



Up The Creek



A Publication of Rice Creek Resort
10719 Rice Creek Dr, Riverview, FL 33578

DECEMBER 2023

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From the Editors

Rice Creek RV Resort Newsletter

Also available in color on-line at www.ontracnewsletters.net

Thank you to all the people who have contributed to this edition, as well as our managers, activities directors, and coordinators.

Please submit your ideas or articles in writing or by email with your name, address, and phone number.

Doug or Robin Vaughan, 11109 Peru Creek Dr.
(813) 503-6255 or (813) 217-1141
douglasmvaughan@gmail.com
or robinavaughan@gmail.com

YARD OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Deborah Fernandez-Raub as the recipient of the YARD OF THE MONTH. There will be a new YARD OF THE MONTH for December.



There is no soliciting allowed in our park. If you see any salespeople or meat trucks, etc. please report it to the office immediately.

Manager's corner

By Bill Brimmer

Welcome Back!

But I have to say someone forgot to close the barn door! That's alright unless I see a Snowy Owl, or Snow Bunting circling the ploughed field.

I'm sure that you noticed some of the improvements to the park. Most are a work in progress. I hope that does not go over a month before completion, i.e. pavement repairs, landscaping, etc.

The Activities Director Prudy along with your involvement will keep you busy. I know you will have many neighborhood gatherings that stretch from Fern Creek Circle to Lavon Creek Drive hopping through April.

Lois and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

NOTICE FOR ALL GUESTS

Please be advised when using the RC trash barrels that they are ONLY for yard waste, limbs, grass clippings, etc. They are NOT to be used for construction materials, rocks, gravel or household garbage.

Also, remember, if you can't pick up your barrel, chances are our maintenance men will also have a hard time lifting them into the back of the truck. Use an additional barrel if needed.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

*William Brimmer
Park Manager*



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To our valued customers;

During the current times we wanted to let you know that we are taking as many precautions as we can to ensure not only our workers safety but yours as well. We check workers' temperatures each morning and have limited the amount of contact our crews have with each other. Our crews work in Tyvek suits with respirators which helps to ensure your safety as well as theirs.

As a company, we want your business and there is no need for any contact if you so choose. Our business is deemed an "Essential Business" and we are here for you when you need us. You can schedule your inspection by calling 1-800-681-3772.

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EDITORIAL

By: Robin Vaughan

It's so great to see everyone! I love catching up with winter friends and talking about all the things that have gone on in our lives since we last saw each other. The catching up can take several get togethers! Then there are plans to make for our time together during the winter season. So much to do! Yet, inevitably, spring comes around, folks go back to their summer homes, and we still haven't said and done all the things we wanted to do!

Seeing my winter friends is just part of the reason I love this time of year. It's the preparations for the holidays. The family traditions. The hockey games. You might have noticed my Christmas decorations were up on November 3rd. Yep!

Something I would never have contemplated before Covid. It makes me happy to have my Christmas decorations up! The time I would have spent decorating closer to the holidays, is now open for lunch dates, happy hours, dinner parties, and otherwise just spending time with my friends and family! I have time to make cookies, and snacks for parties (see the Recipe of the Month below). My wish is that you all approach the holidays with less stress so that you can embrace and enjoy this time of year!

Doug and I wish you the Merriest of all Christmas' and a Happy and Healthy New Year!



BINGO

By: Paul Albert

Every Thursday nickel bingo begins at 6:00 pm. 25 nickels, 5 dimes and 6 quarters is all you need for this entertaining night. If you want, add a dollar for each 'jug' ticket. The 'jug' prize is becoming quite significant!



BILLIARDS

Billiards tournament every Wednesday at 6:30pm, up to 20 people. 11 people or less we play singles. 12 people or more and we draw cards for partners. \$5 entry fee-- All money is paid out as follows:

1 50/50 drawing, plus 1st, 2nd and 3rd place - Doug Moorhouse is the Administrator (503) 320-1453

8-Ball singles tournament every other Saturday at 6pm. Limited to 10 people, \$10 entry fee. All money is paid out as a 60/40 split for 1st and 2nd place.

