

Town Department Heads

State Senator:
Rick Bennett.....287-1505

State Representative:
Nate Wadsworth.....838-7451

Selectmen:
Richard Murray Kimberly Clarke
Tom Kingsbury Tom Klinepeter
Jim Dutton

Town Manager:
(treasurer & Tax Collector)
Katie Haley.....935-2805

Town Clerk:
Theresa Shaw.....935-2805

Public Works Director
(Highway & Transfer Station)
Lester France.....935-2772

Police Chief:.
Aaron Mick.....935-3323

Fire Chief:
Andrew Dufresne.....935-2615

Fryeburg Rescue:
Steve Goldsmith..... 935-3024

Recreational Depart:
Rick Buzzell.....935-3933

Code Enforcement Officer:
Christopher Walton.....935-2805

Animal Control Officer:
Cindy Eaton.....890-5313

Eastern Slope Airport:
David Cullinan.....935-4711

Fryeburg Library:
Jennifer Spofford.....935-2731

Fryeburg Business Association:
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Gerald “Gay” Kiesman Lived a Life of Service (1926-2022) by Donna Woodward

Everyone knew him as Gay. He was born May of 1926, the middle child of Eldora and Lester Kiesman and the last survivor of his four siblings: Dorothy Kiesman Sargent -May 1916 -2001 (85); Lawrence Kiesman - August 1920- 2005 (84); Leonard Kiesman - July 1929 - 2004 (83); Fredrick April 1931 -1991(60) They grew up during the Depression in East Fryeburg and all learned the value of service and self-sacrifice, but none better than Gay!

Gay graduated from Fryeburg Academy in 1944 and enlisted in the Army, serving in World War II. His older brother, Lawrence, was already serving so Gay could have taken a deferment but choose not to. Off he went to the Philippine Islands as part of General MacArthur’s liberation group. When he returned home to Fryeburg he married Ada (Allard) from Conway and together they raised Paul, Roger, and Jerry.

Gay was always about serving and giving. One of his greatest loves was the Fryeburg Fire Department which he served throughout his life making him the oldest member of any fire department in Maine. In 2018 Captain Kiesman received the Maine Firefighters Lifetime Achievement Award and the Spirit of America Award from the Oxford County Fire Commissioners for, at that time, 71 years of service. In 2019 he was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from Fryeburg Academy and as part of “Honor Flight Maine” he and his son Jerry received a trip to Washington, D.C. in recognition of his services and sacrifices. The list of awards and acknowledgements would impress anyone but this dedicated servant remained humble and seemed to shy from such recognition.

He dedicated himself to the American Legion as well as the Masons. He co-founded the Fryeburg Rescue over 50 years ago, and over the years also served as a special police officer, town fire warden, and civil defense director. For many years Fryeburg offered swimming lessons at Weston’s Beach for the community children and Gay was the man who made sure the floats were launched and anchored at the start of the summer and removed and stored in the fall. If there was a need he was always quietly and effectively there to see it was accomplished.

Gay dedicated himself completely to every endeavor he took on, including the nearly 50 years he was employed at Osgood Brothers. He loved his job and the people he worked with. When he retired from Osgood Brothers he started his next career with the Maine Forest Service where he worked for over ten years before retiring yet again.

Now, if endless hours of community service and a full time career job wasn’t keeping Gay busy enough he also found time to work a home business with his wife Ada. They started a small ceramic business, A & G Ceramics, which housed more than 10,000 molds and where Ada gave lessons for years as well as presented their wares at craft shows and always at Fryeburg Fair. But it doesn’t stop there. He was also very involved at the Fryeburg Fair. You could find him helping in the Forestry Building or volunteering at the Fire Department booth but his favorite role was “Chairperson of the Signs.” He would leave every day before sunrise and check all the signage coming into Fryeburg to make sure they were intact and accurate before heading back to the fairgrounds to open the exhibitors’ barns.

After retiring Gay also enjoyed his several beehives (a skill he carried on from his father before him), maintained a half acre farm lot, remained active with the fire department, and lived an independent life in his home in Fryeburg right up until the final months of his life.

