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May 2025



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Jim Wood.....Director
Jim Tomes.....Director
Glenn Orebaugh.....Director

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Brenda Park.....Chair
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Anne Heller.....Trustee
Amy DeBruin.....Trustee
Katy Strand.....Trustee

GONDOLIER STAFF:

Submissions.....Tony Turlenko
email: vpe8885@gmail.com

Anniversaries/BirthdaysGina Miller

Sunshine ReporterCassie Dionne

Activities.....Brenda Park

Getting To Know You.....Amy Newman

Recipes.....Cheryl Smith



From left seated: Amy DeBruin, Katy Strand, Anne Heller. From left standing: Barb Orebaugh, JoEllen Wuerzburger, Paula Neumeier, Brenda Park

Being part of this Activity Committee means that they are one of seven members that are considered the Engagement Team within VPE. These are not the only residents that are part of this committee. Every resident within VPE is part of this Activity committee and are able to Host Events, with support from this Engagement team. If you are interested in supporting this Engagement team, please reach out to any of them.

Please note – call Community Media – 941-375-3699 for **ALL ADS**, or e-mail darin@4communitymedia.com

MEETINGS

Next Board Meeting May 21 @ 9:30 AM

Next Activity Meeting Sep. 10 @ 5:00 PM

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Deadline for May newsletter submission is June 17. Please submit as a word document to Tony at the office. Email: vpe8885@gmail.com. For those not able to create a word document, put the article in the body of the email to allow for copy and paste to the draft. Send good quality photos as an attachment to the email.



SUNSHINE NEWS

by Cassie Dionne

Summer is upon us here in Sarasota. I see many empty driveways as I do my regular walking around in the mornings. February and March saw many of us ill with Influenza A and other respiratory viruses. There were several of us in the hospital too. Many get well cards went out from your neighbors and friends at VPE...

As of this writing (4/7/25), Sue Schwann was hospitalized recently. Cards for her can be sent to 2137 Palazza Dr. Sarasota, FL 34238.

Jerry Ralston is recovering from a recent stay in the hospital. Cards may be sent to 8879 Chez Vous Dr. Sarasota, FL 34238.

Jim Tomes is recovering from pneumonia. Their address is: 2292 Gondola Dr. Sarasota, FL 34238. email: tomesj48@gmail.com

Alan Nelson has suffered a minor stroke. They are back in Maryland. Get well soon, Alan.

Cards may be sent to 3210 N. Leisure World Blvd # 703, Silver Spring, MD 20906.

Email: apnelson8@yahoo.com lpnelson3@comcast.net

Ph: Alan 301-922-0410 Linda Ph: 301-922-1793.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

by Amy Newman

Jeff & Claire Swarr purchased their snowbird home at 2175 Ca'D'Oro from the Lemkes in April 2024. They became familiar with VPE through their long-time friendship with Venda Brown of Gondola Drive. Their main home is in the Lancaster/Hershey, Pennsylvania area in a town with a storybook name, Mt Joy, where they were also born and raised. Claire is one of seven children and Jeff has one sister who was born on the same day, yet not twins! They met in high school in 1974 when senior Jeff began dating sophomore Claire. They have three grown children and six grandchildren who all live within a reasonable drive from them in Pennsylvania.

Claire was primarily a stay-at-home mom and later worked in a tax office for 20 years. Other than spending time with family, she likes to read, works in her church kitchen, and enjoys riding her bike.



She and Jeff are playing shuffleboard on Thursdays on the beautiful new court. The couple enjoys traveling and playing cards with friends.

After graduating from the Ohio Institute of Technology in Columbus, Ohio, Jeff spent 40+ years in the IT field. He began his career with the big mainframe computers for IBM for 15 years in upstate New York. During those years one aspect of his job was giving plant tours. One day Jeff met a group from NASA for a tour. To Jeff's surprise, the head of the group was Jim Lovell. As you may recall, Jim Lovell was the commanding astronaut on several space flights including Apollo 13, which was made into a movie with Tom Hanks playing Jim. It was a highlight of his years at IBM. He then transitioned with technology to becoming a network administrator and owning his own computer and repair company back in Mt Joy. Jeff retired in 2020 officially but still has his company. In addition, Jeff drives part time for the Amish in the Lancaster area delivering weekly to auction the Amish version of "soup-to-nuts," anything from flowers to pigs and to shopping or appointments, of course.