Next one is December 9th - "JJ" Johnson is the Administrator (843) 599-3885

All are welcome! There are no separate divisions for women and men.

Sign-up sheets are in the billiards room on the bulletin board. Park residents will always take precedence over non-residents, but non-residents are welcome if not enough residents are playing! Those on the sign-up sheets will have precedence over those that just show up to play.

So, sign up!!!

Let's all HAVE FUN!!!!

BULLETIN BOARD

At the back of the hall. Post notes on 3"x5" cards. Write date posted on card. This board will be checked and kept neat. The cards will be removed every two months. For more information see Prudy.

Friday Morning Meeting

Coffee and donuts at 7:45 a.m. Information meeting at 8:30 a.m. This is the place to find out what is happening in the park and any changes to scheduled events. All are encouraged to attend.

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BREAKFAST

By: Scott Denson



Scott will be serving up hot breakfasts at 8:30 a.m. on two Saturdays, December 9th and 23rd. Check the board for menu and cost.



HOT DAWGS

By: Floyd Anderson

Come and get 'em! Floyd will be serving them hot at noon on Saturday, December 2nd, 16th and 30th.



Activities Directors

Prudy and Dave Hodsdon

By: Prudy Hodsdon (603) 312-1461

Here we are counting the days until "Santa" arrives! Time really flies when we're having fun! The December calendar is full!

THE PORCH BAND IS BACK!

They will be playing for your pleasure in the pavilion on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7pm until 9pm. All musicians are invited to join in.

DEC 3RD @ 6PM COOKIE CONCERT & TREE TRIMMING

The kids from the high school are tall enough to reach the top of the tree! The concert commences at 6:45pm. This is also the time for the donation of canned goods and non-perishables.

DEC 9TH 9AM-1PM YARD SALE IN THE HALL

See me for tables. Tables are free and there will be a light lunch available for \$5.

DEC 13 @ 2PM LADIES TEA

Seating is limited. There's a sign-up sheet in the hall.

DEC 16TH @ 7PM VICTORIAN SINGERS & THEATER GROUP

Our local Riverview High School Choir will once again provide us with some Christmas cheer!

DEC 20TH @ 6PM DECORATED GOLF CART PARADE & BEST DECORATED HOME/RV

Line up at 5:30pm. Dress your wheels in its most festive attire! Prize for the best decorated cart. Cast your vote for the best decorated home/RV in the box in the hall. The best decorated home/RV prize will be separate from the Yard of the Month award.

DEC 22ND 7PM-9:30PM CHRISTMAS PARTY

Entertainment provided by 'Aloha Sharks'. There will be a \$7 charge including magnificent door prizes!

DEC 24TH @ 7PM CHRISTMAS CHAPEL

Christmas Eve service in the hall.

DEC 25TH @ 9AM CHRISTMAS CHAPEL

Morning service will be followed by a gift swap (\$5).

DEC 25TH @ 2PM CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sign-up sheets are in the hall.

DEC 31ST @ 8PM NEW YEARS EVE PARTY & DANCE

Tickets are \$12. Entertainment will be provided by our very own DJ Katie.

Please keep watch on the sign posts and in the hall for any changes should they occur.



CHAPEL

By: Chapel Elder Vincent Donnell, Pastor
"The Gift That Keeps On Giving"
(John 3:16)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."



'Tis the season of love and giving. The true spirit of the holidays goes beyond just the superficial trappings of gift-giving and festive decorations. It is about expressing the values of connection, compassion, gratitude, love and giving back. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. May God grant you peace and fill your heart with cheer. May God grant you health and happiness throughout the coming year. May God guide you with His wisdom and keep you in His care. This is my special wish for you.

This is my Holiday prayer.

Join us in the hall for **Chapel Service every Sunday at 9:00am.**
Followed by fellowship coffee hour.

