 301 706-7933 (cell) or [vq@qmediainc.com](mailto:vq@qmediainc.com), or Robert N. Johnson at [rnj@elecdev.com](mailto:rnj@elecdev.com).

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## Racial and Social Equity Committee

**Next meeting: Sunday, August 14, 2022, 2:00 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 826 5649 5293

Passcode: 035621

**The Emory Grove/Washington Grove Joint Workgroup is planning an Ice Cream Social for Sunday, August 21. Be on the lookout for flyers with the registration link on the website and posted outside the Town Office.**



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## Recreation Committee News

**Next meeting: TBD**

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## Sustainability Committee

**Next Meetings: Tuesday, August 2, 2022, and Tuesday, September 6, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 019 9688

### Composting at Home

You may be surprised to learn that many of your Washington Grove neighbors are composting their home yard, leaf, and food waste. Rather than sending these materials to landfills, they are putting this waste to much better use -- while also helping to reduce climate change. If you would like to learn more, read on.



**What is composting?** Composting is the natural degradation (by bacteria, protozoa, and fungi) of vegetation, such as yard scraps, leaves, wood chips, straw, grass clippings, and food scraps, in the presence of oxygen (in air) and water. Over time, composting generates a pleasant-smelling, rich source of soil enhancer that can be used to promote healthy plant growth in your garden and yard.

**Why compost?** Montgomery County residents and commercial operations, such as restaurants and food markets, together produce nearly 150,000 tons of organic yard, leaf, and food waste each year. When yard and garden vegetation and food waste are transferred to landfills, these organic materials will degrade. But vegetation and food buried under piles of refuse in landfills degrades *in the absence of oxygen* and produces methane, a greenhouse gas that is a major contributor to global warming. Properly composted yard, garden, and food wastes, however, will sequester carbon and produce a valuable soil supplement that can be used to enrich one's garden and plants.

**How to compost:** Composting requires only four basic components: air, water, and a suitable balance of brown materials (rich in carbon), such as autumn leaves, wood chips, shredded paper, and cardboard, **together** with green materials (rich in nitrogen), such as green leaves, grass and flower clippings, coffee grounds, fruit and vegetable scraps, horse, and cow manure. Some things should not be composted: meats, cheeses, and fatty foods. A more complete list of materials to include and exclude in your compost, and why, are listed at [U.S. EPA's Composting at Home web page](#).

The addition of green materials speeds the decomposition of brown materials; but without adding sufficient brown materials, greens decompose too quickly into foul-smelling materials. A 1-to-1 to 2-to-1 balance of brown to green materials usually works well. Add water, if needed, to keep the mixture just slightly moist ("like a wrung-out sponge"). Turning the compost by hand every few weeks provides the needed aeration.

Complete degradation, to a dark, rich, earth-like-smelling product, usually takes several months or more. Starting a batch in the early spring will often produce compost you can use to enrich your garden in the late fall. The time required depends on several factors: Too much brown and too little green material slows the process; starting with finer materials (shredded paper, smaller pieces of fruit and vegetables, mulched leaves) speeds degradation; and placing the compost where it receives warmth from the sun accelerates the process. When organic materials are properly composting, they also produce their own heat (100° F-140° F) especially during the first few weeks, which render weed seeds and pathogens inactive.

**Yard waste composting:** To compost yard waste, such as leaves and grass clippings, in your back yard, find a level, well-drained location for either an open compost pile or a place to set a simple

wooden container that allows sufficient aeration. Montgomery County offers free, 17.6 cu ft composting bins to residents: [Compost bin pickup locations - Montgomery County, Maryland](#)

**Food waste composting.** Yard and food waste are commonly composted together. To address possible concerns about food waste attracting rodents and other pests, Montgomery County's guidance is to compost food waste (together with brown materials) in rodent-proof bins.

Suitable bins can be constructed by homeowners or purchased online. Commercially available bins for food composting at home are available for purchase from various vendors, including rotating bins that facilitate aeration. Prices vary from \$50 to \$300, or more, depending on bin capacity and design. (Montgomery County is currently conducting a pilot test of rodent-proof containers suitable for food composting that could be offered to homeowners in the future.)

