

PARK PAGES

The People, Places and Events of Brooklyn Park

November/December 2008

Fire Chief for a Day

Maria Sharai Carbajal comes to the rescue

October 16, 2008 is a day one Brooklyn Park girl will never forget. After a ten minute swearing-in ceremony and quick speech to city employees in the City Council Chambers, Maria Sharai Carbajal took over the reigns of the Brooklyn Park Fire Department and was whisked off by a big yellow fire truck. "I want to go on some calls," said the 10-year-old.

Emergencies don't wait for a new chief to get comfortable. Sharai, who goes by her middle name, was one of the first to arrive at a gas leak. After learning it was just a battery on a tractor lawn mower that leaked the smell, she was off again with lights and sirens. This time, the call was for a two vehicle crash on Highway 81 and 63rd Avenue North.



It was a whirlwind day for the Palmer Lake Elementary fifth grader. Sharai was one of 30 children who competed in the City's first ever Fire Chief for a Day contest. Each child wrote an essay on why they wanted to be chief and how they would teach other children fire prevention tips. Sharai wrote "The chief gets to tell each person what to do so they don't mess up and risk people's lives." She also said firefighters could teach kids how dangerous fire is by letting kids "ring the bell on firetrucks" and playing "fetch" with the fire dog, Sparky.

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Unique Living for Older Residents

Glen Edin of Edinburgh Townhome Association

Don McGuire beams with pride when he talks about his townhome near Edinburgh USA Golf Course. He lives in a spacious 3,000 square foot home that is impeccably decorated with all the amenities some retired or older persons only dream of. When he looks out the window, he sees a panoramic view of the golf course. And, he has dozens of good friends up and down the street.

McGuire lives in the Glen Edin Townhomes, a unique community for older residents, most of whom are at least 55-years-old. Almost all the residents are life-long Brooklyn Park residents, who have chosen to stay in the city but wish to downsize from larger homes. "I moved to Brooklyn Park in 1991. There are lots of great people here. I didn't want to leave the community when I wanted a smaller place," said McGuire recently.

The 46 homes are built on 17 acres of land and was the brainchild of developer Evelyn Schmidt, who is now

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Don't let the bed bugs bite!

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Winter tips to keep you safe & sound

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The Red Fox: What you need to know

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Early winter schedule... free & low cost events!



PARK PAGES

PARK PAGES is produced by Brooklyn Park city staff, published every other month and distributed to residences and businesses.
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North Hennepin Area Chamber of Commerce
229 1st Avenue NE Osseo, Minnesota 55369
Phone: 763-424-6744 Fax: 763-424-6927
Email: info@nhachamber.com Website: www.nhachamber.com

TwinWest Chamber of Commerce
10700 Old County Rd 15 Suite 170 Plymouth, Minnesota 55441
Phone: 763-450-2220 Fax: 763-450-2221
Email: bruce@twinwest.com Website: www.twinwest.com

Proudly Serving the North Hennepin Area!

City Services: 763-493-8166

- Vehicle title transfers
- License plate tab renewals
- Registration for out-of-state vehicles

- Fishing and hunting licenses
- Registration for snowmobiles, boats, ATVs
- Pet licenses

Hennepin County Services: 612-348-8240

- Driver's license renewals

State of Minnesota Services: 952-476-3042

- Driver's license testing

CITY SERVICES

City Hall Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Licensing Division Hours

Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. - Noon

Information Contacts

Emergency Assistance 911
City Hall 763-424-8000
Community Activity Center 763-493-8333
Recreation & Parks 763-493-8333
Operations & Maintenance 763-493-8007

Fire Administration 763-493-8020
Police Administration 763-493-8222
Recycling 763-493-8006
Utility Billing 763-493-8185
Yard Waste Site 763-420-4886

Official website: www.brooklynpark.org

REGULAR MEETINGS

City Council: The 1st, 3rd and 4th Mondays of each month, 7 p.m. Each meeting will begin with an Open Forum of up to 15 minutes.