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SOME LOCAL AND NOT SO LOCAL HAPPENINGS

12/2 5PM-7PM ALAFIA LIGHTED BOAT PARADE

Riverview Park & Civic Center, 11020 Park Dr, Riverview
<https://www.alafiaboatparade.com/>

12/2 – 12/3 RUSKIN SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

2401 19th Ave. NW, Ruskin, FL
<https://ruskinseafoodfest.org/>

12/2 11AM-5PM HONEYMOON ISLAND BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Honeymoon Island State Park, One Causeway Blvd, Dunedin, FL
<http://honeymoonislandbluegrassfestival.com/>

12/2 1PM - 9PM SANTA FEST & TAMPA'S TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, 600 N. Ashley Drive, Tampa, FL 33602
<https://www.tampa.gov/>

12/3 9AM-3PM BRANDON SUNDAY MARKET

788 W Lumsden Rd, Brandon, FL
<https://tampa.beyondthenest.com/content/brandon-sunday-market>

12/8 – 12/10 THE VINTAGE ROOST MARKET

2326 E 7th Ave, Ybor City, FL 33605
5,000 sf market with multiple vendors with rare, kitschy & various treasures.
<https://www.facebook.com/VintageRoostybor>

12/9 6PM-10PM APOLLO BEACH LIGHTED BOAT PARADE

https://sail-tss.org/content.aspx?page_id=4001&club_id=109032

12/15 – 12/17 THE VINTAGE ROOST MARKET

2326 E 7th Ave, Ybor City, FL 33605
5,000sf market with multiple vendors with rare, kitschy & various treasures.
<https://www.facebook.com/VintageRoostybor>

12/16 9AM-1PM WINTHROP POP UP MARKET

Sullivan St, Riverview, FL
<https://www.winthroppopupmarket.com>

12/23 6PM HOLIDAY LIGHTED RIVERWALK BOAT PARADE, DOWNTOWN TAMPA

<https://thetampariverwalk.com/>





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Our top priority is the health and safety of our employees and of our customers. Our employees are closely following the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) guidelines and recommendation, like frequent hand washing, social distancing, and staying home if they are feeling ill.

We have taken steps to limit exposure to the virus by making our customers aware that there is no need to have any contact with our employees if you choose to do so. Our business falls under the state's guidelines as "Essential Business".

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Horseshoes



ATTENTION ALL HORSESHOE PLAYERS! We will be pitching at 9:00 am every day Monday thru Friday, with a tournament every other Saturday. You do not have to have your own shoes to participate. Come have some fun!



Shuffleboard

by: Dave Hodson (603) 312-1461

Come join us on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 9:00 a.m. for a morning of shuffling! We are having a great time! If you would like to just learn the game without having to participate in the regular scheduled times please give me a call. Pucks and cues are available to anyone who wishes to play.

If you have any questions, please call me at the number above.



CARDS

If you like to play cards (or would like to learn), the following are options you might consider:

Court Whist on Sunday nights at 6:30pm in the craft room.

Euchre on Monday nights at 6:30pm in the craft room.

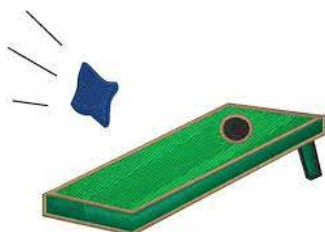
Hand, Foot & Elbow on Monday nights at 6:30pm in the hall.

Pinochle on Tuesday and Wednesday nights at 6:30pm in the craft room.

5 Crowns (a rummy-like game) on Fridays at 10:30am in the craft room.

Cornhole

Out by the Horseshoe pits Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:30am



Bowling

By: Nancy & Ron Ferdinandsen (586) 871-5333

Here we are already into our new Season of Bowling! Started early this year on October 17th!

We're looking forward to more new Bowlers coming in each week.

