



# The Corcoran NEWS

November 2006

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## Book Sale Pleases All

By Matt Wieland, CNO Staff

Corcoran Neighborhood Organization's office transformed into a reader's paradise October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

Corcoran's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual book sale gave residents an opportunity to browse through a selection of 3,000 books, records, board games and more, as well as please the taste buds with homemade caramel rolls, cookies, lemon bars, coffee, and cider. The two day fundraiser gives Corcoran residents and others an opportunity to stop into Corcoran Neighborhood Organizations office, chat with staff, and buy a few books. All proceeds benefit CNO.

CNO would like to thank all those who donate their time and talents to the book sale. We would also like to thank sponsor David K. Porter, the Seward Coop for donating organic apple cider, and all the book donors. Without all of you, beneficial events like this would not take place.

Remember, the book sale is an annual event, taking place the first weekend in October. It is never too early to begin saving up your books to donate for next year's sale!



*CNO Board Member and Events Committee Chair Kath Lenk, busy at work at last years CNO Book Sale. Customer Jim Davnie (State Representative on the MN House) and his kids.*

## Update from Amy Arcand, CNO's Executive Director

It has been a busy fall! We've welcomed our newest employee, Matt Wieland, hosted a book sale, wrapped up the fourth season of the Midtown Public Market, and secured a new contract with the Center for Energy and Environment to promote their Minnesota Energy Challenge to neighborhood groups. On top of all of that, I am now only working part-time at CNO in order to finish my degree at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. I am working toward a Master's in Public Affairs with a concentration in Public Policy.

It has been eleven years since I have been in school full time and I'm finding it very challenging. I'm not sure if school is harder than I remember or if graduate school is just more difficult, probably a little of both! I'm currently taking four classes; Women and Electoral Politics, Immigration and Public Policy, Transforming Public Policy, and Change Making: Skills for effective public policy. The classes are fascinating, motivating, applicable to my work at CNO, and taught by great professors. I love being back in an academic setting, or at least that is my overriding sentiment. My day-to-day feeling is one of being overwhelmed by the amount of reading and writing I have to do. So please bear with me as I try to figure out how to juggle all of this.

I'd like to thank the CNO Board of Directors for their support of my new adventure. I proposed the idea of going part-time for a year so that I could go back to school and they unanimously supported me. It made my decision so much easier to know that I could continue working in a job I love, have a flexible schedule, and stay in the neighborhood. I'm feeling very lucky these days!

You may be wondering what this means for CNO? It means that we do not have as many staff hours to dedicate to our neighborhood projects and that some things are not going to get as much attention as they have in the past, but we will do our best to keep up all of the things that residents are accustomed to. Board members and volunteers have also offered to help out where they can. If you have some extra time to stuff newspapers, help clean the office, write articles for the paper, or help with other office tasks, please let me know. Now is when we really need it.

## SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD HALLOWEEN EVENTS

### FALLS OF FUN FAMILY HALLOWEEN EVENT

October 28

4 PM TO 6PM at Minnehaha Falls

Come in costume for this trick and treat adventure. There will be kid friendly musical entertainment, hayrides, creepy crawly creatures, fortunes, marshmallow roasting. Food & refreshments will be for sale.

### 6TH ANNUAL HAUNTED HOUSE

October 30 & 31

6PM TO 8PM at Powderhorn Park

\$1 for Children

\$2 for Adults

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult in the haunted house.

On Halloween night there will be ghouly arts and crafts and other spooky activities and these will be free to the public.

### HALLOWEEN AT CORCORAN PARK

October 31

6 PM to 8PM at Corcoran Park

Come and join the coloring and costume contest at the Park! There will be treats and candy prized for the winners. Parents should stop in for a hot cup of coffee while escorting their children through the neighborhood.



