



Pen City Current

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 | 7 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 108

Sewer rate bump gets second look

Meeting starts with upset citizen snapping at Randolph

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – City officials want to take another look at how proposed sewer rates will be increased on city residents.

At Tuesday's regular City Council meeting, city officials were originally set to take action on an increasing the rates, but after a feisty unrelated start to the meeting, Mayor Brad Randolph moved the agenda item to a discussion-only item.

The meeting started with a little heat when Randolph addressed a previous meeting's concern from

Todd Oetken, a citizen who addressed the council two weeks ago asking for the termination of several police officers alleging they violated his rights by forcing him off government property, specifically Iowa State Prison property.

Randolph told Oetken, who was in attendance again Tuesday, that the issue was handled internally by city staff and because it was a personnel issue, wouldn't be discussed in open session.

Oetken became heated, while two police officers stood in back of a full council chambers, and eventually stormed out hailing words at Randolph on the way out.

After he left, the council resumed the regular agenda, moving the sewer discussion to the end.

The city is proposing an increase put together by Driscoll, which would take an average consumer of 4,500 gallons of sewer water, the monthly bill would



DRISCOLL

increase from \$45.98 per month to \$52.05 per month, an increase of \$6.07 per month or 13.2%.

Driscoll said the increases are due to federally mandated sewer improvements. Bond payments on the city's \$15 million mandated waste water treatment plant start next year at about \$1.3 million per year. Driscoll said the fund generates about \$3 million per year, which won't leave much left for maintenance and upkeep.

City Manager David Varley said a lot of things have come to ahead at once.

"It's been kind of been a perfect storm of sorts," Varley said. "We have an old sewer system we've got some

See **INCREASE**, page 7

FMCH board gets state certification

PCC STAFF

DES MOINES – A group of 76 Iowa hospital trustees and 14 Iowa hospital boards from across the state were honored April 26 at the Iowa Hospital Association (IHA) Trustee Recognition Ceremony at the Embassy Suites Downtown in Des Moines. The event was held in conjunction with an annual IHA education conference for hospital trustees and governing boards.

"We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of Trustees as part of the FMCH team. Their commitment to the success of our hospital is highly commendable and greatly appreciated," expressed Jeremy Alexander, FMCH CEO. "They freely lend their time and expertise to improving health care in Southeast



Courtesy photo

From left to right; Shelby Burchett, COO, FMCH; Dave Poland; Neal Dodd; Vicki Stephenson; Ann Menke; John McKillip; Deanna Barr; and Jeremy Alexander, CEO, FMCH are pictured with an Iowa Hospitals Association certificate earlier this month.

Iowa."

The FMCH Board of Trustees had 100% participation in the certification process gaining them 3-Star status. The FMCH Board of Trustees is made up of the follow-

ing volunteer community members: Ann Menke, President; Dave Poland, President-Elect; Deanna Barr, Past President; John McKillip, Vicki Stephenson, JoAnn Lampe and Neal Dodd.

This IHA Hospital Board Certification program provides a framework for hospital trustees and governing boards to demonstrate

See **FMCH**, page 3

FM YMCA to offer members after-hour facility use option

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Want that post Thanksgiving dinner workout? If you can get through the urban legend of the tryptophan-induced nappy feels, you can now hit the YMCA for a healthy workout.

Starting June 3, the Fort Madison YMCA will offer a 24/7 option as part of their membership.

According to Executive Director Ryan Wilson, Y memberships will now offer a \$5 voluntary add-on which will allow around-the-clock access to the facilities wellness center, gymnasium, restrooms, weight room, downstairs aerobic center and water fountains.

The swimming pool, lockerrooms and saunas will be locked during non-regular hours, Wilson said

He said the idea has been on his radar for a while.

"Actually we started talking about this a couple years ago, but for a couple different reasons we didn't go through with it," Wilson said.

"The idea surfaced again this winter about how we could expand our offerings to the community and going 24 hours just made sense."