The Swarrs have enjoyed their first snowbird season yet having never spent a day here at VPE prior. They suffered Milton damage but seemed to take it in stride evidenced by their easygoing personalities. Jeff worked with Tony on our latest directory and is also the VPE website administrator. They appreciate the warm welcome from the community, the convenient location, and having a place their family can visit with plenty to do. Thanks for choosing VPE, Jeff & Claire!

CLUBHOUSE BEAUTIFICATION 2025

By Jim Tomes, Beautification Chairperson

This year the Beautification Committee chose to upgrade the front of our clubhouse with a new look. Gone are the dead bushes, dated vegetation and in are a new look of Christmas palms, tropical plants on a sea of gravel and mulch.

When I started planning

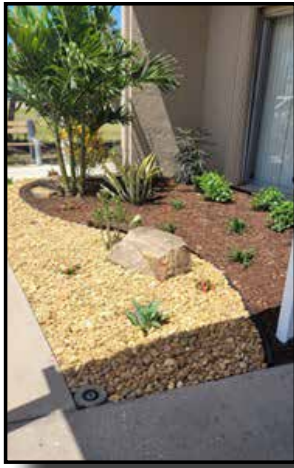


this project, I asked my good friend **Paul Ackerman** if he would help me with it. Paul and his wife Cathy had rented in the park for a number of years before buying a place in a neighborhood park. Paul has a background and a degree in horticulture from the University of Ohio and has spent a big part of his working life "painting pictures with plants" Fortunately, he agreed and we set out to upgrade the look of the front of our clubhouse. After many hours of discussion and planning, Paul came up with plan, then we purchased numerous plants, rocks, gravel, mulch and implemented our plan with the help of many volunteers.

I'd like to thank all the volunteers who assisted with the project - **Roger Thompson, Jeff Janis, David Novak, Doug Haller, Louise Novak, Tom Becht, Sue Becht, Kathy Ackerman, Flip DeBruin, Mark Ackerman, Carol Tomes**. A big thank you to **Pat Waites** who supplied water and treats for the volunteers. To see more pictures of the project go to Neighbors helping Neighbors on Facebook.

I'd also like to give a **big thank you to David Novak** who repaired the sprinkler system so that we could be assured that the plants would get lots of water while we are up North. Lewis our maintenance man will make sure that the plants are taken care of.

We're always looking to improve the look of our park, so if you have a suggestion as to what you we could do with plants etc. to improve the look of the park drop me a line at: tomesj48@gmail.com. Also if you'd like to be active in helping with the improvements let me know as well. Have a great summer everyone! The next project will begin in 2026.



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DRUM CIRCLE

Many residents came together to join in the Drum Circle just before sunset on Sunday, March 23rd. There were numerous Percussionists setting the rhythm to allow the dancers to get their groove on. Special appearances were made by the Spiritual Butterfly and Fire whipper.



ABC SALE DONATIONS:

Headed up North, Vacating or Selling your house? Contact Brenda Park (937-726-4658) or Paula Neumeier (941-599-3691) to evaluate potential donations within your home.



Seeking residents interested in earning extra cash for cleaning the homes, reach out to Brenda or Paula to provide your contact information to homeowners. Currently on file, we have a couple of contacts that we would be able to provide to homeowners that could be used for house cleaning.



KENTUCKY DERBY DAY RACES

by Irv Rubin

Come Saturday, May 3, to watch the horses run at Venetian Downs and watch the Kentucky Derby on the big screen. Post Time is 5:00 PM. Pick your favorite horses, place your bets, win prizes! Get in the mood by wearing the fanciest Kentucky Derby hat for a prize. There will be a 50/50 and a 50/50 wishing well, where you'll guess the number of poker chips and/or marbles and win half the pot. This could be your lucky day! There will be more than 20 random prizes drawn from the 50/50 ticket pool! Come join your friends at the clubhouse for a fun time, food, prizes and laughter. Pizza and ice cream will be provided as well as lemonade and tea. BYO drinks if you want something else. Anyone for a mint julep? Please **REGISTER / SIGNUP AT THE CLUBHOUSE** so that we will have enough pizza and ice cream for everyone!

SPRING FLING (AKA PARK PICNIC)

Spring Fling was held on Saturday, March 29th as our annual Park Picnic. We served a catered BBQ meal along with live music provided by Chris Otto and his band. Well over 110 residents and guests gathered in the clubhouse as well as around the pool to enjoy this entertainment.