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I bet you didn't know that it was an election year. Okay seriously, you would have to live under a rock or never leave your house or never read a paper or the internet or never watch television NOT to know it was an election year. These days we are bombarded by every medium of media possible by candidates trying to get our vote. If you watch television at all (and I think I may watch a bit too much of it) you may have noticed as it is getting closer to Election Day, the barbs are coming out in full force. It is no longer important letting the people

know what the candidate promises to do or not do for us, it has come down to verbal lashings of the opponent. I realize that is an extremely important year because the Senate and Congress may change hands, and Minnesota plays a big part in that battle. But can't we just go back to the basics: what are you going to do for me and my community if I were to vote for you?

Please get out there and vote! If you need any more information about where to vote, what you need in order to be able to vote or more about the candidates, go to www.lwvnmn.org, click on Election 2006 and type in your home address.

Alexis Bell, CNN Editor

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There's a great new program called Vjg" Okppguvc"Gpgti{"Ejcmngpig. If you're concerned about the price of heating your home or gasoline at the pump, or the consequences of global warming, you should check out The Challenge. Visit www.mnenergychallenge.org, where you can:

1. Calculate your household's current energy usage,
2. Take steps to lower your bills and your 'footprint' on the environment,
3. Learn how your actions will slow global warming, and
4. Track the collective savings of your neighborhood, congregation, business, city, or state.

You can learn more at our General Membership meeting on November 13. And if you aren't on the internet, you can still take The Challenge—just give us a call at CNO and we'll help you out.

The Challenge was created by Center for Energy and Environment, the big nonprofit that helps run our housing programs. During this 'kickoff period,' we're helping get other neighborhoods on board in promoting The Challenge. In turn, CNO will get some much-needed compensation, and a chance to show we can reach a wider audience.

We're busy as ever down at the Corcoran office, and as always, Amy, Joanna, Matt and I can be tough to reach. Leave a message if you miss us, and we'll do our best to get back to you promptly. See you around the neighborhood!

*Eric*

Eric Gustafson  
CNO Community Organizer

# Museum Adventure Pass Program

By Sue Redmond, Corcoran Resident

With the fall (but already feels like winter) season upon us, a new program through the public libraries promises to add some local adventure. The fabulous museum pass program is simple, easy and best of all - free. Near the check out stations in the seven county metro libraries is a small rack with bright red plastic cards for different museums, art centers, and historical places with their names in bold black letters. What do you need to get in on this? A valid library card. There are two ways to get your free library card – apply online or bring in a photo ID and current mail with your name and address. An adult can get cards for children too.

You pick a red card for the museum or place you would like to visit in the next week and present one museum pass card with your check out. You will be given a due date slip to admit up to four people on each pass. One pass per person can be chosen twice per month. The program will continue for the next year.

The places participating are:

- € The American Swedish Institute
- € The Bakken Museum
- € The Bell Museum of Natural History
- € Como Park Zoo & Conservatory

- € Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakotah Life
- € Historic Murphy's Landing
- € Mill City Museum
- € Minneapolis Institute of Arts
- € MN History Center
- € MN Landscape Arboretum
- € MN Museum of American Art
- € MN Zoo
- € Museum of Russian Art
- € Science Museum of MN
- € Walker Art Center
- € Weisman Art Museum
- € Twin Cities Historic Sites – Fort Snelling, James J. Hill House, Sibley House, Alexander Ramsey House, Oliver H. Kelley Farm

The sturdy red purse-sized brochure is available with detailed descriptions of the locations – thankfully including their hours and phone numbers, with bold colors for each page and a check off at the bottom for the places you visit. A map in the middle helps visualize the places you may not be familiar with. The Adventure Museum Pass program is sponsored by Macy's and MELSA – the public library alliance.

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By Chuck Laszewski, Communications Director, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

When you walk into the voting booth on November 7, there will be just one constitutional amendment on the ballot and it is designed to put more money into roads and mass transit.

While some groups have suggested the wording is complicated, the measure itself is really quite simple. A yes vote means that all of the money that flows to the state coffers from the motor vehicle sales tax will be spent only on roads and mass transit. A no vote means that the motor vehicle sales tax can be spent on whatever the legislature wants to spend it on. Also, if a voter leaves that question blank, it counts as a no vote.

