



Holly Jolly, everyone!

South Venice Beach Wave

DECEMBER 2023

The heart of South Venice since 1955

UPCOMING EVENTS

SVCA's Annual Breakfast with Santa!

SATURDAY
December 9
8:00 to 10:00am

\$8 Members
\$10 non-Members



Let's celebrate the holidays together!

Wine & Cheese Social

Monday, DECEMBER 18 at 7:00pm

This social takes the place of our regular monthly meeting. We're having a party instead. So dig out those ugly (or nice) holiday sweaters, hats and antlers and get into the spirit!

Saturday, DEC 16 10am to noon

Burgers and Dogs at the Beach

MEETINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday, DEC 11 at 3:30pm

GARDEN CLUB

Monday, DEC 18 at 1:00pm

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, DEC 12 at 3:00pm

CERT Emergency Response Team

Thursday, DEC 28 at 6:30pm
at Venice Gardens Comm. Center



November 18 was SVCA's first-ever Brat Fry. We had a ton of fun and attracted lots of hungry folks. You won't want to miss the next one at the January 20 Flea Market. Huge thanks to Mario and Stacy Fiorentino, Paul Gilmartin and Brian Martinez.

Come join in some Holiday cheer at SVCA on December 18



We'll be celebrating the season at our annual Wine and Cheese Social on Monday, December 18 at 7:00pm. It's free to members and a guest (non-members are \$10.00). This is in place of our General Meeting.

This year, we're delighted to have singer/songwriter Dwight Sullivan joining us. He'll be performing a mixed set of holiday tunes and popular oldies. (Besides being a popular local musician, Dwight is also a new SVCA member.) In addition to the entertainment, we will raffle several gift baskets. It will be a fun evening so don't miss it. And feel free to wear your ugliest Christmas sweater!

South Venice Civic Association

*The heart of South Venice
since 1955*

**720 Alligator Drive
South Venice Beach, FL 34293**

Phone: 941-493-0006

Email: svca@southvenice.org

Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

www.southvenice.org

svca@southvenice.org

BOARD OFFICERS

Joan 'Cherry' Giovinazzo, President

Sandy Tulenko, Vice-president

Dianna Brannan, Treasurer

Paul Gilmartin, Secretary

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Bobbie Drummond

Susan Juranek, Mario Fiorentino

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Jodie Cooper

South Venice Beach WAVE

Editor: Maureen Holland

maureenholland@comcast.net

Calvary Chapel Sonlife

Sunday Morning at 10:00am

Wednesday Night Bible Study at 7:00pm

Right Here at the SVCA



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exclusive publisher of
this newsletter

South Venice Beach Wave

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The Heart of South Venice since 1955

**For 67 years, the SVCA has been here
for South Venice, for YOU!**

With your support, we are a strong
voice in Sarasota County



MEMBERSHIP MAKES US STRONG!

When we're strong, we are heard at the County on issues that affect us—like tree trimming, ditch mowing, code enforcement, mosquito spraying, drain maintenance, zoning, permitting, water and sewer.

Together, we work to keep South Venice a strong community!

Beautiful Neighborhoods Initiative • Water Quality Task Force • Siesta Waterway Clean-up • Shamrock Park Clean-up • Community Emergency Response Team • South Venice Garden Club Government Affairs Committee

One Community, One Mission

To protect, preserve and improve our community's character, environment and quality of life, and to bring South Venice together.

**JOIN or renew your membership
today at southvenice.org.**

Just click on New Member tab

Board Matters



FROM PAUL GILMARTIN

This column in the Wave is to keep you informed on what your Board is doing, and to provide you with financial reports and a summary of Executive board meeting minutes.

Exciting times for the SVCA! The new membership software is in testing and will be available to members before the year is out. Our newest goal is **building pickle ball courts behind the SVCA**. Please come to the **community meeting on December 14 at 7:00pm** to learn more.

Financial Summary: As of October 31, 2023

Current Assets:	\$39,982
Fixed Assets:	\$30,492
Total Assets:	\$70,474
Total Liabilities:	\$ 1,350
Total Income/gross Profit:	\$48,255
Total Expenses:	\$45,728
Net income:	\$ 3,071

Members can get a copy of Financials from the office during business hours.