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GOLF WINDUP 2025

By Jim Tomes, Golf Coordinator



Another great year of friendship, golf and fun came to an end at our year end scramble on April 1. A scramble is a team event where everyone gets a chance to contribute to the team score. Everyone really enjoyed the day! Our group of 15 men and women golfers played 9 holes every Tuesday morning at the Village Green Golf course. Village Green is a par three golf course for the most part with two short par 4's. We had golfers of all abilities. Some play regularly while others only play while there are here in our park. This year was a Canadian sweep of the awards. Ian Hamlin (left) from Winnipeg, had the low score for the year (33) with par for the course at 29. In the most improved category, Larry Dunn (right) from Newfoundland and Labrador, had the most improved score. You might remember Larry hit a ball 100 yards to within a foot of the pin earlier in the year. Larry is one of those golfers who only golf's when he is in Florida. Congratulations to both Ian and Larry, well done boys! To all our golfers I hope you have a great summer and work on your swing. Whether it be a golf club, fishing pole or whatever. Just have fun! To everyone in the park, you're invited to join in on the fun next year starting on January 6, 2026. Watch for more information coming out in the December newsletter.

BINGO NEWS

By Deb Cinco



With Spring coming to a close, we have seen our summer temperature's creeping up on us. Bingo this year has been great, although the attendance has been a bit slim. We have had a lot of sickness this year which has affected attendance. Our biggest night was March 31. We still continue to have nice pots. Right now, our Cookie Jar is at \$210. Hopefully, this will go before we resign for the summer. Our last Bingo this year will be May 20th. The reason for this is because I am going north for the birth of my first great grandchild. Bring your beverage of choice, grab a snack if you like and come join in on some of the fun during one of these last sessions. You may just walk away with some moo-lah-lah!

On behalf of the Activity Committee, our

appreciation goes out to Deb for Hosting this Event on a weekly basis. If there is anyone that would like to take Bingo for the summer, I would be more than happy to show you what to do. It really isn't very difficult. So, here's to everyone having a great summer and to those that are staying, please keep cool.

LIBRARY SUB COMMITTEE

Shout out to a new Library volunteer, Nancy Garrett. She will be working alongside our current volunteer Ruth Beck in keeping our Clubhouse Library looking neat and organized. These volunteers will be sorting through our current selection and seeking out new reading material in the future.



SHUFFLEBOARD



Next season VPE will have a new Shuffleboard Lead Volunteer, Pat Morales. There will be 3 Team Captains. There will be a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in clubhouse sometime around November/December timing. If you would like to participate as a substitute, there will be an opportunity for that as well. There will be a buffet style lunch served at the end of the season ceremony, that has a cost of \$10 pp. More details to come, if you are interested in this activity.

TRASH PICKUP

Correction of last month's communication for Trash pickup day. It will now be on Monday for all garbage, recycling and yard debris.



NEW POOL DECK

Our pool will be closed when work begins May 1 on the pool deck. Depending on the weather, the expected completion date is June 6, 2025. During this time, please do not park near the pool entrance – that will be reserved for the contractors working on the pool deck.



MAY BIRTHDAYS**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

1 Jan Kostrzewski
 2 Reggie Eastman
 3 Cheryl Smith
 5 Josette Largent
 10 Ken Allen
 11 Mike Ballinger
 Julie Weiss
 Jim Wood
 12 Tonda Eastman
 14 Lynn Kannapinn
 15 Gary Eastman
 30 Sue Schwan
 31 Kenny Dee r

4 Denise Achin
 5 John Andrews
 Naomi Stumpf
 7 Dennis Banash
 Louise Novak
 10 Brenda Park
 14 Irv Rubin
 16 Allen Alexander
 29 Cindy Kirby

**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

Mike and Carol Anderson	June 3, 1967
Chuck and Sue Loolen	June 3, 1967
Richard and Cindy Klrby	June 4, 1977
Bob and Joanne Hawthorne	June 8, 1991
Bernie and Lois Koenig	June 8, 1968
Ron and Betty Trumbull	June 9, 2007
Allen and Josette Largent	June 12, 1971
Dennis and Beverly Schumacher	June 19, 1971
Ken and Linda Boughton	June 26, 1965
Ray and Cassie Dionne	June 29, 1992



If you would like your birthday or anniversary published in The Gondolier, contact Gina Miller at 260-246-3551.