Homeowners also can subscribe to a weekly pickup service of food wastes from local commercial composting services. Two composting pickup companies that service our area are Compost Crew and Key Compost. These services typically charge about \$30/month, but offer substantial cost reductions to groups of neighbors, towns, and communities that sign up for their service.

Another option for composting food waste is to deposit it at a **free** composting drop-off site nearby in Gaithersburg: [Compost Drop-Off Site | Gaithersburg, MD](#)

**Additional information on composting is available at:**

- [Composting at Home/U.S. EPA](#)
- [Compost Troubleshooting: Fixing Common Compost Problems](#)
- [Food Scraps \(Food Waste\) in Montgomery County, Maryland](#)
- [WG Sustainability Committee's Google Drive Composting folder](#)

If you have questions about composting, please contact Gary Temple.

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## Woods Committee News

**Next meeting: Monday, August 1, 2022, 7:30 pm.**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

By Phone: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 816 8537 0278

Passcode: 472083

The date of our September meeting is still to be determined because of the Labor Day Holiday.

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The Woods Committee and Mayor met with representatives of Montgomery County Department of Environment (DEP) and Department of Transportation to evaluate stormwater damage in the West Woods and potential mitigation efforts. Our next step will be to search for a professional environmental engineering contractor to assist with West Woods stormwater management. We welcome assistance in developing the 'request for proposals' (RFP) from Town residents with any stormwater management experience.

The Woods Committee co-chair, Town Council Liaison for the Conservation Meadow and the Mayor met with representatives of Montgomery County Parks (MCP) Deer Management Program and the Bow Hunter Fire Fighters of Maryland (BHFFMD) to finalize plans for adding deer management in the Conservation Meadow and lower field (Piedmont Crossing Local Park). This activity will be under the control of MCP. Deer frequently cross between the meadows and the East Woods. Hopefully, this addition will make Washington Grove's Deer Management Program more effective. Mayor Compton announced these plans in the July Town Bulletin. MCP will send notification by postal mail of authorized bow hunting this Fall-Winter deer hunting season to property owners along the boundaries of the meadows.

Also, at the request of the Sustainability Committee, we are working on a Tree City Application sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation Program to recognize Washington Grove for its dedication to preserving our forest canopy.

Lastly, there has been recent illegal dumping activity in the East and West Woods. Please help us to protect our Woods Preserves by calling the Town Office to report any suspicious dumping activities. Please contact Joan or Patty if you have any questions. Stay healthy and safe and enjoy the beauty of nature in our enchanting East and West Woods Preserves!

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## News from Other Grove Organizations

### Washington Grove Cares News

#### Thank You!

**Thanks** to all who came out for the Great Grove Get-Together in late May. We hope you enjoyed yourselves and met a Grover you hadn't known before.

## Can You Offer a Hand to a Neighbor?

Are you willing to help out a Grove neighbor in need of occasional assistance? Could you climb a ladder, troubleshoot a %@\$&! computer, or help shovel snow (not in August, obviously!). Can you provide a ride or a meal?

Washington Grove Cares wants to know who can be called upon for help. When we get a request in a category for which you sign up, you may hear from us. If it's not a good time for you, we'll call someone else. Please fill out our Volunteer Form at [bit.ly/wgcares-signup](https://bit.ly/wgcares-signup). You can also find this link on the Washington Grove Cares page of the Town website.

## Do You Need a Hand from a Neighbor?

Call Washington Grove Cares at 301-944-2962 or email [washingtongrovecares@gmail.com](mailto:washingtongrovecares@gmail.com).

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## WG United Methodist Church News



Please join Minister Margie Matthews and our congregation in person or over Zoom Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 964 361 1456

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## Woman's Club News

### Upcoming Events

#### The Auction and Raffle Date is Set for Saturday, October 22nd

Save the date for this great opportunity to socialize and snag some awesome items that you never knew you needed!