Budget Advisory Commission: 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Economic Development Authority:
2nd Monday of each month, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission: 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Charter Commission: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Citizen Long-range Improvement Committee:
2nd Thursday, 7 p.m.

Human Rights Commission: 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m.

Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission:
3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Brooklyn Park Firefighters Relief Association Board of Trustees: 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.

ON AIR

Channel 16

7 p.m. - 1st thru 4th Monday: Council & EDA, Live

7 p.m. - 2nd Wednesday: Planning Commission, Live

6:30 p.m. - Thursday: Brooklyn Park Now

7 p.m. - 2nd Monday: Economic Development Authority, Live

7 p.m. - 2nd thru 5th Thursday: City Council, Replay

2:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. - Friday: Brooklyn Park Now

3 a.m. & 11 a.m. - Friday: City Council, Replay

Channel 19

8:30 p.m. - Monday: Brooklyn Park Now

4:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. - Tuesday:

Brooklyn Park Now

Times and dates subject to change.
Contact 763-424-8000 or
custserv@brooklynpark.org
to confirm.

NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

Residents interested in receiving the Brooklyn Park SUN-POST or those who are having delivery problems should contact the paper's circulation department directly at 952-392-6860. Messages should include a delivery address and return phone number. Please note the paper cannot be delivered north of 101st Avenue and distribution is limited in apartments, townhomes and condos.



Fire Chief for a Day continued from cover...

The contest was the idea of Chief Ken Prillaman, who himself is pretty new to the job. He arrived in Brooklyn Park last summer and decided his department needed more outreach with the community. He thought making a child be Fire Chief for a Day would be a lot of fun and educational for school kids. He's determined to make sure the Fire Department is part of the community.

Prillaman admits he was surprised at how many children participated in the contest and the quality of essays that he saw. "It was impressive. Children know so much more than we think. I wish we could have let every child be Fire Chief for a Day," said the real Chief recently.

Along with her special "Chief" status, Sharai had lunch with Chief Prillaman at Edinburgh USA, got a \$100 savings bond courtesy of the Brooklyn Park Lion's Club and got two lower level seats to a Minnesota Vikings game, courtesy of the team itself. Sharai says she still "can't believe I won. It was the most exciting day I've ever had."

Unique Living for Older Residents continued from cover...

deceased. Schmidt had a vision to provide luxury housing for those who wanted to retire in the city. Her dream became reality when construction began in 1987. All homes have separate and unique floor plans and no two homes have the same plan.

The complex is also unique in that the association is self-managed. There's a board of directors and committees that deal with maintenance, architecture, social activities, landscape and finance. Residents do much of the work around the complex themselves, and are asked to often volunteer their labor. When the big hail storm of 2005 hit, residents worked as a team to repair the damage.

Glen Edin Townhomes range in price from \$250,000 to \$450,000. There is usually never more than one home for sale at a time, even during these tough economic times. Most residents choose to live out the rest of their lives at Glen Edin.

Arlene Breckenridge is the president of the townhome association. She says she's "proud of her efforts and the hard work her neighbors have put in to make the complex great." McGuire agrees, "it's fantastic to know you don't have to move to find a nice retirement community right here in Brooklyn Park."



City Council Election Results

Thanks for voting!

On November 4, 76 percent of Brooklyn Park residents exercised their constitutional right to vote. One vote does make a difference.

The following are unofficial results. At time of printing, recount requests were still underway.

City Council Races	
East District	
Peter Crema	5,287
Mark Mata*	5,259
Central District	
Boyd Morson	3,312
Mike Trepanier*	5,753
West District	
Terry Gearin*	3,094
Dean Heng	3,957



Be a Part of City Government.

Speak Out on the Issues!

Join a city commission

Do you want to serve in Brooklyn Park's city leadership? Do you wish you had more to say about the way Brooklyn Park is run? Why not do something about it and volunteer on a city commission?

The City is beginning its annual recruitment process to fill upcoming openings on its commissions. No experience is necessary—only your commitment to building a strong, vibrant Brooklyn Park. Applications for the annual recruitment will be accepted through January 30, 2009.