FAMOUS QUOTES

By Gina Miller



It is well for one to know more than he says.

Plautus

*Guests, like fish, begin to smell after three days.
 I guess I don't so much mind being old, as I mind being fat and old.*

Benjamin Franklin

*It is bad taste for a poet to be coarse and hairy.
 You will never make the crab walk straight.*

Aristophanes

*Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.
 Do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire.
 To see the right and not do it is cowardice.*

Confucius

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VENETIAN PARK ESTATES, Inc. - "STANDING" ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Presently, the Board of Directors at Venetian Park Estates, Inc. (VPE) is supported in their decision-making process by twelve (12) "Standing" Advisory Committees. An advisory committee is a collection of Cooperative Members who voluntarily contribute their knowledge/skills in areas which augment the knowledge and skills of the VPE BOD. Committee members offer insights and recommendations for action to the board when called upon. The advisory committee does not have formal authority to govern the organization, that is, the advisory committee cannot issue directives which must be followed. Rather, the advisory committee serves to make recommendations and/or provide key information and materials to the BODs. The advisory committee plays an important public relations role as well as fresh perspective on programmatic issues. A properly composed and structured advisory committee can be a tremendous complement to the effectiveness of the BODs as it works to carry out a specific initiative. The Chairperson of each is asked to provide a committee report at each of the regular Board meetings. Advisory committees need a sufficient range of expertise to accomplish the Board's mission.

Note: Of the 12 committees advising the Board, only three (3) have been given authority by the Board since 2014 to make decisions prior to a Board Meeting because of the nature of the work being considered. The Board then renders an "official" vote "retroactively" at the next regularly scheduled meeting to modify or confirm and approve the decisions made by these committees "for the record".

1. Architectural Review Committee (ARC): While the Board reserves the right to officially 'approve' an Owner's request to 'remove an existing home and install a new one', it gives authority to this committee to 'oversee' the "Application Process" for the removal and installation of new manufactured homes and structures on a Unit. This process often involves making decisions about the 'process' guiding both Builder and Unit Owner to comply with HUD, State, County and VPE Association's building codes. All actions taken by this committee are then presented to the Board at their next regular meeting.

2. Building & Grounds Committee: While the Board reserves the right to make all decisions regarding maintenance of VPE's buildings and grounds, it has given authority to this committee to make decisions between Board meetings in cases where emergencies arise involving broken water pipes, air conditioning, damage to our Treatment Plant, the Pool area or a Member's Home, which may put the well being of the Members or the Park at risk. All actions taken by this committee are then presented to the Board at their next regular meeting.

3. New Resident Committee: While the Board reserves the right to officially 'approve' any person or persons requesting an "Assignment of Lease" or a "Membership Certificate" prior to purchasing or residing in a home on VPE property, it extends this same authority to this committee between Board meetings. The Committee may approve a request for a Lease and Membership within the Cooperative between Board meetings ONLY when all criteria have been strictly met, including a successful interview and background check. This is done to allow for the legal Closings to take place. If Membership criteria is NOT MET in a satisfactory manner, the committee will immediately advise the Board to take action according to Article 10.6 of our Rules and Regulations.

