

August Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, August 3, 2009

Where: Hyde Park United
Methodist Church
4001 Speedway

Who: YOU and your neighbors

Note: HPNA general meetings usually take place on the first Monday of each month.

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for August 3rd

- TreeFolks Presentation
- Elizabeth Ney Capital Improvement Project Update from Austin Public Works

See You There!

Made in the Shade?

TreeFolks to Revive Planting Program in Hyde Park

Good news, neighbors – TreeFolks has agreed to bring its “Neighborwoods” tree planting program back to Hyde Park!

At our August 3 HPNA meeting, Shannon Halley of TreeFolks, will outline the program that offers free young trees for planting along these streets, needed to replace the ones Monroe Shipe planted to create Hyde Park’s “perfect shade” at the close of the 19th Century.

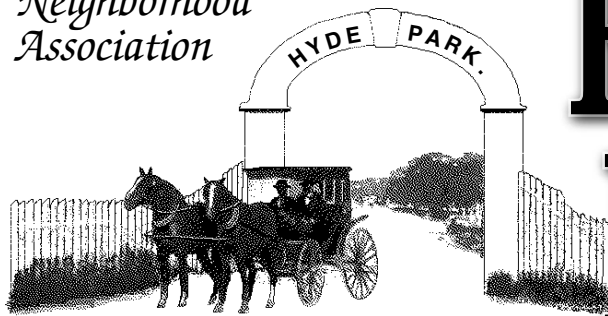
Drought conditions, as well as all the other threats facing our treasured urban forest here in Hyde Park, are taking a heavy toll this year, adding new urgency to the need to replant and restore our shade canopy for the future.

Ms. Halley, Associate Director of TreeFolks and member of the Urban Forestry Board, will also explain some new tools and volunteer opportunities available to those who are anxious to turn our concern about the welfare of our trees into meaningful action.

TreeFolks representatives will mark qualifying spots along

Continued on page 3

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Pecan Press

August, 2009 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 35, No. 8

The Local Historic District Corner

Writer's note: This column will appear regularly while the Local Historic District project is underway. If you have any questions or concerns about local historic districts that you would like addressed, please get in touch: <lweidich@mail2sevenses.com> or 300-2228.

There is a light at the end of most tunnels, and in the case of the never-ending Hyde Park Local Historic District project, it's the glow from the smiles of all the supporters of the district. July 17 was the kick-off of our drive to collect signatures of support, but even before the kickoff meeting, we had around 30 signers. Our presentation by John Paul Moore brought in additional supporters. By the time you read this column, Block Captains will be collecting signatures throughout Hyde Park.

The first 100 signers – individuals, couples, churches, businesses, and institutions – will be recognized as the Founders of the Hyde Park Local Historic District. Our first Founders were Eugene and Mary Carolyn George of Avenue G, who signed their Statement of Support on July 5, 2009.

As of July 18, the following Hyde Park property owners have become Founders:

*Aarons, I. Jay and Barbara Gibson
Anderson, Jane
Anderson, Sharon
Beall, John and Cindy
Bednar, Deaton
Brown, Don and Sharon
Burton, Amon and Carol C.
Cates, Lloyd and Karin W.*



Long-time Hyde Park residents and noted historic preservationists Eugene and Mary Carolyn George are the first to sign on as Founding Supporters of the Hyde Park Local Historic District. Photo by Lorre Weidlich

*Clark, Kathryn S.
Cooper, John
Cuny, Eugene and Patricia Tuohy
Evans, Eliza
Ferguson, Pat and Cathy
Fishman, Mark L.
George, Eugene W. and Mary Carolyn
Grimes, Carolyn E.
Hohengarten, John M. and Nancy
Jackson, Carol
Johnson, Arlen and Ann S. Graham
Kennedy, Pete and Maria-Elena
Cigarroa
Kerr, John R. and Susan A.*

Continued on page 3

From the President's Desk:

As I write this article, I am reflecting on how busy the neighbors in Hyde Park have been with neighborhood activities! The 2009 Homes Tour was a great success.

In addition, Hyde Park (south of 45th street) will be filing the Hyde Park Local Historic District application with the Historic Landmark Commission very soon. Both of these undertakings took a lot of work from dedicated neighbors and volunteers. Specifically, the LHD Design Guidelines were developed by a group of individuals who came forth with new ideas and insight along with a group that were strict preservationists. The end result is the proposed LHD Design Guidelines that will protect the fabric of the neighbor-

hood but still will allow creativity in new construction.