Fill out your application now to serve on the Citizen Long-range Improvement Committee (CLIC), Human Rights Commission, Planning Commission, Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission, or the Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission.

The time commitment is usually one meeting per month, but it varies between commissions. Commission meetings are open to the public so you may stop by and visit a commission before applying.

Applications are available on the city's website www.brooklynpark.org, or at the City Hall customer service desk. You may also call 763-493-8001 to request an application or to get additional information on the commissions.

Creepy Crawly Bed Bugs

Don't let them bite you!

Actual length
5mm

There has been a recent resurgence of bed bugs in multi-family residences and hotels. Public health staff routinely respond to requests for service if infestations are identified in the City.

Bed bugs are most abundant in rooms where people sleep, and generally hide near the bed or other furniture used for sleeping. Clutter around the room offers additional sites for these bugs to hide, and increases the difficulty in eliminating bed bugs once they have become established. Bed bugs tend to be active at night and hide during the day. Their flattened bodies allow them to conceal themselves in cracks and crevices around the room and within furniture.

How do you know if you have bed bugs? Immature bed bugs "molt" five times before reaching adulthood. Look for reddish or brownish spots or smears on bed sheets, pillowcases, mattresses, or on nearby furniture.

For more information on bed bugs, please contact Code Enforcement and Public Health at 763-493-8070. Don't let the bed bugs bite!

The City Needs Your Input on Multi-Family Housing Development

What do you want in Brooklyn Park?

The Multi-Family Housing Study Group invites you to a community meeting on Tuesday, December 2, at 7 p.m. at City Hall (5200 85th Avenue North) to talk about the development of apartments, condominiums and townhomes in Brooklyn Park. The Study Group will share its draft policy recommendations for the future development of multi-family housing in Brooklyn Park and will seek input from residents. After the community meeting, the study group will finalize and submit a report to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) and City Council in February 2009.

This meeting is the second community gathering on this topic. On October 7, more than 50 residents attended an open house on multi-family housing. Participants reviewed information and provided feedback on ways the city might address the demand for multi-family housing.

See www.brooklynpark.org/studygroup for more information or call 763-493-8050.



Operations & Maintenance News

Housekeeping Issues

Basement water valves are your responsibility.

The maintenance of interior water shut off valves is your duty. Residents should be careful when attempting to turn off water service near the meter in the basement. If the valves don't operate correctly, call the city at 763-493-8099 or 763-493-8185 to schedule the water to be turned off at the curb valve near the street.

Be careful what you flush down the toilet! Don't clog the city's sewer system! City utility maintenance crews recently found Swiffer mop heads, shop rags and other items while investigating sewer back-ups. Also, a sloppy messy basement from a sanitary sewer back up is never fun! But if this ever happens to you call the city immediately at 763-493-8007 during business hours or 763-493-8222 after hours to determine if the problem is the City's responsibility or if you need to contact a sewer maintenance company

Looking for Homeowner Associations

The City of Brooklyn Park is in the process of updating its contacts for single-family homeowner associations. We don't have contacts for many of the associations throughout Brooklyn Park and are asking for your assistance.

If you are a board member of an association, or if you have any contact information about your association and/or its management company, please contact JoAnn Millette at 763-493-8082 or via e-mail at joann.millette@brooklynpark.org.

Migrating Tips for the Winter "Snowbird"

Keep your Brooklyn Park home safe & sound

As cool weather begins, many Minnesotans prepare to spend the winter in warmer climates. Whether you're heading south for a few months or just taking an extended vacation there are ways the City can help you keep your house safe and in good condition. Enjoy your migration with peace of mind by following the tips below:

Icy Pipes The Utility Billing division recommends you leave your heat on slightly above freezing to prevent the possibility of frozen water pipes.

Find a housesitter It's a good idea to ask a trusted friend, family member or neighbor to check on your house periodically while you are away, or inform your neighborhood watch program of your absence. To learn more about the Neighborhood Watch program contact Gerry Gibbs at 763-493-8284.

