MARCH 2025



The Jamul Shopper & News

www.jamulshopperandnews.com

Jamul/Dulzura Community Planning Group News:

The Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group (JDCPG) is seeking creative minds to design its new logo, offering local artists and designers a chance to leave their mark on this vital East County organization.

The planning group, which serves as a crucial advisory body for San Diego County on matters affecting the rural communities of Jamul and Dulzura, aims to establish a visual identity that captures the area's unique character and natural beauty.

Interested participants should submit their designs in JPEG or PDF format to [jdcpglogo@gmail.com] (mailto:jdcpglogo@gmail.com), including their full name and age with their submission. The winning entry will be selected by the end of March, with the chosen design set

to become the official emblem of the JDCPG.

"We're looking for a logo that represents our community's values and rural heritage," said Eve Nasby, highlighting the opportunity for local talent to shape the group's public image.Here's just one idea, shown right.:



The Jamul-Dulzura Planning Group is excited to announce that we are seeking funds from the Department of Public Works to develop a Community Park in Jamul. As we explore potential locations for this park, we want to ensure it meets the needs and desires of our community. We kindly ask you to take a few minutes to complete the survey below and share your preferences for the features you'd like to see in the new Community Park.

Survey Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1yH13UqJ5p OWi5I5YY4YXmY8EV4745A_9bhUzmPLnB60/ viewform?pli=1&edit_requested=true&fbclid=lwY2xja wITdl1leHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHSxsz5gpQ4fZoR--Mgl W1HSBjotFEh_wPuVdhpjdA3egldcO3mZSq7q91Q_ aem_0pZMx_pyw89wUde1zz9zxQ

Happy St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. St. Patrick's Day 2025 will take place on Monday, March 17. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.



Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people.

In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend of St. Patrick is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.





Getting to Know Your Jamul/Dulzura Planning Board Members, This month: John McClure By Eve Nasby

A Navy veteran who served from 1964-1968, John has worn many professional hats—from cabinet maker to family therapist. His professional journey includes working in psychiatric hospitals, running his own cabinetry business in Portland, and even helping establish a groundbreaking hospice program on the West Coast.

Since moving to Jamul in 2007, John has quickly become an active community member. His involvement with the Jamul Action Committee (JAC) demonstrates his passion for local issues, particularly regarding community development and potential infrastructure challenges.

Maritime enthusiasts might recognize John from the San Diego Maritime Museum, where his carpentry skills and love for the ocean led him to volunteer and eventually sail historic vessels along the California coast. He's obtained a Coast Guard license for captaining boats up to 100 tons and continues to sail three days a week.

John's rural lifestyle and connection to the neighborhood reflect his appreciation for Jamul's community spirit. He enjoys local events and values the tight-knit relationships among residents.

As a new member of the planning group, John brings a wealth of experience in problem-solving, community engagement, and a nuanced understanding of development challenges. His background in psychology, combined with his hands-on work experience, positions him as a thoughtful contributor to local planning discussions.

Jamul residents can look forward to John's perspective and dedication as he works to understand and address the community's evolving needs.

Jamul - Dulzura

Community Planning Group

Jamul-Dulzura Union School District - Jamul Education Center 14581 Lyons Valley Road, Jamul, CA 91935

Hybrid Meeting: Both In-Person and Zoom attendance

Meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month -

To Join Zoom Meeting. LINK: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88050022406

Meeting ID: 880 5002 2406 One tap mobile +16694449171,88050022406# US; +16699009128,,88050022406# US (San Jose)

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group is to represent the best interests of the communities of Jamul and Dulzura while adhering to County of San Diego, California Board of Supervisors Policy I-1."

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group is:

- To provide a public forum where local citizens can learn about issues of importance to them and their community and provide input.
- To carefully consider all input when advising the county on such issues as planning, land use, discretionary projects, and community and sub-regional plans. APPROVED 5/12/2020.

Calendar

1st and 3rd Tuesday 7:00 \Jamul/Dulzura Community Planning Group Jamul Dulzura Union School District, Jamul Education Center 14581 Lyons Valley Rd

4th Thursday Kiwanis meeting at Jamul Community Church at 6:30 pm, 14058 Jamul Drive

March 15 Jamul Shopper Deadline - Tammy 619 669-1109

Second Tuesday Jamul Dulzura School Board meets 6:30 pm Jamul Learning Center (formerJIS Library)

Weekly AA meetings every Wednesday 6-7pm at St. Pius X Catholic Church Jamul

FOR RENT Room. In town Jamul, Off Hwy 94. Separate entrance, Senior wanted. Large bedroom 15x15. Large bath, large tub, large shower, walk-in closet, microwave, refrigerator, table/chairs. Water/electricity/trash included. NO Smoking/drugs/alcohol. 619-669-1491



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> www.jamulshopperandnews.com Submit by **15TH OF THE MONTH**

Have an interesting event or happening in your neighborhood? Announce it in the Jamul Shopper Calendar. Have an interesting story to tell? Share it with our community in the Jamul Shopper & News Tammy 619 669-1109

Views expressed by contributors to this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Jamul Shopper and News.