Another accomplishment being pursued is the Hegman Subdivision Local Historic District in the North Hyde Park Area. The neighbors have drafted their particular Design Guidelines specific to the area and are gathering homeowner signatures. They too hope to be filing their application with the Historic Landmark Commission very soon.

Last but not least, a Caswell-Ridgetop Annex Local Historic District project, also in the North Hyde Park area, is starting. With city historic landmarked hous-

es such as the Morrison-Smith House and the Worley House, this area will be recognized as a valuable and historic section of Hyde Park (north of 45th street). So with all these important tasks involving volunteers and their time in all corners of Hyde Park (North, South, East, and West!), I plan to propose to the Steering Committee to rethink the budget for the 2009 HPNA Christman Party. Lastly, I know this may not be politically correct due to water rationing, but if you can spare a little water, please water the trees in your area, as they are looking a little stressed! So let's all do a rain dance and have a good summer!

— David Conner
 HPNA President
 <daypaycon@yahoo.com>



Pecan Press

The Pecan Press is published monthly by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association in Austin, Texas.

Note: Each month's ad and editorial deadline is the 15th of month preceding publication.

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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

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<http://www.austinhypark.org>

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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment 2008-09 Membership

2008-09 Membership

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Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash	Date _____		
All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.			

Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to:

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 Austin, Texas 78765

Make checks payable to HPNA.

Made in the Shade?

...cont'd from page 1

neighborhood streets for tree planting for the Neighborhood Streets program and leave an order form and information about the program with adjoining property owners.

Participating property owners fill out the form, select from a menu of tree species and must agree to plant and water the trees until they are established. The free trees are delivered at planting time, along with planting and care instructions.

The program is sponsored by Austin Energy as part of the city's Heat Island Initiative.

We can also talk at the meeting about things we can do to help our existing trees survive, especially pruning, mulching and watering.

— John Paul Moore
Tree Preservation Chair



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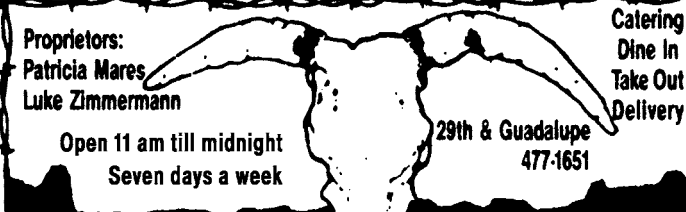
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Local Historic District Corner...

...cont'd from page 1

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Lawyer, John and Katie Vignery
Liljestrand, Howard M. & Blinda McClelland
Marburger, Alan and Karen McGraw
Moore, John Paul and Catherine H.
Nyberg, Jason and Renee Schuh
Paris, Michelle
Penn, Wanda M.
Rhodes, Andy and Paula
Richter, Dorothy
Robey, John and Sarah (Sally)
Ryall, Ken and Sandy Kearns
Sanders, Geoffrey
Sanders, Janet
Spelman, William and Niyanta
Thomas, H. Grant and Margot
Van Bavel, Nick and Linda
Walker, E. Lee and Jennifer Vickers
Wechsler, Steve and Inga Marie Carmel
Weidlich, Lorre
Williams, John and Michelle Rossomando
Wilson, Adam and Caroline
Wiseman, Cele*

If you'd like to become a Founder, sign a Statement of Support. You can download it from the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association website or get it from one of the Block Captains in the neighborhood. Return it to the Block Captain, mail it to me at 4313 Avenue F, or put in the LHD box on my front porch. But do it soon, so you make it into the first 100!

— Lorre Weidlich, Hyde Park Local
Historic District Chair



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Please note that the companies and individuals listed below are listed solely on the basis of their willingness to provide blower-free service, and they have not been researched as to insurances, licenses, BBB membership, or any other compliances or customer service aspects, so please inquire.

Blower-Free Lawn Care Service Providers

- Debi Rivier-Harris and Edward Harris, <diwimama@gmail.com>
- Eugene Esquivel, 844-9790
- Mr. Green Glove, 903-6959, <kevin@mrgreen-glove.com>
- ABC Services, 837-9500 (see yellow pages ad)
- A Perfect Service, 480-9771 (Charles) or 699-9574 (Melissa)
- Sacred Soil (call Maria Mabra), 633-0717
- Alex's Lawn Care (call Alex Urquidi), 459-1962
- Ronnie Valentine Lawn Service, (call Ronnie) 323-5045 (cell: 466-8397)

Note: If you are a service provider, or know of a service provider, who can provide blower-free service, please contact Mary Lou Serafine <sonata0516@yahoo.com> or 220-5452; or John Kerr <JFK@grande-com.net> or 451-3931 to be included in future editions of this list.