Security Check Is your house crime-proof? An easy and free way to find out is to contact the Crime Prevention Unit to run a security survey of your property. You will need to be available to go over the details of examining possible break-in locations. Contact Terry Dehmer at 763-493-8277 to schedule your security check.

Hire a caretaker Consider hiring a neighborhood teenager to do certain chores for you. This is a great way to get your lawn mowed, your trash taken out, sidewalks shoveled and leaves raked. All of which will disguise the fact that you aren't at home.

Hide the valuables Don't leave valuable objects in plain site - including expensive televisions, gaming systems, sound systems or computer setups. Keep the drapes closed or move them into a more enclosed area of the house. If you have a lot of expensive jewelry or cash on hand, consider buying a safe. Place it in a lower level of your home away from any windows.

Secret messages Never change your answering machine, voice mail, or e-mail to say you are out of town. Leave it at something generic like "we can't come to the phone right now."

Mail redirect Make sure to stop at the post office to change your forwarding address for long trips or hold your mail for shorter trips. Also contact the newspaper carrier to have your subscription temporarily stopped.

Utility bills Contact the Utility Billing department to temporarily redirect your utility bill so we can send it to your winter address during the months you'll be gone. Another option is to estimate and prepay your bill or sign up for automatic bill paying.

Time to light Buy a computerized or simple, inexpensive light timer to have your lights go on at certain times of the day. Many stores sell these timers in their home improvement section or check at the local hardware store.

Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!

Snowplows, parking, mailboxes & you!

It's that time of year again when the flakes start to fly! Here's what you need to know:

Plowing City employees try to plow all streets within 24 hours of a "normal" snowfall. A normal snowfall is two to six inches of snow. What if it's slippery? Roads are salted whenever it's icy or whenever police officers tell road crews that cars, people or pets could slip or slide!

Parking You can't park on any city street between 2 and 5 a.m. from October 15 to April 15 and any time after it snows two inches or more. You can resume parking after the street has been plowed from curb to curb. And, don't forget, leaving a vehicle parked for more than 24 hours in one spot on a city street is prohibited year round! You'll get towed, and then you have to go to the Police Department to get it back and pay some hefty fines and towing fees.

Mailboxes It snowed and my mailbox toppled over! Whose fault is it? The city is only responsible for mailboxes that are hit by snow plows. If the city is responsible, you can get reimbursed up to a maximum of \$30. If your mailbox tips over because of the weight of snow, you have to deal with that. When shoveling, remember to shovel around your mailbox too. It's your responsibility.

Sod If your sod is damaged during snowplowing operations, the City will pick up the damaged sod in the spring. As a resident, you have two options. The City will install black dirt and seed, or if you prefer sod, we'll pay for the cost of the sod. Unfortunately, we can't pay for the cost of installing the sod.

Sidewalks Brooklyn Park plows snow from a designated arterial sidewalk system, it doesn't include all sidewalks. In addition, City Code requires an owner/occupant of any property adjacent to a public sidewalk to keep sidewalks free from snow and ice.

Garbage/Recycling Containers The City requires that garbage and recycling containers be accessible for pick-up and placed off street to allow snow removal. The container(s) may have to be placed in the driveway to meet both of these requirements. It's the responsibility of the resident to make sure the container(s) is not in the way of the snowplow or sidewalk plow, but is still accessible to the garbage and recycling truck(s).

Fire Hydrants After it snows and streets have been plowed, road crews try to clear access to fire hydrants. But it takes time and we'd sure appreciate your help! When you're digging out, could you take a few seconds to shovel out your hydrant five feet on each side? It could save your life and your property!

Excess Snow Though it's tempting, did you know it's against the law to dump your excess snow on public roadways? You could be creating a hazard for yourself and your neighbors.

Finally, when you see a snow plow, please help out the driver and allow a large clearance margin. It can be tough maneuvering those big ol' trucks. Got more questions? There's lots more information on the city's website at www.brooklynpark.org under the "Operations and Maintenance" Department. Have a Happy and Safe Winter Season!





PARK PAGES



Talkin' Television with Dan the Recycling Man

Hi Brooklyn Park residents!