Swallowtail butterfly enjoys the nectar from a



White sage is profuse and often made into smudge sticks for healing and cleansing.



Bright purple stalks of Cleveland sage are enjoyed by all



Yellow Bush Poppies grow wild and are great in gardens too.



KEEPING OUR BACKCOUNTRY WILD

FALLING IN LOVE WITH NATIVES

—KIM HAMILTON



natives...and a small pond with reeds to perch on. We had a major hatch of Flame Skimmer dragonflies this year. The eggs were laid last year, and started out as nymphs-called naiads. We had about 20 crawl out and up our adobe wall, then emerge as adult dragonflies. They'll hang around for few hours to dry and harden, like the one above. Beautiful!

Thank the heavens for my natives. I'm not much of a planter, but last year I planted some natives: mostly sages, ceanothus, wild sunflowers (encelia), and manzanitas.

Oh, I wish I'd planted more! The rabbits and squirrels could care less, the plants didn't cry and droop when I forgot the water, and now I have hardy plants established that will be beautiful again next year!

Lawns are definitely not Deerhorn friendly, in fact it's the non-native grasses covering our hillsides that are so fire-prone in early summer. (Native grasses like Aristida are thinner and don't dry out so early.) I don't miss my city lawn at all-nor the water bills. And in years like this, with wells going dry, my natives will make it. Though I still keep the ones near the house watered when they look like they need it.

A huge bonus is how natives attract the hummers and butterflies. Bees too. All the critters that help our hillsides heal from the firescars.

> Give them a try. You may just fall in love.



Bright red California Fuchsia is a hummer favorite.



Purple, blue, and white Ceanothus (mountain lilac) covers our hillsides in early spring.







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Editors Note: A year ago our dear friend and writer for the Jamul Shopper passed away. We wanted to share one of his great stories. George Merz, lifetime resident of Jamul

Historical Happenings along the Campo Highway (Hwy 94)

By George Merz

Again I want to remind you that when I write about occurrences before I was old enough to remember, I am writing from my memory of stories told to me by my family, the Ferguson's.

The 1916 Flood was talked about a lot. The Otay and Sweetwater dams both broke and many houses washed into San Diego Bay. My father, Louis Merz was working for the Ferguson Bros. at the time. He was plowing with six horses on hay land they owned where Lemon Grove is now located. The ground was so wet they knew they could not work again for days, so they told my dad to take his team to Jamul. At that time, there wasn't a bridge across the Sweetwater River. When my dad arrived at the river in the afternoon, he misjudged the depth of the water in the crossing. He was riding one horse and leading five. When the horses entered the water, they immediately began swimming due to the depth. Dad released the five horses he was leading and they swam across the river. He could not make the horse he was riding cross, it swam back to the side of the river that it had entered.

The only house in the area was on the North of the current intersection of Jamacha Road and Hwy 94. Dad went there, cold and wet, they told him he could come in and sit by the wood cook stove to dry off. They proceeded to eat their supper but didn't offer him

> Historical note: Steele Canyon Bridge was built in 1929 and was called Sweetwater River Bridge. Closed in 1986 when Hwy 94 was relocated.

any food. After supper the family went to bed, leaving him sitting by the cook stove, talk about pioneer hospitality.

The next morning, Dad went back to the river. The five horses he was leading had gone on to Jamul. When he arrived at the river he saw people from Jamul on the other side of the river looking for his body, thinking he had drowned.

After the 1916 Flood, San Diego County built a timber bridge at the river crossing. The next flood was in 1927 and washed out the timber bridge. A cable was then installed across the river with a car. The locals called it a bucket, that hung on rollers and could be pulled across the river by the occupants. The steel bridge was then built. The bucket was used for transporting mail and supplies until the river receded and could be crossed prior to the completion of the steel bridge.

My grandmother was scheduled for surgery in San Francisco. She wanted my mother, a registered nurse, to be with her. When I was just a year old, my mother and I crossed the river in the "bucket" and were met by relatives from San Diego that took us to the coastal ferry. At that time, there wasn't any direct rail passenger service from San Diego to San Francisco. The coastal ferries, as they were called, traveled from San Diego to San Francisco. They were the most comfortable method of travel with meals and sleeping facilities on board.