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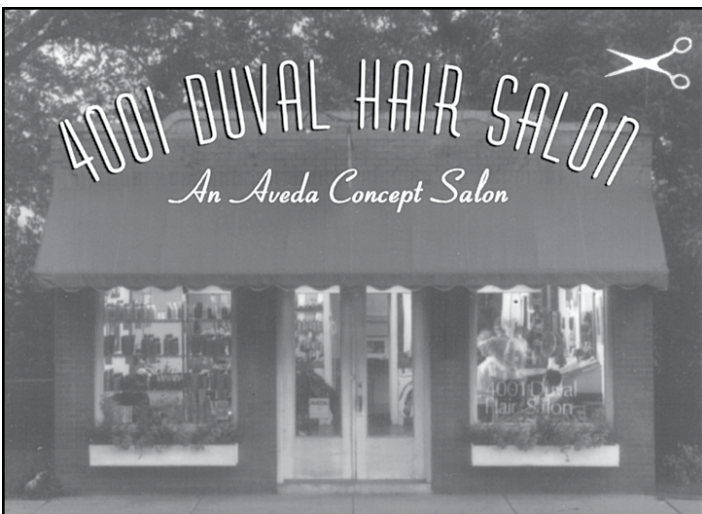
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The common house fly has two wings, is dull gray with black stripes on the thorax (the section where the wings are attached). Eggs are usually laid on animal fecal material or garbage. Maggots, the immature stage of a fly, are small, white, carrot-shaped and legless.

The key to fly management is sanitation, or cleaning. Eliminate breeding sites by picking up animal waste at least once or twice a week; empty garbage cans regularly; clean garbage cans at least once a month with soapy water. Keep garbage cans located away from doors that lead into the home and make sure they have tight fitting lids.

Other items that can help reduce fly problems include keeping window screens in good repair; making sure doors and windows have a tight seal and weather stripping is in good condition and using fly swatters or sticky fly paper to get rid of adult flies.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Also check out <www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com>



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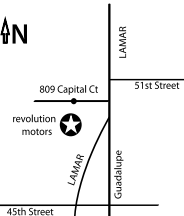


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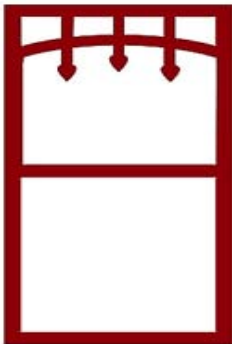
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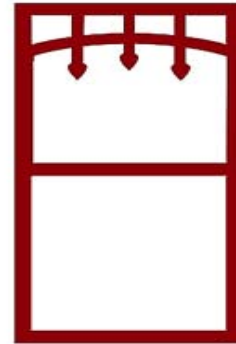
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Constable's Notebook



August 2009

by Constable Bruce Elfant

Law enforcement officials have long understood how integral healthy neighborhood schools are to ensuring vibrant and safe communities. Police officers who serve as school resource officers and mentors and who patrol around schools understand the direct relationship between healthy schools and safe neighborhoods. Closing schools as a strategy to improve academic performance could result in similar unintended consequences on communities as when community or retail centers are shuttered. A void is left where there used to be activity and energy.

Like so many others, I was caught off guard last month when the Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced Pearce Middle School would close due to unacceptable academic performance. The Texas Legislature had just provided TEA with additional flexibility to help keep schools open. Overall student test scores at Pearce had improved significantly even though eighth grade science scores were weaker than hoped. On June 10, TEA awarded Pearce a \$50,000 grant. Inexplicably less than a month later TEA Commissioner Robert Scott announced Pearce would close.