Don't forget - Tuesdays 12:30pm at The Alley, still just \$10.00 for 3 Games of LAUGHTER AND FUN.

COME AND JOIN US, YOU WON'T BE SORRY (You might even make a few bucks, don't forget this is Color pin bowling). Sign-up sheet is in the hall!

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Ron and Nancy

CHAPEL

Services are held in the hall Sundays at 9:00 am, followed by coffee hour.

Yard Games

Bocce ball, ladder ball and corn hole games are available for your use and are located in the library.



RICE CREEK STITCHERS

By: Linda Seese (480) 516-7333

Fellow Rice Creekians... Interested in meeting wonderful neighbors? Like to Knit? Crochet? Quilt? Embroider?? Want to learn how to do these things? Have talent you would like to share? Like to be with friendly, creative people?? Join us in the craft room, on Tuesday afternoons, from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. Looking forward to seeing you there!!



Yard Sale

December 9th

Yard sale will be held from 9am to 1pm. Tables are \$2, see Prudy for details.

Halloween Party

A great time was had by all! Music was provided by DJ Katie. The winners for this year's best costumes were Dean (really kind of creepy) and Andrea, along with James and Drew.



TAMPA PREMIUM OUTLETS & THE GROVE/KRATE

By: Doug Vaughan

Want a change from the Ellenton outlet stores? Why not head north, it's the same time and distance (30 minutes, 24 miles) to Tampa Premium Outlets. They are much newer than Ellenton and conveniently located off Interstate 75 and State Road 56. Anchored by Saks Fifth Avenue OFF 5TH, there are over 110 shops including Marc Jacobs, Coach, J. Crew, Michael Kors, and Polo Ralph Lauren. There are also dining options at Market Hall, along with many other restaurants nearby.

Another 10 minutes North on I-75 is The Grove. A collection of big box stores including World Market, which carries a wide and eclectic array of products including dining room furniture, imported food, and affordable Christmas gifts.

In their parking lot, there is a container 'village' of 94 shipping containers. Have been turned into 29 restaurants and 17 shops featuring different cuisines and artisan products. Most are locally owned businesses and vendors so you can shop and support the local economy!

<https://www.premiumoutlets.com/outlet/tampa>

<https://www.groveshopping.com/>

<https://krateatthegrove.com/>



MID-LIFE CRISIS

Once again entertained us at the dance on November 11th.





LOCAL HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOWS

6038 Palomaglade Drive, FishHawk Ranch, Lithia

As you enter the neighborhood, you'll be prompted to tune your car radio to a channel that plays the music that the lights are synchronized to. In addition to hosting a major light show, Palomaglade Drive in the Paloma Glade subdivision in FishHawk Ranch has a bin to collect food donations for Seeds of Hope. The subdivision is located off FishHawk Boulevard.

12229 Adventure Drive, Riverview

Using a computer-programmed system, holiday lights, props and decorations, this light show is synchronized to music that can be heard on 90.1 FM.

Other holiday lights suggestions include:

- 10615 Boyette Creek Blvd., Riverview
- 9711 Riverview Drive, Riverview
- Summerfield Crossings subdivision, Riverview
- 11720 Stonewood Gate Drive, Riverview
- 1407 Horizon Court, Brandon
- 959 Sandywood Drive, Brandon
- 506 Hickory Lake Drive, Brandon
- 5711 Tanagerside Road, Lithia



PLEASE NOTE

By: Robin Vaughan

Hillsborough County has an Animal-at-Large Ordinance, which states: "No dog or cat shall be allowed to stray, run or go, at large upon any public property or street, sidewalk, park, or on the private property of another without the consent of the property owner."

What it means: Any pet when off its owner's property or in a public place, like a neighborhood, sidewalk, farmer's market, or outdoor café, must be under the control by means of a leash, cord or chain at all times. If cited, the fines are at least \$100 and up to \$500 for multiple violations.