I've received a few calls from residents asking about the switch to the Digital TV signal and recycling their old televisions. On February 17, 2009, all full-power broadcast television stations are required to stop broadcasting in analog and continue broadcasting in digital only. This is known as the digital television (DTV) transition.

What Does This Mean To You?

Not everyone will be affected by the DTV transition in the same way:

- If you receive your local broadcast stations through cable or satellite TV, you're already prepared for the DTV transition. However, if you have an analog TV that doesn't receive local broadcast stations through your paid provider, you'll need a "digital-to-analog converter box" to watch digital broadcasts (see below).
- If you have a digital TV (a TV with a built-in digital tuner), you are ready for the switch (If your TV is more than 10 years old, it probably isn't digital. If it's less than 10 years old, check your owner's manual or ask the manufacturer.)
- If you have an analog TV with a rooftop antenna or "rabbit ears" on your set, you will not be able to watch full-power broadcast stations after February 17, 2009 unless you get a "digital-to-analog converter box."

Digital-to-analog converter boxes are available in stores that sell electronics equipment and through various online mail order retailers. The cost for a basic converter box is between \$40 and \$70. This is a one-time cost. But read on...you can save some money!

Coupon Program

The Federal Government is offering every household up to two \$40 coupons that can be applied toward the cost of eligible converter boxes. The number of coupons available is limited and applications for coupons must be received by March 31, 2009 (Note: these coupons expire 90 days after mailing). To get the coupon:

- Call the Coupon Program's 24-hour hotline at 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009), TTY: 1-877-530-2634 (English TTY) or 1-866-495-1161 (Spanish TTY)
- Apply online at www.dtv2009.gov

So remember, you don't have to go out and buy a new 46" HD DTV because of the new digital signal. But if you are lucky enough to get one, you can give your old TV away at www.twincitiesfreemarket.org or recycle it for free at the Hennepin County Recycling Center, 8100 Jefferson Hwy. in Brooklyn Park. Happy TV watching and Recycling!



Dan

Check out my blog on the city's website at www.brooklynpark.org or watch my segments on the city's TV news show, **Brooklyn Park Now!**, which airs on channel 16 every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and on channel 19 every Monday at 8:30 p.m.



Edinburgh USA



Edinburgh USA Golf Shop Sale

Have a golf enthusiast in your family? Edinburgh USA Golf Shop will begin its annual holiday sale on Wednesday, December 10, and end on Tuesday, December 23. During this time the shop will be open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's a great time to save money on all the stuff your golfer loves.

The Red Fox

What do you do if you get a visitor?

by Lee Kimsey, Brooklyn Park Police Department

Among the other notable residents of Brooklyn Park is the red fox. Its scientific designation is *Vulpes vulpes*, and you will have forgotten it ten minutes from now as I am sure I will. It has been portrayed in literature throughout the ages as a crafty, cunning creature that outwits its adversaries at every turn. It is no surprise to learn that this is not far from the truth. The fox has been hunted and trapped for generations because of its fur. Yet the population of the fox has not diminished; a testament to its adaptability and cunning nature.

Red foxes in Brooklyn Park are a fairly common sight. They measure 22 to 32 inches in head and body length, and the tail is 14 to 16 inches long. The adult red fox weighs between 6 to 15 pounds, but it appears heavier than it actually is due to its lustrous coat. Foxes are usually shy and wary but they are also curious, active night or day, and sightings around dusk or dawn are common. They remain active all year and do not hibernate. They will actively maintain a territory of between two to seven square miles.

If you want to deter foxes from frequenting your property follow these simple rules:

- **Secure your garbage!** Foxes will raid open trash materials and compost piles. Take out trash the morning pick up is scheduled, not the previous night. Keep compost piles in containers designed to contain but vent the material.
- **Don't feed or approach foxes.** Feeding, whether direct or indirect, can cause foxes to act tame and over time may lead to bold behavior. Foxes that rely on natural food items remain wild and wary of humans. Foxes that lose their fear of people will probably have to be destroyed.
- **Keep your pets safe!** Although free roaming pets are more likely to be killed by automobiles than by wild animals, foxes can view smaller pets as potential food. For the safety of your pets, keep them restrained at all times.
- **Keep bird feeder areas clean!** Use feeders designed to keep seed off the ground as the seed attracts



many small mammals foxes prey upon. Remove feeders if foxes are regularly seen around your yard.