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Jamul-Dulzura Union School District, Elizabeth Bystedt

Happy March, JDUSD Families!

The school year is flying by, and believe it or not, we are already planning for the 2025-26 school year!

Registration Opens Tuesday, April 1st

All families—new and returning—will begin the process with **Online Registration** at www.jdusd.net.

- Returning students: Log in using your ParentVUE account.
- New students: Follow the link on our website to get started.

For any registration questions, please contact Lanni Hutson, our registrar, at 619-669-7708.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Enrollment

Families with 4-year-olds, take note! For the 2025-26 school year, TK is available for children who turn 4 by September 1st. Early registration is essential due to state-mandated class size requirements and staffing needs.

If you'd like more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Jamul Elementary School at 619-669-7850.

The Key to Student Success: Attendance & Family Engagement

Did you know that **two of the biggest factors in student success are Family Engagement and Student Attendance?** Research shows a direct correlation between attendance and achievement, as well as between family participation in school events and student success.

We encourage families to get involved in:

Field trips, assemblies, performances, and extracurricular events

Parent groups & committees: PAGE, ELAC/DELAC, SSC, PTO, Strategic Planning, Superintendent's Book Club, and more!

Your involvement makes a difference!

Congratulations to Our CAC Awardee - Peyton Smith!

A huge congratulations to Peyton Smith, our 2024-25 CAC Awardee! Peyton is a dedicated educator who consistently goes above and beyond in her work with students. Her student-centered approach ensures that each child is seen and supported as an individual, fostering an environment where they feel valued and understood. Peryton takes the time to get to know each student personally, enabling her to tailor her strategies to their unique needs. Her positive attitude is infectious, inspiring students and colleagues alike. She will be officially honored at a ceremony at the SELPA Office later this month. We are so proud of you, Peyton!



From the Desk of Yesenia Robinson, JES Principal

Hello Team Jamul! Do you know about the exciting things happening at Jamul Elementary School? We had a Family Sweetheart's Valentine's Day dance where students and their families had the best time dancing, eating treats, doing crafts and getting their faces painted. The kids had an absolute blast spending time with their friends and families. It was great seeing everyone enjoying the evening together. Next Page are some pictures of the event for you to enjoy. Teachers continue to strengthen their Readers' Workshop minilessons through our work with Literacy Partners, our reading and writing consultants. Students are doing an amazing job learning high level vocabulary and reading strategies that are helping them excel in reading comprehension. We have hardworking and dedicated teachers at Jamul, and our students are the cherry on top. Our students and production team continue to work tirelessly on our production, Beauty and the Beast Jr. Put the show dates in your calendar so that you join us for what is going to be an amazing production on May 8, 9, and 10. Please call the school office with any questions you might have. Our school is small, but mighty! Don't miss out, become part of the JES community! Our doors are always open and we invite you to tour the smallest school with the biggest heart! Call the front office to schedule your visit today. #TeamJamul #JamulRocks #JDUSDitsaboutkids

School - Cont on Pa 9



From the desk of Minerva Salas, OGMS Principal

Our students joined thousands of other districts and schools in the "Great Kindness Challenge" in January. Students enjoyed a week full of activities that helped spread kindness to everyone. They made friendship bracelets and flowers to share with one another. Hearts with every student's name decorated the campus.



School - Cont on Pg 10

SCHOOL CONT. FROM PG 9



Congratulations to our students of the month for January; they are (see picture above, from left to right); Yahir Coss(7th), Estefano Ramirez-Melendez (8th), Ximena Orozco-Diaz (6th), Izabella Arguilez (6th), Dafnne Jaimes Figueroa (7th) and Tiffany Le (8th). Our students of the month are recognized for consistently practicing Oak Grove's values and eagle etiquette. We are very proud of them!

Steele Canyon High School came out to our school and conducted a Pep Rally with their cheerleaders, band, flag team, and many of their staff and students. Eighth grade students learned about the programs offered at SCHS.





From the Desk of Catherine Ann, GSDA Director

"Be kind. In a world where you can choose to be anything; choose to be kind." This is the rule repeated every week at GSDA during our Zoom newspaper and junior writers classes, and you know what? Students in these classes rise to the occasion and show kindness to each other through supportive words, genuine interest in each other's hobbies, and compassion. On January 20, 2025, students, staff, and families kicked off The Great Kindness Challenge to further highlight the importance of sharing kindness.