Another part of the ordinance says that "Dogs are not allowed to approach or chase a person/pet making them fear they will be bitten. If you are cited for vicious or aggressive dog behavior, the fines start at \$450.

A few years ago, when we lived in New Jersey, we were having some work done on our home and the workers let our dog out the front door. I can just imagine Mac's surprise, and his sense of wonder at how his horizons were immediately broadened! He traveled out of the neighborhood, and past the gas station several blocks away. From there he followed a trail that led him along a very busy highway, under an overpass and halfway to town. That's when he was detained by the local animal control. He had his rabies tag and identification tag on his person, but they still threw him in the pokey! When we found out where he was being detained and went to bail him out. It was there we were given a citation for violation of the local animal-at-large ordinance. Mandatory court date. The judge was very angry and admonished us for our irresponsible behavior. I thought we were going to jail! The judge very sternly informed us that even though our dog was docile and wouldn't hurt a fly, no dog's behavior is predictable when it is not restrained. He then assessed a hefty fine! So please, abide by the rules and keep your pet leashed for the safety of your pet and those around you. Thank you.

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THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

December is always a busy month. Everyone knows the big holidays, but did you know that:

December 1 is Eat a Red Apple Day (apples are the most widely consumed fruit globally and are considered nutrient-dense fruits)

December 4 is Wear Brown Shoes Day

December 5 is Bathtub Party Day (most of us don't have a tub big enough for one person let alone a party!)

December 6 is Put on your own Shoes Day (what's the deal with shoes in December?)

December 7 is Pearl Harbor Day and the beginning of Chanukah.

December 12 is National Ding-a-Ling Day (what?)

December 16 is National Chocolate Covered Anything Day (I can get behind this one!)

December 21 is Humbug Day (my husband's favorite day!)

December 23 is Festivus – for the rest of us

December 25 is Christmas

December 28 is Card Playing Day

December 30 is National Bacon Day (Everything is good with bacon!)

December 31 is New Year's Eve (Be safe!)

Please celebrate each and every holiday however you choose!!!!

TRIVIA CORNER

Miracle on 34th Street is based on what real-life department store:

- A. Hudson's
- B. Target
- C. Gimbles
- D. Macy's

2. In which modern-day country was St. Nicholas born?

- A. North Pole
- B. Norway
- C. Turkey
- D. China

3. What country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?

- A. Germany
- B. Canada
- C. Russia
- D. Iceland

4. How many gifts in total were given in "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?

- A. 12
- B. 364
- C. 24
- D. 156

5. What was Frosty's nose made out of?

- A. Carrot
- B. Stick
- C. Button
- D. Coal

(ANSWERS ON PAGE 13)

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RECIPES

So many happy hours and parties! It's really hard to think of an appetizer that's different from what you always bring. In Florida, you have to take into consideration the humidity – chips, crackers and cookies go soft in about 5 minutes. It's hard to scoop up the dip you made when the chip bends. I like the following recipe because it is not affected by humidity, doesn't have to be kept hot and is just yummy! Enjoy:

Sausage Balls

Ingredients:

- 1 lb ground pork sausage
- 2 c Bisquick (or similar flour)
- 4 c shredded cheddar
- 2 T freshly chopped parsley, plus more for garnish
- 1 T paprika
- Salt and pepper
- Extra-virgin olive oil for brushing

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and line a baking sheet with parchment. Mix together the sausage, Bisquick, cheese, parsley and paprika until combined. Season with salt and pepper. Using a small cookie scoop, place tablespoon-sized balls of the mixture onto prepared baking sheet. Brush tops with olive oil and bake until deeply golden brown – about 25 minutes. Garnish with parsley.

Try the following cocktail at happy hour:

Spicy Margarita

Ingredients:

- 2 oz tequila blanco
- ¾ oz fresh lime juice
- 1 ½ tsp Sriracha Syrup (recipe below)
- Sliced Fresno chile for garnish (optional)

Sriracha Syrup:

- ¼ c sugar
- ½ tsp Sriracha
- ¼ c water

Instructions:

In a small saucepan, bring sugar, Sriracha and water to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until sugar dissolves. Remove from heat and cool to room temperature.