Currently, the majority of the money from the vehicle sales tax goes to roads and transit. However, when it was first established in 1981, the Minnesota Legislature said all of the money would go to roads and transit. But over the years, they have raided the fund to balance the budget and spend it on other things in the general fund.

If the constitutional amendment passes, the

legislature will have five years to phase out the \$300 million the general fund now takes from the motor vehicle sales tax. Proponents of the measure said that with normal economic growth, there should be no reason to neither raise taxes nor cut other programs to make up that money.

This neighborhood has seen bus fares rise and some service cuts in recent years. It has also observed the success of the Hiawatha Light Rail line. A steady source of money will help stabilize Metro Transit's operations and grow ridership, according to proponents of the constitutional amendment.




Register to receive CNO's new e-mail newsletter, the Neighborhood Advocate, by visiting [www.corcoranneighborhood.org](http://www.corcoranneighborhood.org).

- Important information affecting Corcoran
- Neighborhood Events
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Receive once per week via email

Look for this symbol in this issue, which indicates that an article first appeared in the Neighborhood Advocate.



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The Corcoran Neighborhood News  
 Corcoran Neighborhood Organization  
 3451 Cedar Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55407

# Chilly Fall Days Accompany a Bountiful Harvest at the Midtown Public Market

By Joanna Stone, Midtown Public Market Manager

If you made it to the Midtown Public Market in October, chances are you were greeted by smiling farmers in heavy sweaters and winter coats who cheerfully made conversation with you about the chilly weather and the last of their season's harvest while you made your purchases. Despite the early chill, many community members came out to support their farmer friends, and most of our volunteer musicians even braved the weather, strumming guitars with numb fingers. But spirits remained high through to the end, and the atmosphere was slightly wistful as people said their farewells for another winter, thinking ahead to

the cool springtime that will once again find us gathered in the parking lot on Lake and 22<sup>nd</sup> each Saturday morning.

But though the market itself is closed for the winter, market staff and volunteers are getting geared up for an exciting winter of planning for our 2007 market season. As soon as the last load of tents and chairs is unloaded into the Corcoran Office basement, planning will begin for next year's events, promotions, web site updates, specialty vendor recruiting, and all of the other projects, large and small, that go into making the Midtown Public Market happen.



And in order to get our next season off to a successful start, we need your help. Volunteer power is key to everything we do, and we are always looking for new volunteer energy and ideas. Please call the office if you would like to help us plan for next season- 612-724-7457, or email [joanna@midtownpublicmarket.org](mailto:joanna@midtownpublicmarket.org).

We also rely on individual donations as a critical part of the funding that makes the market possible. As a grassroots organization, we know that a lot of people giving a little bit can accomplish amazing things. Please consider becoming a Friend of the Market today. If you go online to [www.midtownpublicmarket.org](http://www.midtownpublicmarket.org) and click on the "Donate" link, you can set up a donation to occur monthly, quarterly, or once. \$10 a month may not seem like a lot to give, but would make a huge difference to us as an organization. You can also donate by stopping in or mailing a check to the Corcoran Neighborhood Office. Friends of the Market receive the market's quarterly newsletter in the mail, and are eligible for discount prices on market t-shirts and bags.

Thank you for your support!



On October 7th, neighborhood youth joined local muralist Tammy Ortegon in painting the Sister's Camelot Bus at the Midtown Public Market. The bus picks up leftover produce at the market, co-ops, and warehouses and distributes the food for free throughout the community. Photo by Joanna Stone

# Alley Katz Respond to Graffiti with Mural and Landscaping Project

By Stacy Husebo, Corcoran Resident

On Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, a community event was held to put forward positive ways of responding to crime and graffiti in our neighborhoods. Two neighbors, Roxanne Stuhr (Standish-Ericsson) and Stacy Husebo (Corcoran), came up with the idea for Alley Katz after both of their garages were tagged with graffiti in the past year. They decided that instead of getting angry and feeling victimized they would find ways to get young people and neighbors to come together and create something positive.