This is just a snapshot of the man Gay Kiesman was. His entire life was about serving his country, state, community, family, and neighbor. If there was a need Gay would be there - it’s simply who he was. How blessed were we to have him in our little town and how lucky and proud am I to call him my uncle! May we never forget and always honor the greatness of the man we all knew as Gay.



Photo by Rachel Damon



FRYEBURG TOWN MATTERS

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To download a copy of past or current Town Matters log onto www.Finditinfryeburg.com, Open “directory” and click on the Fryeburg Town Matters membership page

Vol 19 • Issue 11 • Editor: Donna Woodward - 207-441-8170 - donnawbe@gmail.com • Feb 2022

THE BEAN GROUP HAS A WINNER IN CAROL CHAFFEE!

Carol Chaffee is a local gem! She originated from the Catskill Mountains of New York State, and grew up with international parents in a family-owned sport business. This gave her an extensive hospitality management background and an opportunity to meet and work with clients, employees, and celebrities from all around the world.

Carol met the love of her life, David Chaffee, in 1976 while skiing at Hunter Mountain, one of their many shared passions. Three years later in 1979 they were married and five years later in 1984 they were surprised with the blessings of twins, Justin and Christopher.

In 1998 the Chaffee family relocated to Fryeburg when David was offered the job of Director of Sales at Shawnee Peak. Carol secured a position at the MWV Chamber of Commerce in Visitor and Membership Services. This gave her great opportunities to building connections and familiarizing herself with all the businesses and recreations that the area had to offer. The Chaffee’s quickly became a big part of their community and planted their roots in 1999 when they purchased their beautiful antique home in the most perfect neighborhood of the quaint New England Village of Fryeburg. This house is where they worked, played, and raised their family and still blissfully reside to-date.

Carol started her real estate career in 2002 when she began working for RE/MAX Country Living in Fryeburg as office manager .Her responsibilities included marketing the company efficiently to the next level of profitability and building relationships with companies, clients, customers, and professionals. Her passion with real estate flourished when she became a partner with The Maine Real Estate Network and obtained her ME and NH real estate licenses. Carol continues her career with The Bean Group who purchased The Maine Real Estate Network four years ago. Her communication and relationship building skills combined with a driven desire to meet and serve buyers and sellers is credited for her steady success, strong references, and the joy of many long standing friendships.

When Carol is not working she spends time with her adopted horse Apache, their chocolate lab Otto, and her family, She enjoys all the beauty and recreation that Maine and New Hampshire have to offer. She’s very supportive of her husband who is now a financial advisor with Allstate with several offices throughout Maine and NH. and who teaches skiing and plays tennis in his free time. They share great pride in their two adult boys - Justin is the Director of Bridgton Highland Tennis, Screenwriter and Script Doctor and Christopher is a Tennis Professional with Jackson Tennis Club, New England Tennis, and Advantage Kids Tennis and Yoga. She is forever grateful for the wonderful family bond they share and the support they offer each other.

You can not go wrong to seek Carol and the Bean Group out for any of your real estate needs. And if you run into Carol around town this month be sure to wish her a happy birthday!

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Fryeburg Town Managers Report - by Katie Haley

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the citizens who volunteer to serve on our boards and committees and all the dedicated employees who work for the Town of Fryeburg.

Fuel Fund: Thanks to the many generous donations we receive for the Fuel Fund, we have been able to help many families who are in need of help to heat their homes. Please call the Town Office for more information about this program.

Snow Removal: To aid in the removal of snow, the Winter Parking Ban is in effect from November 15, 2021 through April 15, 2022. No vehicles shall be parked on any public street or way from 10 pm to 6 am. Violators will be subject to a fine and the vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense. We would also like to remind you when clearing snow and slush from your property, it is illegal to place that snow or slush into the public roadway.

Tax Assistance: There various property tax assistance programs available, primarily designed for seniors. One is the locally offered property tax assistance program designed for full-time residents over the age of 70; the applicants must also receive a property tax fairness credit from the State. Qualifying seniors need to apply by June 1st and may be entitled to up to either a \$250 reimbursement or \$250 put towards unpaid taxes. The State also has a Property Tax Deferral program; applications must be submitted to the assessor between January 1st and April 1st. Also, just as a reminder, Homestead Exemption and Veterans Exemption applications are due by April 1st.