- **Feed your pets indoors!** Outdoor feeding attracts many wild animals to your door!
- **Close off crawl spaces under porches and sheds!** Foxes use such areas for resting and raising young.
- **Don't let foxes intimidate you!** Don't hesitate to scare or threaten foxes with loud noises, bright lights, or spraying at them with a garden hose.
- **Cut back brushy edges in your yard!** These areas provide cover for foxes and their prey.
- **Educate your neighbors!** Pass this information along since your efforts will be futile if neighbors are providing food or shelter for foxes.
- **Teach your children to respect wildlife and give it lots of space.** It is natural for your child to be curious. So it is very important that you teach them the proper respect.

Living in harmony with wildlife can be a rewarding experience. We are blessed here in Brooklyn Park with many, many acres of wonderful parkland that we all have the ability to enjoy. Never forget that the "original inhabitants" still enjoy these spaces as well. We should let them while enjoying the experience in the process.

Have an animal question? Call Lee at 763-493-8362 or email him at lee.kimsey@brooklynpark.org.

Special Events at the CAC

Your special event is just that--special, unique, one chance to make it great. Choosing the right location is key. The Brooklyn Park Community Activity Center is here to host your wedding, birthday party, baby or wedding shower, corporate meeting, holiday event or any other special event. For more information, contact Gina Gryniowski at 763-493-8427 or email her at gina.gryniowski@brooklynpark.org.





What Can You Do in Brooklyn Park?

Don't leave town! Check out these free and affordable events!

Holiday Concert and Toys for Tots

The Brooklyn Park Community Band holiday concert is sure to delight you and your family. Enjoy holiday music, door prizes and treats. Bring a toy to donate as well. Free!

Monday, December 1, from 7 to 8 p.m.
Community Activity Center
5600 85th Avenue North

Norwegian Christmas at Eidem Homestead

Make it a family tradition! Dancing, carolers, gift making and more!
\$6 for adults, \$4 for children

Saturday and Sunday, December 6-7, from 1 to 5 p.m.
Eidem Homestead
101st Avenue North and Noble Parkway

New Year's Eve at the CAC

Ring in the New Year at the Community Activity Center. Admission includes hayrides, face painting and a dance with DJ Bob! \$5 per person ages 2 and up.

Wednesday, December 31, from 6:30-9 p.m.
Community Activity Center
5600 85th Avenue North

Tater Daze Fundraiser

Come eat at Applebee's with the Mayor and Ambassadors and raise money for our city festival.

Wednesday, January 14, from 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m.
7901 Brooklyn Boulevard

The Many Faces of Brooklyn Park

What makes Brooklyn Park a unique place to live? It's you and your neighbors! Come join us at our fun-filled family event to educate, recognize and celebrate the rich and diverse cultures living in our great city. It'll be worth your time with lots of games, food, fun and entertainment from around the world. You'll also get to learn about the many recreational activities our Recreation and Parks Department has to offer as well as get some wellness tips from health vendors. It's free! It's sponsored by the Human Rights Commission, Joint Community Partnership and the Recreation and Parks Department. Please go to the city's website at www.brooklynpark.org or call 763-493-8154 for more information.

Saturday, January 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Community Activity Center-Armory Gym
5600 85th Avenue North

Recreation and Parks Programming

Don't stay at home and have the winter blahs! Check out what your Recreation and Parks Department has to offer. From Open Gym, Silver Sneakers and Teens Take Over! at the Community Activity Center to Teen Zone at the Zanewood Recreation Center, there's something for everybody. Logon to www.brooklynpark.org under "Recreation and Parks" to find the latest catalog of stuff to do.



City of Brooklyn Park
5200 - 85th Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443-4300

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