He said the Hoerner YMCA in Keokuk also has 24-hour access and conversations with that facility showed

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For the Record/Lottery Numbers

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

05/06/19 – 1:16 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property accident in the 2700 block Avenue I.
 05/06/19 – 1:39 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2100 block of Avenue C.
 05/06/19 – 4:41 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 700 block of Avenue G.
 05/06/19 – 5:38 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2000 block of 303rd Avenue.
 05/07/19 – 9:26 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a hit and run in the 1300 block of Avenue E.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

05/03/19 – 9:48 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident near the intersection of Hwy 218 and 180th Avenue. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Lisa Marie Osborn, 46, of Des Moines, pulled out in front of a vehicle driven by James Grady Howell, 18, of Fort Madison. Howell swerved to miss Osborn ramped a curb and struck an intersection stop sign causing disabling damage to Howell's vehicle. Howell did not strike Osborn's vehicle. Osborn was cited for failure to yield upon entering a through highway and the

accident remains under investigation. No injuries were reported at the scene.
 05/03/19 – 12:53 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 2400 block of Hwy. 2. A vehicle driven by Julia Lee Pilcher, 52, of Donnellson attempted a U-turn on Hwy 2 from the north shoulder of the highway to check on someone laying in the grass south of Hwy. 2. Upon making the turn, Pilcher's vehicle collided with a vehicle driven by Moussa Dooso Bakari, 39, of Columbia, Mo., who was headed westbound. No injuries were reported, and Pilcher was cited for failure to provide insurance.

05/03/19 – no time listed – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 16-year-old male juvenile from Keokuk, in the 3400 block of Argyle Road, on a charge of 2nd degree theft greater than \$1,000 but less than \$10,000. He was held for placement.
 05/04/19 – 5:49 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kurstin Joan Malone, 28, of Alexandria, Mo., in the 3500 block of Argyle Road, on a charge of violation of probation. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 05/04/19 – 9:26 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Matthew Wayne Land, 56, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on a charge of contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 05/06/19 – 3:05 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Rachel Denise Happs, 39, of Keokuk in the 200 block of Main Street in Montrose, on a warrant

for 4th-degree theft greater than \$200, but less than \$500. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 05/06/19 – 3:05 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kenneth Lavern Soper, Jr., 39, of Keokuk, in the 200 block of Main Street in Montrose on a warrant for 4th-degree theft, greater than \$200, but less than \$500. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 05/06/19 – 7:30 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwy. 61 and Carbide Lane in Keokuk. A vehicle driven by Carrol E. Cunningham, 67, of Keokuk collided with a vehicle driven by Susan Louis Plenge, 55, of Kahoka, Mo. Plenge was stopped at the intersection headed north and was struck from behind by Plenge. Plenge was cited for failure to maintain control.
 05/06/19 – 10:47 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies

responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwy. 61 and Henry Laydn Drive. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Steven Matthew Vermazen, 22, of Donnellson, struck the back of the vehicle driven by Dustin Allen Cook, 38, while advancing towards the stop sign. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

05/03/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call, one false alarm, one smoke investigation
 05/04/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls.
 05/05/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one lift assist, one odor investigation and smoke detector activation.
 05/06/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.

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Dr. W. Riggs Bagan



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Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America SM	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm

 5/6 13 14 26 36 39 Lucky Ball: 9	 5/6 MID-DAY 1 7 2 5/6 EVENING 8 7 8	 5/6 MID-DAY 2 9 0 0 5/6 EVENING 5 1 0 4
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Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

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Current-Lee/Scene Around Town

CURRENT-LEE

Mother's and Father's Day Craft

Fort Madison Public Library will host a Wacky Wednesday May, 8, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. for youth ages 5-12 to make crafts for Mother's and Father's Day.

Salute to Small Business Breakfast

The Fort Madison Chamber's annual Salute to Small Business breakfast will be held Thursday, May 9 at Quality Inn & Suites sponsored by Huffman Welding & Machine/Farm & Home beginning at 7:30 a.m. Contact that chamber at 372-5471.

LCHD children's immunization clinic

The Lee County Health Department will be hosting a children's immunization clinic on May 9, at the Trinity United Methodist Church from noon to 4:30 p.m. The clinic is open to children with no insurance, Medicaid or private insurance that doesn't cover vaccines. Free lead testing is also available. Call 372-5225 for more information.

Senior Health Clinic

Lee County Health Department will host a senior Health Clinic at River Terrace in Keokuk from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m..

Success through Service

A half-day leadership conference will be held at Quality Inn & Suites in Fort Madison on Friday, May 10th, with featured speakers Ann Menke of Menke & Co., Matt Morris, of Connection Bank, and Craig Smith of Sterzings.