PELLET HEAT Advice from an Arborist By Robert Fogg.

Maine has an abundance of trees making it uniquely suited to have pellet fuel play a role in its journey to zero emissions. Wood pellet fuel is said to produce much less greenhouse gas emissions than fossil fuels as it releases essentially carbon dioxide with no sulfur. Pellet stoves are also much cleaner than wood stoves in terms of particulate emissions.

70% of Maine households use heating oil. By replacing fossil fuel-based heating systems with pellet boilers you would help reduce fossil fuel consumption. Pellet fuel also takes advantage of materials that would normally be considered waste from processing timber. Pellet mills use the leftovers from the processing of higher value timber products such as furniture and floor boards. This is especially important since the decline of the paper product manufacturing in Maine.

Harvesting pellet fuel could also promote more sustainable management of Maine's forests, improving their ability to suck greenhouse gases out of the air. Over crowded trees can be unhealthy for forests and slow growth. Managed removal would allow opportunities for the trees to grow faster and increase the rate of carbon sequestration.

Even with sustainable forest management, some environmental groups see wood pellet fuel as a band aid solution. They argue that Maine should focus on renewable energy solutions like solar and wind, and electric sources of heat that are powered by these renewable energy sources. In this case a pellet stove could be a complement to electric heat pumps for people who are not ready for "all electric" or simply enjoys the comfort of radiant heat.

Either way you decide to go, the goal is to replace fossil fuels for a healthier, cleaner Maine and planet!

For more information contact Robert Fogg, General Manager of Naples-based Q-Team Tree Service, a Licensed Arborist and a Maine Pellet Fuels Association board member. He can be contacted at RobertFogg@Q-Team.com

Poland Spring Donates \$10,000 to Fryeburg Heating Fund

Poland Spring Brand donates more than \$40,000 to heating assistance programs and holiday giving to seven Maine communities as part of the company's annual holiday giving campaign, as well as more than one-hundred turkeys and hundreds of pounds of perishable goods to the local food pantries. Fryeburg is one of those seven communities receiving \$10,000 for the town's heating fund.

As energy prices spike this winter Poland Spring stepped up to help but the holiday giving didn't end there. A \$7,500 gift was presented to the Fryeburg Community Giving Tree this holiday season as well as turkeys and perishable goods being donated to the local food pantry.

"Each year, our team of dedicated associates go the extra mile to support community charities that help local families in need," said Heather Printup, Community Relations Manager for Poland Spring. "They understand the importance of giving back and being good neighbors."

About Poland Spring

Established in 1845, Poland Spring® Brand 100% Natural Spring Water has invested in Maine and created jobs using an abundant, renewable resource. The brand, part of BlueTriton Brands, operates three Maine bottling plants in Poland, Hollis, and Kingfield. Additionally, Poland Spring maintains spring sources in Fryeburg, Dallas Plantation, Poland, Pierce Pond Township, Kingfield, Denmark, Hollis, Lincoln, and Rumford, Maine.

Poland Spring also:

- Employs more than 700 full-time and seasonal workers across the state, contributing nearly \$49 million to the economy in annual payroll;
- Spends more than \$135 million annually on goods and services from other Maine employers;
- Invested more than \$11 million in community giving since 2008 to support schools, local non-profits, fire and rescue teams, environmental conservation, and many other local and statewide causes.

FRYEBURG RESCUE by Eric Meltzer

Winter is here and the cold temperatures along with it. As always, use caution before venturing out on any ice. If you witness a person or pet falling through, don't panic and don't put yourself in danger by going out on the ice yourself. Hypothermia from exposure can occur in a matter of minutes. Call 911 as quickly as possible, resources are available to safely help.

Hypothermia is a real concern for those exposed to cold. Signs and symptoms of hypothermia include muscle contractions, uncontrollable shivering, reduced muscle control, confusion, and slurred speech. In the event of exposure or suspected hypothermia, get the person to a warm area and remove any wet clothing. Gradually rewarm them by applying a gentle source of heat. Use loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, towels, or sheets. Warm beverages can help increase the body temperature, but never give alcoholic beverages which lower the body's temperature. After body temperature has increased, keep the person dry and wrapped in a warm blanket including the head and neck. Never hesitate to call 911 as soon as possible to get help coming. Be well and stay safe and warm.