Continued on page 12



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**the formation
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Hyde Park Local Historic District**

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Note: Pictured are neighbors who had signed on as founding supporters of the Hyde Park Local Historic District as of our July 15 deadline. A listing of LHD Founders thus far is presented elsewhere in this issue.
Photos and composite artwork by Carol Cohen Burton

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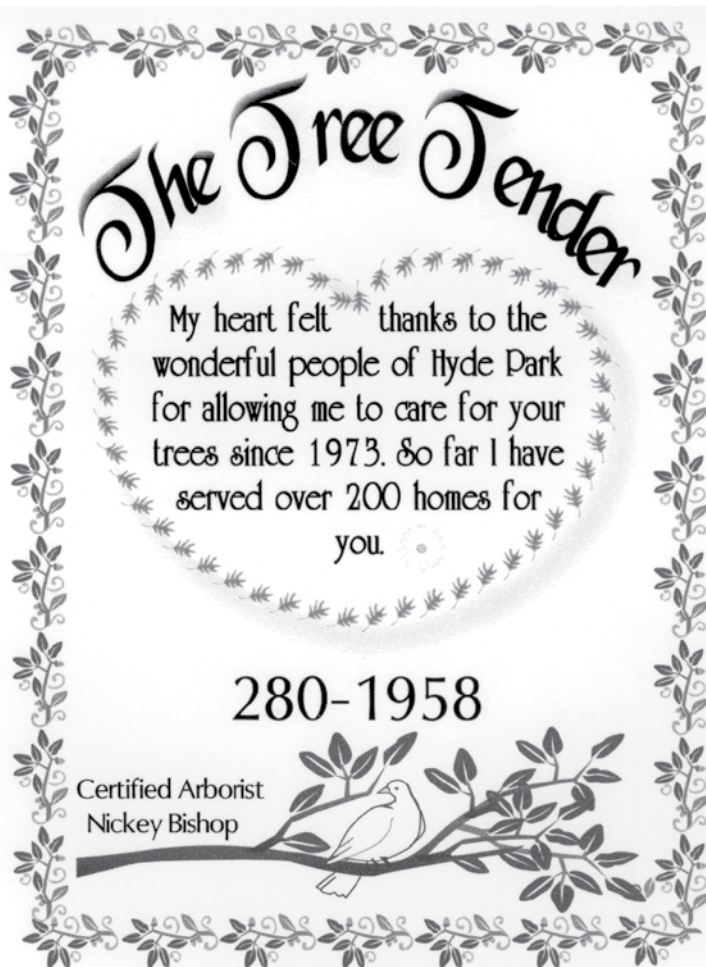
Constable's Notebook...

...cont'd from page 10

For years the overall academic performance of Pearce students has been unacceptable. No one suggests otherwise. Ninety-five percent of Pearce students are considered economically disadvantaged which compounds their challenges. Some community leaders have expressed their belief that AISD officials share some blame for the closure as a result of years of neglect and because of failure to provide the attention and resources that Pearce needed to remain viable.

While many people take issue with closing struggling schools, it has been understood that schools should only be closed as a very last resort. If the academic scores at Pearce had not measurably improved this school closure would probably not be so controversial. Pearce students, teachers and parents developed a plan to improve academic performance and for the last two years test scores increased significantly. One would have expected TEA and AISD to praise and embrace this progress while pledging to aggressively attack the weaker science scores. Instead, even with other options at his disposal and a contrary recommendation from staff, Commissioner Scott chose to give up on Pearce.

The Texas Education Agency should vacate this decision to close Pearce and instead challenge them to build on their progress. AISD officials should commit the necessary resources and enlist community partners to help ensure success. Academically underperforming Texas schools which demonstrate meaningful academic progress deserve to know they will be supported and assisted, not shuttered.



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Letters Dept.

Hyde Park, Texas, U.S.A.?

Dear Neighbors,

I would like to propose that Hyde Park should secede from the City of Austin and be incorporated as a separate city. Think about it. Hyde Park has clear boundaries, a diverse population with a common culture, a body of citizens already sufficiently organized (but working for free) to operate in complex and sophisticated ways on behalf of its residents, and a fire station, post office, gym, museum, local businesses, and both rental and owner-occupied housing. Decentralization of political power is the way that people take control of their government and way of life. Large political units generate large bureaucracies which tend to feed on themselves, ineffectively meeting the needs of the people, meanwhile wasting money while they generate "projects" that no one would buy or invest in, if they had known of the details. (think: light-rail system)

Before you write off this idea, consider: New York is already broken up into separate boroughs, with at least some decentralization. Los Angeles essentially contains within it many smaller cities—Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, and Culver City to name a few. These smaller cities thrive. Hollywood is only a neighborhood within LA (not a city), and I hear it is trying to secede. And after Katrina, some neighborhoods in New Orleans by themselves formed partnerships with businesses and other organizations, to re-build their way of life, while the city bureaucrats fiddled. This has led to a proposal that New Orleans break up into separate, individual cities, according to the neighborhoods that took on their challenges. (Forbes, April 9, 2007) Even in Austin, homeowner associations in the suburbs have taken over significant governance, enforcement, and service-provision.