"Shining Rays of Kindness," was our school theme for The Great Kindness Challenge, and as families entered campus, they were asked to think about ways they could shine rays of kindness in 2025. Each person was asked to contribute a ray for the sunshine. Students contributed responses such as, "I will share toys with my brother", "I will play the Head's Up



game with the little kids", and "I will share my pens." Parents contributed ideas such as, "I will surprise my kiddos with a treat", and "I will be patient." Teacher Kelly McKeller added, "Smile at others. It might brighten their whole day!" Administrative Assistant Shawna Tellous reminded others, "Be present. Be in the moment!"

As we approach a new year full of possibilities, GSDA challenges you to think of ways you will spread kindness in your life. After all, in a world where you can choose to be anything; you can choose to be kind.

Springtime Is Here!



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13888 Via De Jamul, Jamul 91935 3 BD | 2 BA | 2,256 SF SOLD OVER ASKING FOR \$1,100,000



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COMPASS

Memories of Jamul

By Dave Beekman

Snakes and other cold blooded creatures have been hibernating this winter.. They will awaken soon from under rocks and gopher holes and be out and about looking for food and water

When I moved to Jamul from the city in the early eighties I thought I had moved to snake heaven...

I had 'em in my chicken pen. I had 'em in the wood pile... I had 'em in the fenced back yard...

When I joined the Volunteer fire Dept it seemed 25% of our calls that summer was to 'remove' rattlesnakes... And remove them we did... Right into that big electric frying pan at the fire station where the casino is now... Not much meat but it does indeed taste like chicken:)

Folks had 'em in their kitchen cupboards, on the front porch and under the couch.

Nowadays when you dial 911 for a snake in the yard the dispatcher will refer you to Animal Control and they will come out and put it in a bucket and relocate it. (to someone else's property..:)

I first introduced my Jamul wife (RIP) to rattlesnakes when we went backpacking up San Jacinto mountain on the fourth of July one fine Summer. It seems my dad had given me a horsehair rope that he used to take camping to spread around the sleeping bags to ward off snakes when sleeping on the ground... I guess it was supposed to tickle their tummies and thus discourage them from sharing your sleeping bag.

It was a sleepless night for her as every time she heard a rustle in the bushes she was up making sure the horsehair rope was properly deployed:)

One thing I finally realized was that they mainly come to your house for the water you leave out for animals.... They are thirsty just like us... Move the water out about 50 feet and you will rarely see a rattlesnake again on your property..

That's my story and Im 'stickin to it

Dave Beekman JVFD Retired

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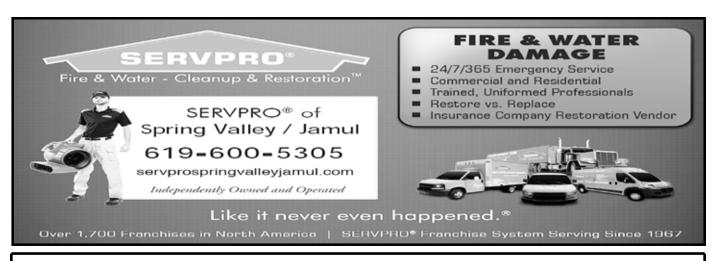
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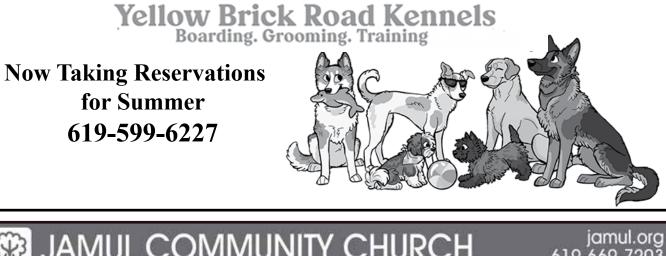
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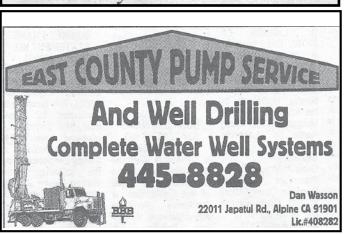
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Anderson Alert from San Diego County Supervisor, Joel Anderson

41st Annual Sanctity of Human Life Celebration

Community members, faith leaders, and pro-life advocates gathered at Foothills Church recently to commemorate the 41st Anniversary of National Sanctity of Human Life Day. The event served as a powerful reminder of the shared commitment to protecting life and supporting women facing unplanned pregnancies.

Co-hosted by the office of Supervisor Joel Anderson and Foothills Church, the event highlighted the work of several local organizations dedicated to providing life-affirming care and resources. Pregnancy Care Clinic - East County, Pathway Health Clinic, Culture of Life Family Services, True Choice Medical Clinics, and Real Choices Chula Vista were among those recognized with District 2 Proclamations for their efforts in assisting women and families throughout San Diego County.