And after you've saved this time on your calendar, head to your closets, garages, studios, woodshops, basements, and cupboards to discover some things that you'd like others to appreciate, enjoy, and bid on.

Did you already perform your 'Swedish Death Cleansing' this year and are coming up short with items to donate? No problem. Time to get creative! What service or

handmade product can you auction off? Dog walking, cat sitting, garden planning, baking, editing, design services, photography, hand holding – there’s a wealth of talented resources in the Grove that can benefit bidders.

The Auction Team will be raffling off themed baskets that they’ve created with various donated things, including gift cards, home and holiday décor, children’s items and more. Contact Wendy Weisbard or Arlene McCrehan for more info and ideas. They are collecting items at their houses. And if you’d like to volunteer for this event, reach out to Wendy or Arlene as well.

## Outreach Programs

### **It’s time to start thinking about Fall!**

Again, this year, the Club is collecting coats, hats, gloves, and other outerwear for the Washington Grove Elementary School.

We are also collecting school supplies to help fill the Teacher’s Closet. Without this help, teachers end up buying supplies out of their own pockets. Big Lots, Staples, and Target, to name a few, usually have good back-to-school supplies sales.

There is also a MCPS program to give backpacks and supplies to students. An easy way to donate backpacks to this program is through a contribution to the [MCPS GIVE BACK Packs program \(PDF\)](#).

### **Monthly Meals for Priscilla’s House on the First Wednesday of Every Month**

One of our most popular programs this year has been providing meals for the 9 residents and staff of Priscilla’s House on the first Wednesday of every month, including one resident who is a vegetarian, but eats fish. We still need volunteers for **October** and **December**.

We’ve had individuals, families and groups of friends, volunteer to make a main course, a side dish, a dessert and to deliver the meals. If you would like to take part in this program and provide a meal for these women, [you can sign up here](#).

### **Donation for the Archways Kids and Their Families**

Throughout the year, the Woman’s Club collects food and supplies to put together in monthly care packages for the Archways families. Donations have slowed up recently, and our cupboards are beginning to look a bit bare. We need things like white rice; individual bags of cookies, packs of pudding and other treats; individually wrapped rolls of paper towels and toilet paper; sanitary pads; men and women’s deodorant; toothpaste; liquid hand soap; and laundry detergent.

## **Our Club Helps Out Where SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Leaves Off**

As the needs of those around us continue, our Club is collecting some of the much-needed items that SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) doesn't pay for. SNAP does not pay for things like Similac, Pedialyte, diapers and diaper wipes, and such things.

## **Where to Drop Off Your Donations**

All donations can be dropped off either in the box on the Clubhouse porch or on Wendy Weisbard's porch at 119 Grove Road. Monetary donation checks should be made-out-to the Woman's Club (WCWG) with a notation in the Memo if you want the money to go towards a specific project. Checks can be dropped off with Cynthia Werts at 410 Oak Street or mailed to Cynthia at PO Box 354.

## **Our Outreach Programs can only happen with the continued support of our Little Town with the Big Heart**

Follow The Woman's Club of Washington Grove:

- [on FaceBook](#),
- on Instagram at [@wgomansclub](#),
- and on [the Town's website](#) to learn about our special events.

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## Coming Events Calendar

August 1	Woods Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
August 2	Sustainability Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
August 3	Planning Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
August 4	Swing Time Big Band	7:00 pm	Town Hall
August 8	Town Council	7:30 pm	ZOOM
August 10	Forestry & Beautification	7:30 pm	ZOOM
<b>August 10</b>	<b>BUILDING PERMIT SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b>		
August 11	Gateway Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
August 14	Racial and Social Equity Committee	2:00 pm	ZOOM
August 16	Historic Preservation Commission	7:30 pm	ZOOM
August 18	Swing Time Big Band	7:00 pm	Town Hall
August 18	Lake Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
August 21	RASEC Ice Cream Social	7:30 pm	ZOOM
August 24	Lighting Committee	7:30 pm	ZOOM
August 25	Emergency Prep. & Safety Comm.	7:30 pm	ZOOM

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