In a cocktail shaker filled with ice, shake tequila, lime juice, Sriracha syrup until shaker begins to frost. Strain into whatever size and shaped glass you desire.

You can rim your glass with a combination of finely grated lime zest and coarse salt. Use a lime wedge to wet the rim prior to dipping in the lime salt.

Enjoy!!!

COMEDY CORNER



What do reindeer say before they tell you a joke?

This is gonna sleigh you

What do you call an elf that can sing and dance?

Elfvis

Why don't crabs celebrate Christmas?

Because they're shellfish

What is every parent's favorite Christmas Carol?

Silent Night

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinsilitis



TRIVIA ANSWERS

- 1.D
- 2.C
- 3.A
- 4.B
- 5.C

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To our valued customers;

During the current times we wanted to let you know that we are taking as many precautions as we can to ensure not only our workers safety but yours as well. We check workers' temperatures each morning and have limited the amount of contact our crews have with each other. Our crews work in Tyvek suits with respirators which helps to ensure your safety as well as theirs.

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*Wishing you good health and safety,
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December

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9am Chapel 6pm Tree trimming and cookie concert	9:30am Cornhole 6:30pm Euchre 6:30pm Hand, Foot & Elbow	9am Horseshoes 9am Shuffleboard 12:30pm Bowling/Alley 2pm-4pm Stitches 6:30pm Pinochle	6:30pm Pinochle	9am Horseshoes 9am Shuffleboard 1-4pm Stained glass 6pm Nickel Bingo	7:45am Free Coffee 8:30am Info Meeting 9:30am Cornhole 10:30am Five Crowns	9am Shuffleboard 12 noon Hot Dawg Roast
9am Chapel 6:30pm Court Whist	9:30am Cornhole 6:30pm Euchre 6:30pm Hand, Foot & Elbow	9am Horseshoes 9am Shuffleboard 12:30pm Bowling/Alley 2pm-4pm Stitches 6:30pm Pinochle	2pm-4pm Ladies Tea 6:30pm Pinochle 6:30pm Pool Tourney	9am Horseshoes 9am Shuffleboard 1-4pm Stained glass 6pm Nickel Bingo	7:45am Free Coffee 8:30am Info Meeting 9:30am Cornhole 10:30am Five Crowns	9am Shuffleboard 12 noon Hot Dawg Roast 7pm High School Choir Victorian Singers (Free)
9am Chapel 2-4pm Ice Cream Social 6:30pm Court Whist	9:30am Cornhole 6:30pm Euchre 6:30pm Hand, Foot & Elbow	9am Horseshoes 9am Shuffleboard 12:30pm Bowling/Alley 2pm-4pm Stitches 6:30pm Pinochle	6pm Golf Cart Parade 6:30pm Pinochle 6:30pm Pool Tourney	9am Horseshoes 9am Shuffleboard 1-4pm Stained glass 6pm Nickel Bingo	7:45am Coffee/Meeting 9:30am Cornhole 10:30am Five Crowns 7pm Christmas Party \$7 "Aloha Sharks"	9am Horseshoe Tourney 9am Shuffleboard 6pm Pool Tourney
9am Chapel 7pm Service	9am Service 2pm CHRISTMAS DINNER	9am Horseshoes 9am Shuffleboard 12:30pm Bowling/Alley 2pm-4pm Stitches 6:30pm Pinochle	6:30pm Pinochle 6:30pm Pool Tourney	9am Horseshoes 9am Shuffleboard 1-4pm Stained glass 6pm Nickel Bingo	7:45am Free Coffee 8:30am Info Meeting 9:30am Cornhole 10:30am Five Crowns	9am Shuffleboard 12 noon Hot Dawg Roast
9am Chapel 8pm DJ Katie New Years Eve Party \$12						

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