As part of the event, Supervisor Joel Anderson presented Certificates of Recognition to attendees, acknowledging their dedication to the sanctity of human life. He emphasized the importance of their work and the impact they continue to have on the community. "This event is a representation of the strength and compassion of our community," Supervisor Anderson said. "I am grateful for everyone who continues to support women in choosing life."

This gathering provided an opportunity for attendees to connect, share their experiences, and reaffirm their commitment to advocacy and supporting others. The sanctity of human life highlights the importance of ensuring that women have access to the resources and guidance they need when facing difficult decisions. Event attendees expressed their support for the sanctity of life, with David M. saying that "I am very grateful to have a Supervisor that values life and the sanctity of every human being."

Provided by the Communications Office of Supervisor Joel Anderson



Churches

Jamul Community Church, 14058 Jamul Dr., Jamul, CA 91935, Sundays 8:30 am, & 10:30 am. Children's programs available. 619 669-7203. www.jamul.org

St. Pius X Church, 14107 Lyons Valley Rd., Jamul, 619 669-0085 Mass: Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 8:30 am & 11 am in English, 12:30 pm Spanish., Daily Mass Tues. - Fri.7:30 am except first Fri. 7 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday from 8:30 am - 5pm. Healing Mass quarterly on 3rd Tues. of month in English and every 3rd Wed. of month in Spanish.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa Greek Orthodox Church, Office: 1454 Jamacha Rd., El Cajon, CA 92019, 619 593-0707, Services at site of our church at 1454 Jamacha Rd. El Cajon, North of Chase Ave. 8:45 am Orthros, 10 am Divine Liturgy

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1634 Hillsdale Rd., El Cajon, CA 92019, Scott Willis 619-798-4964, email: scottwillis2021@gmail.com Sun: Sacrament Meeting 10 -11:15am, Scripture classes (All ages) 11:15am to 12. Women's Relief Society and Men's Priesthood Meetings: 12:15 -1 pm Tuesday: Youth Meeting:

7 - 9 pm.

Way of Life Church 3200 Star Acres Dr., Spring Valley 91978 (2 blks from SCHS off Old Campo Rd). Pastor Bruce Balcombe,619504-7467 Sunday 10 AM, Worship, Sun.School, Wed. Services (all ages) 7 PM, & Youth (Jr./Sr.)

Dulzura Seventh Day Adventist Church, 17880 Hwy 94, Dulzura, CA 91917, 9:30 AM Saturday, Sabbath School, 11 AM Sat. Worship Service Info: call 619 468-3280. 7 PM Wednesday Bible Study

Summit Church at Steele Canyon High School 12440 Campo Rd., Spring Valley, CA 91978. Sundays at 10 am, performing arts auditorium. A non-denominational Christian Church. visit our website at www.summitchurchsandiego.org.

San Diego Grace Fellowship, 13910 Lyons Valley Rd., Ste. A, Jamul. Sunday School 10:15 AM, Sunday Service 11:00 AM. Mid-week Service Wednesday 6:30 PM. We preach Christ crucified, buried, and risen from the dead, according to the scriptures 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. www.sandiegograce.com; www.freegraceradio.com.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 10842 Fury Ln. La Mesa, CA 91941, Sunday worship: 9:30 am. Nursery care available. Visit www.svlc.org. We are also streaming on You Tube & Facebook.

Dulzura Community Church, 1136 Community Building Rd., Dulzura, CA 91917, Pastor Howard Kischassey (619) 440-7396, Sunday, 10 AM Non-denominational Christian Church.

Foothills United Methodist Church, 4031 Avocado Blvd., La Mesa, CA 91941, North of Hwy 94, 619-670-4009, Sun. 8:30am traditional, 10:30am contemporary services.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 9191 Fletcher Parkway, La Mesa, (619-469-4197) Sunday 9 am. Pastor Aaron Boehm..



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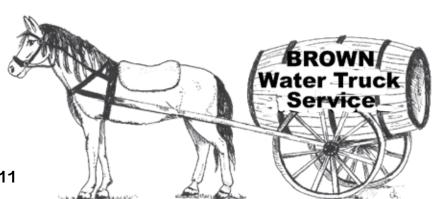
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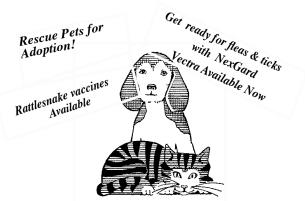
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