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Fryeburg Public Library by Jennifer Spofford

We have many wonderful learning opportunities happening in February! For 2-5 year olds, but all ages are welcome, join Miss Jennifer at 10AM every Sat for a story and a craft. Sat, Feb 5th is Bring Your Child to the Library Day and get special treats and bookmarks.



Looking to test your ingenuity? Join us the first Wed of each month at 1PM for “puzzle time”. Puzzles are provided, or bring your own. Swap puzzles or check one out.

Book Group will be discussing The Patron Saint of Liars by Ann Patchett on Wed, Feb 9th at 10AM. Stop by and learn about interesting reads, upcoming releases, or make suggestions on what we should read next. Join us in person or via Zoom. Email the library director for Zoom access- librarian@fryeburgmaine.org.

Join us via Zoom Tues, Feb 22nd to learn about Critical Race Theory hosted by Larissa Malone, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor at University of So. Maine in the Teacher Education Department. If you don't have internet and are interested in this program, contact the library for accommodations in our conference room.

The Dungeons and Dragons workshop at the Fryeburg Rec Center will be held Thurs, Feb 24th at 4PM. Learn the ins and outs of Dungeons and Dragons. All supplies will be provided. Please call the library to sign up! If you miss out, the next workshop will be held on March 3rd.

Reminders: Please wear a mask while in the library!
The library will be closed Mon, Feb 21st in observance of President's Day.

Library hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs 9-4, Tues 12-6, and Sat 9-12. Free 24/7 WIFI, Interlibrary loans, public computers, Chromebooks, “to-go” programs, phone and tablet charging station, copying, printing, and faxing services. Visit our website for program schedules, policies, and more - www.fryeburgpubliclibrary.org

Library Stats for the month of November: 303 patron visits, 413 items circulated from the library collection, 6 programs, 32 attendees.

Eastern Slope Regional Airport by Eric Meltzer

Fractional aircraft ownership is a model that has become more popular over the last several years. This is a situation where an “owner” buys a block of time in a business jet. It's a way for smaller companies and larger companies who don't want to support an entire corporate aviation department to take advantage of the convenience of a customized travel schedule. Eastern Slope Regional Airport regularly handles business jets as a common operation and with the new transient hangar, we'll be able to respond to demand to house these aircraft securely in a climate controlled structure safe from inclement weather making our region even more attractive to visitors for business and recreation.

Airport Manager Dave and his crew put on a nice holiday fly-in and gathering in December. Despite some approaching afternoon weather we had a good turnout with several planes flying in from Mass, NH, and the coast of Maine. Several local pilots and aviation enthusiasts drove in along with some new faces and the Eastern Slope Aviation Academy held a classroom open house and free flight simulator demos. The public is always welcome at these events and at the airport and we encourage anyone to visit. Facebook users can find up to date information on the Eastern Slope Regional Airport page, visit our website, or just stop by and say hello.

Harvest Hills Animal Shelter News

Freezing For A Reason 2022 - It's a go!
February 19th, 2022-



Freezing For A Reason is our annual polar dip fundraiser for the animals at Highland Lake in Bridgton, ME. This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. Its always held in conjunction with Greater Bridgton Lakes Region Winter Carnival, which has winter fun for all ages! Do you dare take the plunge??? Please see: mainelakeschamber.com for more details of area events.


Note: There will be no hot tubs or changing tent available this year. There will be parking at the 'Old Town Hall'. We will have a bus available to take you to your car.

The Million Dollar Questions:
1. Are we seeing a lot of surrenders of dogs and cats after people adopted so many during the pandemic?
Answer - No. Anyone adopting from us knew when life got back to normal what they would have to do to make their adoption work. Our new process of appointment only with an approved application makes everyone adopting from us take that extra time to consider what will happen once the pandemic is over and what they will need to do to make the adoption work.
2. What animals are we seeing surrendered?
They come in for all the reasons we saw before COVID- divorce, loss of housing, allergies, medical expenses to high. Also there are people who got a 'free pet' or made the impromptu decision to get a pet are the ones who are surrendering.