Relay for Life Trivia Night

Rich Pickel Trivia and Lee County Bank's Relay for Life team are hosting the Relay for Life Trivia Night Friday, May 10th at the Elks Lodge 719 Avenue F. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with trivia starting at 7 p.m. \$10 per person or \$80 per table. Contact Shauna Stuart at stuart@leecountybank.com for more informations.

Barley Hops

The annual tasting event will be held May 17th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Baxter Sports Complex. Pre-sale of glasses takes place Friday, May 10th from 5 to 8 p.m. at Buffalo61 Bar and Grille. Glasses are just \$10

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Effective Jan. 1, 2019 non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, call Chuck at (319)371.1670 or Lee at (319)371.4125.



Courtesy photo

Chuck Osmanski (PORT Committee member), back right, accepts the 4th installment of a \$2,500 pledge, from Kathy Osmanski. The members of Beta Sigma Phi pictured are (left to right seated): Rhonda Pieper, Chris Walters, Diana Gosnell, and Jackie Schierbrock.

Trustees honored for volunteer service

FMCH - Continued from Page 1

their individual and collective commitment to their governance roles and responsibilities. Certification is made up of two components: education and governance best practices. Trustees who have met the certification requirements have completed 12 hours of health care-specific education over a two-year period and confirm individually and as a board that recognized governance best practices are being utilized. Hospitals and health systems are

also recognized as One, Two, or Three Star Boards depending on the percentage of board members certified.

Through this certification program, individual trustees and entire hospital boards show their community and its stakeholders including employers and businesses, lawmakers and hospital employees their commitment to serving in the best interests of the community. More than 230 trustees and 22 hospital boards are currently certified.



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This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too!



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Sports

Pumphrey registers back-to-back shutouts

Walker finds only goal of match on run in 1st half

BY ETHAN LILLARD
PCC Sports

FORT MADISON – For the second-consecutive game, Fort Madison keeper Josie Pumphrey recorded a shut out, this time blanking Mount Pleasant Tuesday night at Baxter Sport Complex.

It's a good thing Pumphrey held the Panthers scoreless, as the Bloodhounds leaned on the defense for a 1-0 win, and continued to leave the door open for a potential share of the Southeast Conference crown with Mount Pleasant in the process

"Second place was the goal really," Fort Madison Head Coach Sebastian Seifert said. "If we can take conference, great, but second place in the conference is our goal. We've gotten better each year, so second place would be the best we've ever done. This got us a step closer to that."

Pumphrey wasn't the only Bloodhound to keep a streak going into Tuesday's rain and wind-filled contest. Sophomore Brandy Walker added another goal to her two-day total, bringing it to three goals in a 48-hour timeframe.

The goal came in the 20th minute when Maddy McVey kickstarted the Hound offense and helped find Walker on the left side of the field away from the Panther defense. Walker collected the pass and snaked her way into the box, sending the ball past the keeper and into the bottom right corner for what would be the deciding goal of the contest.

"I think she's grown a lot," Seifert said of Walker. "She played a couple games on offense last year as a freshman and scored a goal at Keokuk, so I kind of saw her as that tall forward who can muscle her way through and that's been what's happening.

"In a 1 vs. 1 chase, she can use her body and her strength to get past the defender and get it in the box. She can create that space and turn and shoot."

In the 20th minute of the second half, Mount Pleasant was awarded a penalty kick after the officials called a foul on Alyssa Fincher. Mary West took the penalty shot for the Panthers, but Pumphrey was exactly where she needed to be for the save. Just two minutes later the Hounds' senior keeper was tested again by West, but recorded a goal saving dive to keep Mount Pleasant at zero.

With Fort Madison still holding the 1-0 lead late in the



Photo by Ethan Lillard/PCC

Fort Madison's Anna Kester (5) chases down the ball in the Lady Hounds' 1-0 win over Mt. Pleasant Tuesday night at Baxter Sports Complex.

second half, Mount Pleasant needed points fast. Whether it be intentional or not, Mount Pleasant's Ryann Davidson nearly tied the game in the 13th minute. After fielding the ball several feet in front of the midfield line, Davidson kicked a high arching shot towards the goal that fooled Pumphrey.

Pumphrey started to back pedal, but fell down. Luckily for her, her goalie instincts came into play as she threw out her hand and deflected the ball away for the save.

"It probably would have," Pumphrey said when asked

if she thought the ball would have went into the goal had she not got a glove on it. "I think it was a mis-kick honestly. It was so high I just had to get back and I slipped."