OFFICE TRIAGE - MANAGER		Tony Turlenko 941-966-4622		CONTACT INFORMATION	
As of: 10/3/2024		MEMBERS		POSITION	PHONE
Activities		Brenda Park	Chair - Resident		937-726-4658
	Board Liaison	Glenn Orebaugh	Director		937-214-8005
		Paula Neumeier	Vice Chair - Resident		941-599-3691
		Barb Orebaugh	Secretary - Resident		937-418-0676
		JoEllen Wuerzbarger	Treasurer - Resident		309-235-5398
Architectural	Board Liaison	Jim Wood	Chair - Director		586-484-1408
		John Wuerzbarger	Secretary		309-373-2040
		Pedro Morales	Resident		864-616-9266
Beautification	Board Liaison	Jim Tomes	Chair - Director		204-292-7631
			Resident		
Buildings & Grounds <i>(includes Pool / Clubhouse)</i>	Board Liaison	John Wuerzbarger	Chair - Secretary		309-373-2040
		Jim Wood	Director		586-484-1408
		Pedro Morales	Resident		864-616-9266
Enforcement (Rules & Regs)	Board Liaison	Paul Censki	Chair - Director		860-508-9282
			Chair - Resident		
Financial		Tony Turlenko	Office Manager		941-966-4622
	Board Liaison	John Stern	Chair - Treasurer		443-235-6325
		Chuck Baxa	Resident		815-954-2380
		Dennis Callan	Director		325-207-6196
		JoEllen Wuerzbarger	Resident		309-235-5398
Fine Review (No Board Members)		Irv Rubin	Vice President		941-350-5493
		Phyllis Buechner	Chair - Resident		941-966-1149
		Pat Moralaes	Resident		941-451-8680
Health & Safety	Alternate	Jerry Ralston	Resident		941-780-7419
		Bonnie Ryan	Chair - Resident		860-798-8887
New Residents	Board Liaison	Paul Censki	Director		860-508-9282
	Board Liaison	Irv Rubin	Vice President		941-350-5493
		Jerry & Ruby Ralston	Residents		941-780-7419
Sewer / Waste Water Tx Plant		Dennis Callan	Chair - Director		325-207-6196
	Board Liaison	John Wuerzbarger	Secretary		309-373-2040
Welcome (New Residents)**		Brenda Park	Chair - Resident		937-726-4658
		Paula Neumeier	Resident		941-599-3691
		Amy Newman	Resident		419-346-8710
	Board Liaison	Irv Rubin	Vice President		941-350-5493
		Tony Turlenko	Office Manager		941-966-4622
Web Site	Board Liaison	John Wuerzbarger	Secretary		309-373-2040
		Jeff Swarr	Chair - Resident		717-808-0020
		Jim Tilton	Resident		317-777-1234

**** Office Manager will contact the Chair when new resident(s) registers at the Clubhouse**

Each Advisory Committee has a descriptive CHARTER registered at the Clubhouse and on the VPE Website

Venetian Park Estates

CABLE TV INTERNET NEWS



With the March board meeting, the decision was made to switch from Comcast to Fibernet with the upcoming expiring bulk contract. The Fibernet bulk contract has been reviewed by both party's attorneys and executed successfully.

March 31, 2026 at midnight, Venetian Park Estates will officially switch from Comcast to Fibernet. With Fibernet, VPE will have HD TV, DVR services and INTERNET.

With this being said, please prepare **your personal contracts** with Comcast or other providers accordingly. VPE highly suggests reviewing your services and current additional services and strive to change to a non-contract which you can terminate at any time. Ideally, you will want to end your personal additional services on or by **March 31, 2026**. If you are a new resident, please keep this in mind when signing up for additional services with either Comcast or another provider and avoid entering into a long-term contract.

As the work and project progresses over the next year, Venetian Park Estates will publish additional news articles such as this one.

'Only thing constant in life is change'

MAY 2025						
APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30				JUNE S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Hold'em 4:45 PM National Day of Prayer	2 Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	3 Derby Event
4	5 Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM Cinco De Mayo	6 Bingo 6:45 PM	7 Mexican Dominoes 6:30 PM	8 Hold'em 4:45 PM	9 Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	10
11 Mother's Day	12 Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	13 Bingo 6:45 PM	14 Mexican Dominoes 6:30 PM	15 Hold'em 4:45 PM	16 Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	17
18	19 Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	20 Bingo 6:45 PM	21 Mexican Dominoes 6:30 PM	22 Hold'em 4:45 PM	23 Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	24 Coffee
25	26 Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM Memorial Day	27	28 Mexican Dominoes 6:30 PM	29 Hold'em 4:45 PM Ascension Day	30 Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	31

JUNE 2025						
May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31						June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Ice Cream Social	2 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	3	4 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominoes 6:30 PM	5 Hold'em 4:45 PM	6 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	7
8 Pentecost	9 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	10	11 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominoes 6:30 PM	12 Hold'em 4:45 PM	13 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	14
15 Father's Day	16 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	17	18 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominoes 6:30 PM	19 Hold'em 4:45 PM	20 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	21 First Day of Summer
22	23 ABC Sale – Donations 9-Noon Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	24 Back Patio Sale 9-Noon	25 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominoes 6:30 PM	26 Hold'em 4:45 PM	27 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	28
29	30 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM		Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominoes 6:30 PM	Hold'em 4:45 PM		

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