The vision for Alley Katz included getting young people to engage in their communities by bringing their creative talents and finding opportunities to learn other skills in working with the earth and landscapes. The other part of the vision of Alley Katz was to begin to beautify our alleyways because they are the gateways into our communities and oftentimes the places of interfacing with our neighbors. Alley Katz seeks to build and strengthen community, create safer neighborhoods and engage youth and adults in the thriving lives of their neighborhoods.

training and employment opportunity for young people. After the alley gardens were completed the participants gathered for conversation, a potluck dinner and dancing. This was an experience of hope, possibility and community.

A big thanks to all who helped and participated in the Alley Katz event. If you are interested in more information about Alley Katz please contact [alleykatz\\_mpls@yahoo.com](mailto:alleykatz_mpls@yahoo.com)



The event was a successful one with about forty people being involved in creating several alley gardens and a mural that will inhibit graffiti and offers a rich expression of community in our alleys. About ten youth painted a mural, built a trellis and landscaped two alley gardens.

One hope for the future for Alley Katz would be that it would grow into a way for youth to use their creative talents as well as to develop landscaping and building skills in hopes of it becoming a



# Local Corcoran Resident and Avid Runner Dies

George Spears, a Native American runner, age 49, of Corcoran, died after he collapsed at the 6-mile marker in the Twin Cities Marathon. George was currently working as a Hennepin County Social Worker. Spears was widely known in the Indian community through his job working with Indian children, and because of the many relationships he had formed with foster children over the years. He was a beloved husband of 30 years to his wife, Melanie. He was an OGICHIDAG Warrior of the Red Lake Band of Ojibwe. His parents Chester & Susan Spears preceded him in death, along with his sister, Marlene & son, Duane. He touched the lives of his children, grandchildren & all the children he worked with through his job. His children are numerous in that there are biological, adopted, foster children, and those that came & stayed. Each was loved by their Dad & Grandpa. George followed a good path in his life. He has finished the fourth hill in his journey. He was his wife's Weedjeewaangun - companion & soul mate. He was a highlander who will always live in our hearts. CNO sends our condolences to the family.

*Taken from Star Tribune Obituary*

Attendees: Amy Arcand, Alexis Bell, Sue Duoos, Kath Lenk, Eric Lindberg, Gwen McMahon, Kevin Reuther, Gerry Tyrrell, Jessica Ward-Denison, Billy Weber. Guest Michelle Johnson

Jessica Ward-Denison called the meeting to order.

### Introduction

Michelle Johnson, member of Caring Corcoran Neighbors (CCN), was a guest at the meeting. She was interested in observing the meeting might be interested in joining the board. Michelle is interested in many areas of the neighborhood; in addition to her work with CCN, she is interested in housing and land use issues.

### Motion: Approval of the September E-Board minutes.

Made by Eric, second by Alexis, motion carried unanimously.

### Discussion-Matching Grant/Individual Donors

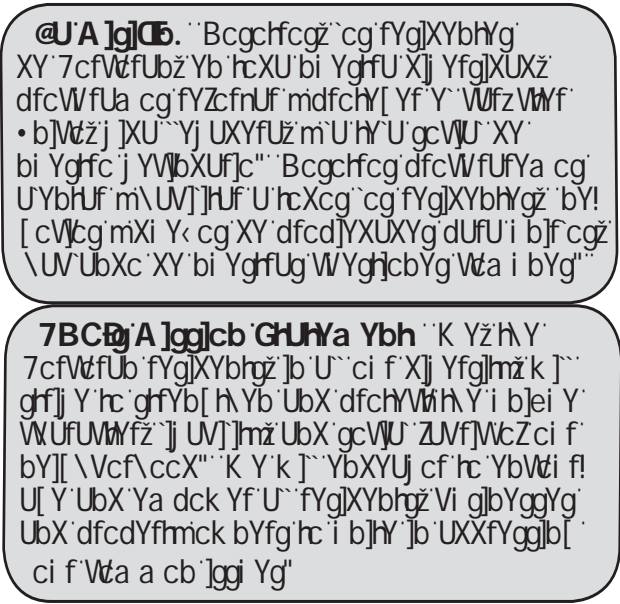
Kevin Reuther and Gerry Tyrrell have secured a \$5,000 matching grant fund from an anonymous donor, making fast work of the goal they set for themselves last month. The money will match any individual donations made to CNO up to a combined total of \$5,000. All present agreed this is a great opportunity for Corcoran to raise much need funds and increase individual giving to the organization. The board expressed their appreciation to both Kevin and Gerry for their continued great work in this area.