But wait. Don't larger cities lead to economies of scale that result in better and cheaper services—because more people pool their money? I ask you: Have city services improved in Austin in the last 20 years, as population, taxes, and rates have gone up? Or have services become worse and more expensive?

As with vegetables and book stores, so with government: Local is better. Hyde Park would make a great small city.

— Mary Lou Serafine

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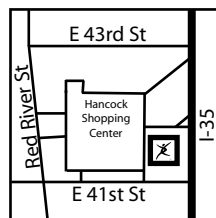
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In the 'hood that we know as Hyde Park
These are dog days in need of a spark;
So let's start a contest
To find out who rhymes best
And entice talent out of the dark!

The form? - Limericks, dear readers, please write
About Hyde Park in daytime or night
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Vintage Properties Available



703 East 32nd Street This updated 1940 cottage has room to entertain – indoors and out -- spacious living, formal dining and family room plus study/office. Three bedrooms, 1.5 baths, detached garage and storage, large shady back yard. Six blocks to UT, 2 to St. David’s, 2 to Lee Elementary, 2 to Eastwoods Park. **\$419,500**



801 East 32nd Street This 1959 ranch-style house on Waller Creek has been translated into a tropical garden with pool, spa and greenhouses. It has two bedrooms, three baths, two living rooms, a formal dining room, breakfast area, utility room, huge rear sunroom, 2496 sf of living space on the main level and a full basement. **\$539,000**



826 Harris Avenue Charm, character and convenience - all in this updated, energy efficient 1939 traditional home with formal living and dining, large kitchen & breakfast room, 1 bedrm & bath downstairs; 3 beds, playroom and bath up; 2-car gar. 8 blocks to UT, 1 to Lee Elementary **\$591,862**



3103 Harris Park Ave This 1930 Cottage, a short walk from UT, has 4 bedrooms and 2 baths plus a 2 car garage with a 500 sf upstairs apartment. Redone in and out with decorator colors. It has a town-house-size lot, but Eastwoods Park is only steps away. **Reduced to \$449,000.**



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July Meeting Minutes

Blue Bell vanilla.
Mellow neighbors sharing news.
Life in 'hood is good.
— Denise Girard, HPNA Co-Secretary

(Editor's note: The first (and only) item on the July agenda was an ice cream social.)

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- Mary Carolyn George

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Address: **1200 Norwood Road**

Listed For: **\$219,000**

FOR SALE

1200Norwood.com

Cute 2/1 home (1426 sf) on a huge tree-covered .28 acre lot. Just north of Airport Blvd and adjoining the Mueller development hike and bike trail. (trail actually enters neighborhood via an easement on the west edge of the property) Close to everything, great investment potential, and at a bargain price.



Address: **506 Texas Avenue**

Listed For: **\$650,000**

SOLD

www.506TexasAve.com

One of the great historic homes in Austin is now available. This 1914 grand estate features a .37 acre lot, 3252 sf main house and 482 sf guest house. Original stained wood trim, high open ceilings, period detailing & hardware, amazing wood flooring, & a classic front porch overlooking one of the best streets in Austin.



Address: **113 West 33rd Street**

Listed For: **\$775,000**

SOLD

www.33StClassic.com

Classic Aldridge Place estate. 3081sf 4 or 5 bedroom/3 bath main house and 236 sf garage apt. Traditional brick construction, slate roof, original long leaf pine wood trim, beautiful hardwoods, amazing period tile work, stunning master bath, and antique lighting.



Address: **4701 Evans Avenue**

Listed For: **\$295,000**

SOLD

www.4701Evans.com

Great house on a great lot. Outstanding location- just a few blocks from all the Hyde Park shops and restaurants. Enormous 75'X135' / 10,125sf corner lot. Bright open floor plan with huge windows and hardwood flooring. Large hip kitchen, versatile utility room, formal dining room, and a study with french doors overlooking the huge private back yard.



Address: **4812 Caswell Avenue**

Listed For: **\$269,900**

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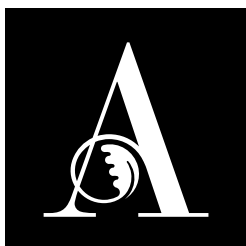


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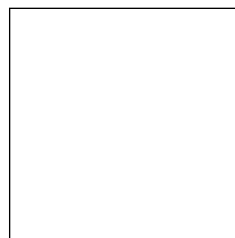
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