Executive Board Meeting Summary:

The SVCA board met on November 13 in Executive session and discussed the financials listed above. Other items included:

- Discussed office business matters and changes to board roles
- Discussed 2024 draft budget and events
- Discussed the Craft Fair
- Negotiated third party contracts
- Updated website design
- Discussed building maintenance items
- Discussed South Venice Community Emergency Response Team plan for 2024

HOW TO CONTACT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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404-217-0870

Mario Fiorentino
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262-325-7575

Susan Juranek
susanjuranek@gmail.com
941-275-5401

- Discussed events for next six months including Craft Fair, Saturday food events, Breakfast with Santa, Wine and Cheese Social, Flea Market and other events.
- Discussed options to convert the basketball court behind the SVCA into new pickleball courts

SVCA members can find minutes and agendas at the office during business hours.

2024 Election of SVCA Board of Directors

The January 2024 election for Board of Directors is fast approaching! The draft 2024 Slate is as follows (we still have several open seats):

Sandy Tulenko	Paul Gilmartin
Susan Juranek	Bobbie Drummond
Mario Fiorentino	

Get any other nominations in to Paul Gilmartin or Susan Juranek by December 10.

2024 Appointment of SVBET Trustee

By December 31 each year, the SVCA Board of Directors is required to appoint one new Trustee to the South Venice Beach Endowment Trust. The Trustee position is a five-year assignment to help manage the business and operations of the Beach and Ferry. Please contact Paul Gilmartin at 619-368-6749 or stop by the SVCA office if you are interested in serving as a Trustee.

Hey! Pickleball anyone?

Some members of the community have expressed an interest in building Pickleball Courts behind the SVCA where the old basketball court is. And so, we're establishing a member-driven special committee to explore options to create one or more pickleball courts and figure out a way to fund and build them.

We are looking for anyone that is interested in the project to attend a special meeting at the SVCA on December 14 at



7:00pm. We will survey the community to see what the level of interest is in the project, discuss what would need to be done to build the courts, and figure out a way to fund the project.

Please attend the meeting if you are interested in helping out on the project or just interested in playing pickle ball at the SVCA.

Our annual Flea Market—this time with a Brat Fry

It's back by popular demand! SVCA's very popular Flea Market/Yard Sale is coming on Saturday, January 20 in the Civic Center and on the surrounding property. As in the past, we will sell tables to those who wish to make a few dollars on items they no longer use. Tables will cost \$25 each. You can contact Jodie by email or phone or stop in the office to reserve your table.



ART CLASS

Water Coloring with Carol Merenda every Wednesday at SVCA



Monthly sessions.

Course starts first Wednesday every month 12:00 to 3:00pm • The full course is \$130 (plus supplies)

New students register at the class or contact Carol at 941-366-2866 to get started.

The SVCA will also have several of its own tables and an outside area to sell gently used items. We welcome donations of furniture, kitchen items, linens, clothing . . . basically anything which can still be used (just not by you!). Those items can be dropped off at the SVCA center during regular office hours. If you need help getting your items to the hall, please call Dianna at 314-602-0297 or Cherry at 215-872-2943 and leave a voice mail. Someone will return your call. We turn your donations into welcome funds as we continue to maintain, improve and upgrade the SVCA facility and grounds.



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Trash Buddies cleaned up the Grove at Seminole and Quincy Roads on November 11. They left the entire area trash free — for a few days. Five volunteers filled five bags of trash. Thanks go to volunteer Trash Buddies Stephen Brown, Bill Brennan, Blaine Tippett and Laurie Hartman. As always, organizing it all, although not pictured, was Marla Wilcox behind the camera. *Want to join them? See info below.*

Community Improvement Projects UPCOMING WORKDAYS

We're a group of SVCA volunteers who, for over a decade, have gathered regularly for workdays in multiple locations — we are dedicated to removing trash from our waterways (like Siesta Creek) and our streets!



To join one of our teams or learn more contact Marla Wilcox at 303-818-3641 or Marlawilcox63@gmail.com

ALLIGATOR DRIVE CLEAN UP

Saturday, December 9 - 8:00am

(meet in SVCA parking lot)

THE GROVE CLEAN-UP

Saturday, December 16 - 9:00am

(meet at Seminole and Quincy)



**CERT: Community
Emergency Response
Team**

**Thursday, Dec. 28
at 6:30pm**

Joint meeting at Venice Gardens Community Center on Shamrock Blvd. New volunteers welcome!