Discussion as to the best way to ensure we meet the full pledge amount ensued. An ad hoc committee consisting of Jessica, Emily Warren, Kevin, Alexis, and Amy will be meeting to work out the details and coordination of the campaign which are yet to be finalized.

### Discussion-Open Board Seats

The board discussed open board seats and the need of the board to recruit new board members to fill current vacant seats. Currently, there are three board seats open including an at-large member, Events Committee Chair, and Outreach Committee Chair.

The board discussed options for recruiting for the open seats. Billy suggested we hold an open house



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-Erma Bombeck

## November General Membership Meeting

*By Alexis Bell*

Due to the election on November 7, we have moved the General Membership meeting to Monday, November 13 from 6pm to 7:30pm at Corcoran Park. We have a lot of fun things going on in Corcoran that we want you to know about. The agenda will be as follows:

1. A presentation by Caring Corcoran Neighbors – Come and find out how their first year went and what they have planned for year two.
2. A presentation by the Housing Committee – Find out more information about the Minnesota Energy Challenge and what you can do.
3. Presentation by Emily Warren – Emily did

research for CNO on various housing programs that NRP neighborhoods have tried. Come and find out what she learned.

4. CNO has received a new grant – Find out more about it and help us brainstorm new ways to increase individual donations.
5. Meet outgoing 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Attorney Scott Christensen and show our appreciation and welcome new attorney Paula Krushowski.

As you can see, we have a lot planned and hope that you will join us to learn more about what CNO does for the neighborhood, and what you can do as well.

*Note: Agenda may change pending availability of participants.*

### CNO E-Board Minutes 10/4/06

for potential board members. This idea was met with favor, and the timing of such an event was suggested for early winter, to drum up interest in advance of spring elections. Effort will be made to promote diversity on the board, in an effort to get a broader representation of our neighborhood's diverse demographics. The board agreed to continue to work on these issues.

### Lations en Acci3n Update

Amy briefed the board on recent changes to the Lations en Acci3n project. Changes will be made to simplify the structure and management of the project to clarify goals and efforts. Longfellow Neighborhood has taken over the management of the program, and staff has moved from CNO to the Longfellow offices. Corcoran residents will continue to be served by the programs offered by the project.

### November Quarterly Meeting Planning

Planning for the November quarterly meeting was discussed. The meeting will be held Monday, November 13 from 7-8:30. Under consideration for meeting topics include: a presentation by CCN, housing program report by Emily Warren, and presentation on Minnesota's Energy Challenge. The matching grant for individual donors will also be on the agenda. CNO will invite City Attorney Scott Christensen, who is leaving the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct, to thank him for his hard work and dedication. We will also invite his replacement to welcome her to the area.

### Treasurer's Report

Review of September financials found them generally in order. There was a discrepancy or error in the income numbers—so the board will revisit them next month.

Amy led the board through a review of CNO's 990 Charitable Organization Report and Income Tax filing. This is normally prepared by the state auditor, but due to the organization's good review last year, there will be no audit this year, just a procedural review. Mike Wilson, an Accountant hired by NRP, prepared the forms.

### Motion: Motion to approve the 990 Charitable Organization Report filing as prepared by Wilson, and presented to the Board.

Made by Gwen, second by Eric, motion carried unanimously.

### Motion: Motion to approve the MN Tax filing as prepared by Wilson, and presented to the Board.

Made by Alexis, second by Gerry, motion carried unanimously.

### Committee Reports

**Midtown Public Market.** Gerry reported that Sisters Camelot, a non-profit that collects donations of unsold food from vendors at the market, will be painting their bus at the market. Gerry also reported that the Market is in discussion with a possible corporate sponsor for next year. The board registered some concern that selection of a sponsor should be done with care—Gerry assured the board that it would be.