Please remember that animals are a long-term commitment, and that dogs & cats can live anywhere from 10- 20 years. Don't forget to do your research on breeds as well, for both dogs AND cats!

We are having volunteers come back to socialize kitties and walk dogs! Please go to our website (harvesthills.org) and click on 'about us' and 'how you can help' for a volunteer application.

**Are you planning to attend college?
Read on –**



Adult Education
1881 Roosevelt Trail,
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Lake Region and Fryeburg Area Adult Education has assisted local adults to make a successful transition to college for many years. The Maine College Transitions program works with students on college and career guidance, skills development, financial planning, and ongoing support. See new flash below of how we can help you achieve your goals:

- Upcoming Financial Aid Workshop at Fryeburg Public Library on Tues, Feb 8 at 6PM. A free workshop! If you miss the workshop, we can still help – call us!
- Another free support for students to transition into college is the College Success Class. This class will focus on the essential skills of a successful college student and will focus on study skills, time management, and academic readiness. This class fulfills a required college graduation credit at both Central Maine Community College and Southern Maine Community College. Class begins March 2. This 7-week blended instruction course is live via Zoom for two classes, self-paced/online for 6.
- Maine adults seeking to pursue college now have an exciting new option to jump start their education. A partnership between Adult Education and the Maine Community College System will offer tuition-free college courses to Maine's adult education students. An incredible opportunity to jump start your college career.

To register for workshop, class, or for more information on continuing your education, please call Rhonda Jacobson at 207-647-3015 or email: Rhonda.jacobson@lakeregionschools.org.

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What to do with \$822 million

There's been a lot of news coverage recently about what to do with Maine's budget surplus. Depending upon who you ask, answers range from shoring up the state's budget or investing in new programs – and thereby expanding state government – to putting the surplus into the Rainy Day Fund or returning it to Maine taxpayers. Before we even consider what to do with any excess funds, we should understand why it exists.

Why do we have a surplus?

Maine has three main revenue streams: corporate taxes, income taxes and sales taxes. For years there has been talk of reducing Maine's income tax, (10th highest in the nation, top rate of 7.15%). Corporate taxes are also in the top half of the country, and property taxes are 9th highest. Yet the largest increase in the state's coffers came from sales taxes, which rose 26.8% or \$126 million year-over-year in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 22. According to the Maine Revenue Forecasting Commission (MRFC), which is charged with periodically determining where the state's General Fund stands financially, Maine's economy continues to grow at a faster pace than originally thought since their last meeting in April. Much of their forecast released in Nov. stems from a report by the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission (CEFC) that revised personal income estimates upward through 2025, and also revised its Consumer Price Index targets from 2.4% to 4.4% for 2021 and from 2.2% to 3.5% for 2022. Both revisions reflect higher levels of inflation, which you've experienced at grocery stores or gas pumps. In forecasting higher inflation, CEFC said that sales tax revenue is expected to increase due to consumer spending resulting from pent-up demand, rising energy prices and the eventual easing of supply chain bottlenecks still affecting the country. This inflation growth is expected to continue through mid-2022. As inflation increases, the state's revenue only increases as you pay more for things that cost much less just a year ago.

When you buy, the state earns

The forecast is only an educated guess that our economy will continue to produce surplus tax revenue. Before determining what to do with it, you must first be sure the surplus will exist. Most of us tend to save any excess money only if we actually have it after paying our bills, thinking it will be there when we need it. It's a safe approach, and one the state uses from time to time with its Rainy Day fund. Others can't resist the urge to spend it now and not save. This approach has its place too as it creates jobs, contributes to our economy, and resets the cycle to start all over again. What should be done when the money isn't yours but collected from taxpayers to hold in trust? There are several options before the Maine Legislature.

What would you do with the surplus?