Best of Venice Winner for 2022



Do I Have a Loss?

Blair Post, HAS, BC-HIS, ACA

Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences
American Conference of Audioprosthology

How do you know if you have a hearing loss?

The easy answer is you won't.

You won't notice at all. It is your family and friends who will notice your loss. They are the ones who have to repeat everything for you. They are the ones who repeat what the waitress said. They are the ones who repeat what the punchline of the joke is. They are the ones who repeat what your young grandchild asks. They are the ones who repeat what the news anchor announced as breaking news. They are the ones who repeat when the next meeting will be held.

We had a woman who heard me speak at her community event. She had asked the question, how do I know I have a loss? I told her only a hearing test would define any loss she had.

Karen heard her share that she was coming in as a favor to her son-in-law who was frustrated enough to say, I love you and I want you to hear what I say, please get your hearing tested.

As Karen remarked, that is a great man, to know that hearing what he says is how to show him love.

The sentence that saddened Karen was when the woman said, I don't think my loss is that bad. My husband and I hear the same things, so it isn't that bad of a loss. Karen didn't point out that hearing the same could mean both of them have a significant hearing loss. That neither are hearing what others are trying to share with them.

How do you know if you have a hearing loss? You have family and friends who repeat things for you. They love you enough to repeat things.

If you don't hear your friends and family the first time they share something and want a hearing test to know if you have a loss call 941-244-9300 for a free test.

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Beach Trust News

From CHERYL COOPER

Hello after a long summer. We hope everyone is back and settling in for the holiday season. A few announcements from the Trust.

First, Trustee Joe Lewis has taken over as chair of the SVBET. Joe is retired from a long career in the insurance business. He's been a huge asset to the Trust assisting for the past three years with the coastguard inspections, beach repair after Ian, repairs of all kinds, and coordinating the captains. He has been involved in so many aspects of managing the Trust, this is the next logical step.



Joe Lewis

We will begin selling the ferry passes on December 16, 2023. The passes are annual only and run from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. There is no prorating. (If you buy a pass in the middle of the year, it still ends December 31, 2024. Similar to last year, A limited number of non-resident passes will be sold on a first come, first served basis. The number of non resident passes are limited to 50 annually.

The beach suffered heavy damage during Ian and even recently. Despite applying, and using the services of a con-

sulting company, we received no federal aid for repairs. The ferry also suffered damages and had to undergo repairs at a large expense in October last year. We are forced to raise the prices. The annual fees are as follows:

Resident ferry	\$180.00
Resident boat ramp	\$150.00
Non resident ferry	\$360.00
Non resident boat ramp	\$300.00

Damages to the beach and walkway were extensive, cost a lot to repair, and it continues.

The passes you bought last year are renewable. You do not need to get new photos or a new ID. The entrance system is functioning and after the first of the year if your ferry pass does not swipe green, you will not be able to use the ferry. The regulation of the passes is electronic. There will only be a 10-day grace period in which to renew you passes, but after January 10, 2024, if your pass does not swipe green you will not gain access to the ferry until you clear the issue with the office. Lifetime members need not contact the office.

We will be doing some events this year to try to raise some extra funds in order to keep the prices from going up. We hope you will support the SVBET and the ferry by attending. The first event is on December 16 - we will be selling hot dogs, hamburgers, sodas and water at the ferry. We need to raise money to purchase yet another motor for the

Continued on Page 9

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We love our volunteers!

From SANDY TULENKO

Every organization survives and grows stronger through its membership and its volunteers. This month we're giving a shout out to two very special people who stepped up and volunteered their skill and expertise to perform repairs that would have cost the SVCA hundreds of dollars in labor.

Manual Gennadopoulos replaced the hot water tank early this month. It had failed and leaked water throughout the kitchen and restroom during the previous day's church service. After discussing our choices and helping with the selection process, he picked up the new tank and installed it in a most professional manner. Thanks you, Manual.

Jim Drummond took on the task of removing and replacing the back kitchen door. The door had warped badly and could not even be locked without pushing or pulling it while trying to turn the knob. Jim spent a good deal of time leveling and adjusting the new door. The cement/block opening was far from square. He had his hands full but he finished and did a great job. Thank you, Jim.