Just when it appeared the Bloodhounds were out of the woods, they were called for a handball with under 30 seconds on the clock. Mount Pleasant was awarded a free kick on its own side of the field within scoring distance. By the time officials placed the ball and Apryl Simon lined up the shot for Mount Pleasant, there were just five seconds left on the clock.



Photo by Ethan Lillard/PCC

Fort Madison's Brandy Walker looks for a seam as she moves the ball up the midfield in Tuesday night's 1-0 win over Mt. Pleasant. Fort Madison is now 7-4 on the year and in second place in the Southeast Conference.

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Sports/Classifieds

Boys knock off Washington on the road

BY PCC STAFF

FAIRFIELD – Fort Madison’s boys soccer team pushed one step closer to the top of the Southeast conference Monday, defeating conference foe Washington on the Trojan’s home turf 2-0.

Both teams went scoreless in the first half, before Austin Sexton broke the scoreless drought less than two minutes into the second half for a 1-0 advantage.

Sexton set up Rueben Eid shortly after for the Bloodhounds second goal of the game, as Fort Madison went on to win by the final score of 2-0, improving to 7-6 on the season and 5-2 in the conference.

Javier Trejo collected eight saves for Fort Madison to earn the clean sheet. The Bloodhounds are at Fairfield for their final conference game Thursday.

The Hounds are now 8-6 on the season and play host to Burlington Friday night at Baxter Sports Complex and have one five of their last six, sandwiched around a 1-2 loss to Mt. Pleasant a week ago.

HTC girls move to 9-4 with win

PCC STAFF

WEST POINT – The Holy Trinity Catholic girls soccer team is finding their groove as the regular season winds down.

HTC knocked off Canton, Mo., 5-1 on Monday night behind two second half goals from junior Elle Rashid. Rashid scored her first goal at the 22-minute mark of the second period and then took a crossing pass from sophomore Claire Pothitakis for a header into the net.

The Crusaders got the other three goals from Nicole Pothitakis, Claire Pothitakis and Taylor Boeding. Boeding led HTC with five of the squads 20 shots on goal on the night.

Head Coach Michael Sheerin said Taylor Crabtree was named player of the game, playing “with all the zest and vigor of a natural winger.” Crabtree led the team with three assists.

He credited Katie Scoville, and Eryn Anderson with keeping Canton’s offense off balance.

Junior Sam Pothitakis had saves in the match allowing just one goal.

The Crusaders are still playing without the services of seniors Elyse Pothitakis and Mya Lawlor, who suffered injuries in the Adidas Tournament of Champions 10 days ago in Burlington.

The Crusaders at 9-4 on the year and head into a big matchup with Burlington at Bracewell Stadium Thursday night. They then get a week off before hosting Fort Madison at South Park in West Point on May 16th.

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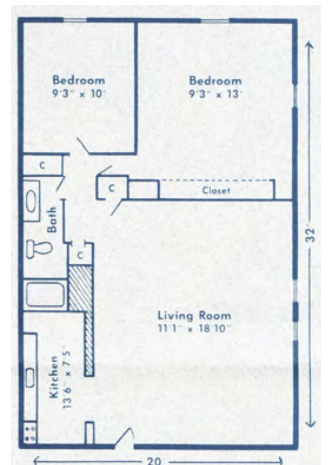
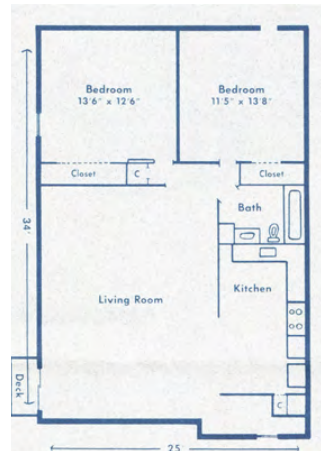
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From the Front/Weather

Sewer rate boost still coming

INCREASE - Continued from Page 1

pipes out there 50-100 years old and over the past 20-30 years the city has not kept up proper maintenance. The second one is the federal government telling us we have to upgrade our 40 year old waste water treatment plant. And the third is the federal government telling us we have to separate our sanitary sewer from our storm sewer.”

Varley said the difficult part is people in Washington DC or Des Moines sit and make these decision, but they don't have to stand in front of residents who pay the bill.

“I would love to get some of them out here some-time because I think some of their regulations are a little overbearing. We're the one's who have to pass on bad news and live with this,” he said.