**Caring Corcoran Neighbors.** CCN held a successful planning and strategy meeting last month. The group continues to plan for their second year.

**Restorative Justice.** Eric Lindberg reported that he will be stepping down from RJ and the board for an indefinite period of time due to work obligations over the coming months. The board will look for a replacement for him. He reported that Scott Christensen is leaving the City Attorney's Office and 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct. His work and commitment will be missed. Gerry asked if there may be a way to get youth offenders into the RJ program so they understand what impact their behavior has on area residents. Gwen commented that MPD (separate from RJ) is getting a juvenile unit up and running city wide.

**Latinos en Acci3n.** An advisory group is being formed for Latinos en Acci3n. A county wide summit will also be held at the YWCA, 400 people are expected to participate from across Hennepin County.

### Motion: Motion to adjourn.

Made by Sue, second by Alexis, motion carried unanimously.

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The Green Guardian is the mascot of the greenguardian.com website whose purpose is to help citizens understand the need to make environmentally responsible purchasing and disposal decisions in their daily lives. Photo courtesy of greenguardian.com

# It's Time to Rethink Recycling

A 2000 study showed that 21% of household garbage in the Twin Cities metro area is recyclable paper. You can recycle more kinds of paper than you think. Use the following guide to start recycling more paper.



## Paper Recycling Guide: Can I Recycle It?

### Yes

- \* Mail, office and school papers
- \* Magazines and catalogs
- \* Newspapers and inserts
- \* Phone books
- \* Shredded paper in closed paper bags
- \* Cardboard boxes
- \* Cereal boxes, cracker boxes, pasta boxes, cake mix boxes
- \* Shoe boxes, gift boxes & electronics boxes
- \* Boxes from toothpaste, medications and other toiletries

### No

- \* Pizza boxes, egg cartons or boxes soiled with food
- \* Boxes from refrigerated or frozen foods
- \* Milk cartons and juice boxes
- \* Paper towels, napkins, cups and plates
- \* Gift wrap

# Folwell Middle School Biannual School Supply Drive

This November, the Morris Park Players will put on the play "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" in an effort to garner much needed school supplies for Folwell Middle School. Playgoers are encouraged to bring the following needed supplies: loose-leaf, wide-lined paper, pencils, pens, metal scissors, construction paper, note tablets, folders, washable markers, colored pencils, overhead markers, white board markers, big art paper, old magazines to do projects and rulers. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors, students, and groups. All performances will be held at Folwell Middle School at 3611 20<sup>th</sup> Ave South. Check community calendar on page 6 for show dates and times.



On October 13, Corcoran resident Eric Lindberg hosted the Minneapolis and St. Paul mayors, along with Center For Energy and Environment's Paul Morin, to help him take steps that will decrease his home energy bills and 'footprint' on the environment. Lindberg, a longtime volunteer with CNO, says he does not consider himself an environmentalist, and was surprised to learn how much he could save. "Based on Paul's analysis, a \$35 thermostat could save me \$75 a year, and wall insulation would pay for itself in four years." The visit kicked off **The Minnesota Energy Challenge** and was on Channel 4 and other TV and radio stations. You can check out the story at [wcco.com/topstories/local\\_story\\_286180034.html](http://wcco.com/topstories/local_story_286180034.html). Take the energy challenge at [www.mnenergychallenge.org](http://www.mnenergychallenge.org). Pictured from left to right, St. Paul mayor Chris Coleman, Minneapolis Mayor RT Rybak, CEE's Paul Morin and Eric Lindberg. Photo by Eric Gustafson.







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 current anti-war artwork

**Kari Gunter Seymour is a pacifist.  
 Her son is a soldier.**

When he shipped out to Iraq, Kari  
 began her work **WAR GAMES**, shown here in Jan 05.  
 Her new work continues the story of the struggle of  
 a mother's love and a son's choices.

for more info or appointments call 612 722-2324  
 or email susan@susanhenseldesign.com

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Call (612) 335-5885 for more information.

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