- First, the surplus was created by Maine's residents spending more now than they ever have for household essentials, a meal out, gas to get to work or heating fuel for their home. Inflation affects all Maine households regardless of income, and that is what makes sales taxes one of the most regressive of all. Should tax rebates or some relief from sales taxes be the answer?
- Second, some argue that budget surpluses should be directed toward low-income programs, expand childcare, affordable housing or address worker shortages – all worthy goals to which the state has already allocated federal COVID relief funds. More could be done here, particularly in the underfunding of long-term care facilities that are struggling to find workers and to stay open.
- Third, it was recently suggested to me that half the money be tucked away in the Rainy Day Fund, which would leave us with about \$900 million, a safeguard against the next economic downturn. The rest should be invested in serious infrastructure projects, specifically building out broadband to connect all of our state to the world. This could likely be tied into federal monies coming as part of the recently passed U.S. bipartisan infrastructure bill. I'd love to hear your thoughts!

AUTO FACTS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW *By Eric Meltzer*

The internet is a marvelous thing and in the world of automotivedom it's like magic. Need a part, cheap, obscure, or particular? Have a noise or performance issue or want to make an upgrade? The information is all right there. The only problem with all this free flowing knowledge is that it can be right, misleading, mistaken, completely wrong, or just a strong opinion. Issues arise when the so called expert's answer only results in wasting time and money.

We see common problems frequently and just as often there's a common solution but not always. Some people, even professionals – and I won't step on that slippery slope of trying to define a professional – prefer what I like to refer to as a “shotgun” diagnosis. Rather than targeting a specific component by methodically narrowing down the problem through a series of diagnostic procedures, a shotgun mechanic might start with the most common cause, replaces that part, and if the problem continues replaces the next most common part, and so on. Sometimes people get lucky but often this just wastes time, money, and degrades confidence. Suppose the problem is an intermittent wiring problem. The shotgun approach might call for replacing a sensor, maybe that's what the scan tool is leading to or maybe it's just “gotta be” that sensor, in this professional's opinion. In the course of replacing the sensor wires are moved and maybe the problem goes away. “Fixed it!” declares the overconfident mechanic. Until later when the wires settle back into position and the problem returns. Time to replace the next most common component, and the guesswork continues. A correct diagnosis might have taken a bit longer but testing the original sensor would have shown no malfunction. Following procedures would lead to the wiring issue and the confidence of knowing you won't be left stranded or needing to return for the same problem. This might cost more in time or money initially, or maybe not, but in the long run a correctly diagnosed and repaired car is always the better value.

We recently had a vehicle in for a misfire. Another shop replaced a coil to correct the problem, a common issue and a common fix. However, this other shop neglected to do even the most basic of diagnostics and not surprisingly, the problem continued. According to the customer, the mechanic didn't even take the car for a test drive to verify the problem was corrected. We were next granted the opportunity to repair. Yes, the repair was heavy in diagnostic time, ensuring components that would cause a misfire were operating correctly but each step ensured the real problem would be found and corrected with no guesswork or doubt. The ultimate cause was found to be a failed fuel injector which required a fairly invasive process to replace. A far cry from the coil that was replaced earlier which assumed an ignition system problem when the actual problem was with the fuel system. While the injectors were exposed we took a few minutes to test the other injectors which were well within spec avoiding costly replacement of those units at this time. The customer is pleased and his vehicle was again, reliable.

Unfortunately these same professionals contribute to on line forums and websites. That's not to say there isn't good information out there or that you can't get help on the internet from someone genuinely knowledgeable, but be thorough in your research before diving into a repair based on nothing but a You Tube video. More often than not, we get vehicles that were self diagnosed and repaired with cheap or marginally sufficient parts by frustrated owners, frequently with advice given by an anonymous screen name. Unfortunately, at this point, we have to figure out if something the owner did exacerbated the problem or if it's even the same problem. All this translates into more time and possibly wasted money.

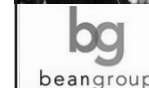
Don't misunderstand me, I'm not saying bring your ailing car directly to your favorite shop, do not pass go, do not collect 200 dollars (that's a Monopoly reference for all you readers too young to remember board games) and place your trust there alone. On the contrary, there is some excellent and useful advice on line and an educated customer helps make the repair process more easily understood. But like any task, there are many approaches and tools to accomplish an end and internet advice is one tool in the toolbox.

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