“Those combined together, if we don't do the rate increase or a smaller one, we won't be able to keep up with maintenance or finish our CSO projects on time.”

Rusty Andrews said he found the council packet where the rates were raised last time on the same issues and deadlines.

“Were we wrong? Did we not raise them enough last time?”

Driscoll said estimates were done in 2014 and the city has had overruns on those projects.

“I present the project to you guys and you guys vote on it,” Driscoll said. “When that happened we have had almost \$5 million in overruns.”

He said the \$5 million was taken out of reserves, the fund that paid for other sewer improvements.

Varley said extending sewer lines to High Point and Blackhawk Heights, as well as Silgan and Siemens which has also stretched the fund thin

City Councilman Bob Morawitz asked Public Works Director Larry Driscoll if there was a way to soften the blow to residents out of the gate.

“Is there anyway we can maybe reduce the initial increase and possibly bump the yearly increase after that?” Morawitz asked Driscoll. “It's only six bucks a month, but I'm telling you this is going to hurt some people.”

The council agreed without a vote to have Driscoll look at other options for the increase including a lower rate increase now with higher annual contributions. The issue is scheduled to be put on the next council agenda for May 21.

In other action, the council voted to continue to look at options for the Idol Rashid building on the west side of the city.

The council was considering deeding the property to the Fort Madison Food Pantry, but Varley said Iowa law prohibits a city from donating property to another non-governmental agency. He said, however, counties may not have the same limitation and the city could look into giving the property to the county, who could then deed it to the Food Pantry.

Randolph said he preferred the city continue to go down that road since that it was what they agreed to do at last week's meeting. Varley said he would continue to research the issue.

The council also:

- voted 5-0 to approve the purchase of a used bucket truck for the Traffic Safety Department
- voted 3-2 in favor of allowing the severing of property at 2208 48th Street. However, City Attorney Robert Johnson advised Randolph that the resolution would require a minimum of four votes one way or the other, so the issue technically failed. Councilmen Matt Mohrfeld and Chad Cangas were absent.
- voted 5-0 to move \$226,230 from the water department back to the general fund to replace costs associated with a transfer station built on Bluff Road as an incentive to GreenOak Development.
- voted 5-0 to approve an amendment to the agreement between the city and the Iowa Department of Transportation recognizing an additional \$400,000 in funding for the railroad depot project.



Courtesy photo

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Ambassador Club welcomed two new providers and a new CFO to FMCH this morning. Welcome to Dr. Goronga, Dr. Argonyo, and Dan Linhart. Pictured are front from left to right: Carrie Green, Savanna Collier, Dr. Goronga, Dr. Argonyo, Dan Linhart, and Shelby Burchett. Back row left to right are: Steve Eschman, Tim Gobble, Chad Ward, Jerry Koering, Cindy Greer, Thomas Klann, Emily Benjamin, Sabrina Snaadt, Elaine Meemken, Jessica Shaw, Leia Morrison, Justin Pieper, Debbie Miller.

Only adults will be allowed in after hours

SERVICE - Continued from Page 1

it can work.

The Y has added additional security measures, including software that includes a fob members can carry on their key chain that can be used at the door for after-hours access.

Only members 18 years of age and older will be allowed in after hours, and security equipment throughout the building will monitor traffic.

“With the add-on memberships for 24-hour access, they'll have to sign that they will go by the rules. Anyone caught violating age or attendance rules can have the access revoked,” Wilson said.

When the YMCA closes on June 3 at 9 p.m., the after-hour access will go live, Wilson said.

As an incentive the YMCA and Wilson put out a video on Facebook, and are inviting viewers to “Like” the video for a chance to win three months of the 24-hour access. That contest ends at noon on Friday, May 10th.

Wilson also reminded the community that the local t-ball coach pitch deadline is approaching, and the annual YMCA week activities are being finalized.

“We'll be having an open house on May 30 where donors and sponsors and the community can come and get information about the YMCA...what we're doing... and where we're going,” Wilson said.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 08 May



Heavy Intensity Rain
High– 64.5° F | Low – 62.9° F

THU 09 May



Light Rain
High– 57.1° F | Low – 47.4° F

FRI 10 May



Clear
High– 59.7° F | Low – 47.0° F

SAT 11 May



Light Rain
High– 60.4° F | Low – 52.7° F

SUN 12 May



Light Rain
High– 67.6° F | Low – 50.0° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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