The SVCA building was built in 1955. There are always things that need to be repaired or replaced. For instance, we need to replace soffits that were blown off by hurricane Ian, one of our kitchen burners does not work, the men's room bathroom floor needs to be replaced or repaired, etc. If you can volunteer to assist in any of these repairs it will be greatly appreciated.



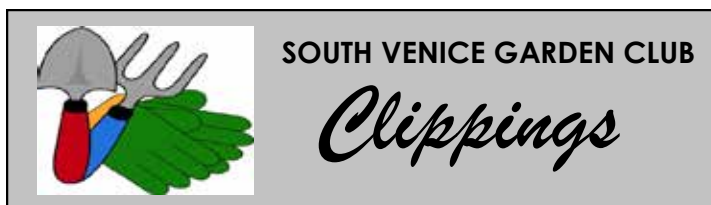
It was a great turnout at November General Meeting for Chris Mandel's presentation on Hunting Fossils.

small backyard garden, plant a seed, create new life, then eat it. There's something optimistic about a garden. It gives you an understanding that life does re-create itself."

Seeds, soil, plants, fertilizer, containers, space – Wolinsky takes the organic approach every time in what he and wife Sharon sell at farmers' markets and their home to local customers.

- Seeds: Only from Renee's Garden and Johnny's Selected Seeds
- Soil: A mixture of his own compost and ProMix.
- Plants: His own vegetable and Florida-friendly plants that he starts and nourishes
- Fertilizer: A special mix which is fresh and helps depleted soil
- Containers: No to terra cotta and glazed pots (plants

Continued on page 11



FROM DEBBIE SULLIVAN

We Can All Be Backyard Gardeners!

At their November meeting of the club, Ian Wolinsky, aka the Gourmet Gardener, gave members hope that they can, with the proper knowledge, become backyard gardeners despite the challenges of Southwest Florida growing conditions.

A Long Islander who learned to garden from his grandfather, Wolinsky now calls Englewood home. He's a chef and master gardener specializing in urban farming and creating edible gardens and Florida-friendly landscapes. He's helped more than 200 Broward County school and community gardens and thousands of home gardeners since moving to Florida.

"We help you develop a green thumb," he said. "Build a



Right: Checking out the plant's to be raffled— always a meeting highlight! Above: All smiles, Sharon Wollinsky of Gourmet Gardeners helps Julie Paddock select some plants.



DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Arts & Crafts Fair 9:00am to 2:00pm
3 Calvary Chapel Service 10:00am	4 SVCA Board—Events Committee 1:00pm	5	6 ART CLASS 12-3pm Calvary Chapel Bible Study 7:00pm	7	8	9 Breakfast with Santa 8:00am to 10:00pm Alligator Drive Cleanup 8:00am
10 Calvary Chapel Service 10:00am	11 SVCA Board Meeting 3:30pm	12 BOOK CLUB 3:00pm	13 ART CLASS 12-3pm Calvary Chapel Bible Study 7:00pm	14 Special community meeting/discussion on Pickleball 7:00pm	15	16 Beach Burgers & Dogs 10:00am to 1:00pm
17 Calvary Chapel Service 10:00am	18 GARDEN CLUB 1:00pm Holiday Wine & Cheese Social 7:00pm	19	20 ART CLASS 12-3pm Calvary Chapel Bible Study 7:00pm	21 CERT 6:30pm Community Emergency Response Team at Venice Gardens CC	22	23
24 Calvary Chapel Service 10:00am	25	26	27 ART CLASS 12-3pm Calvary Chapel Bible Study 7:00pm	28	29	30
31 Calvary Chapel Service 10:00am	COMING in 2024 Pancake Breakfasts on JANUARY 13 and FEBRUARY 10 JANUARY 20 • Flea Market and Brat Fry JANUARY 14 • General Meeting with Corky Dalton MARCH 2 • Garden Club's Big Annual Plant Sale					

Beach News *continued*

ferry. (This was done in 2020, but the engine is not holding up like they used to).

Please remember that the ferry and beach are non-profit, there is no profit to take from. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated. The prices of the ferry passes basically cover the captain pay, and the cost of the marine maintenance mechanic.

The stairs in the beach are severely damaged again. The amazing volunteers from our community are hard at work to straighten these stairs and come up with another solution.

Thank you for your support to keep our beautiful beach open and beautiful.


Don't miss out on important information!

Please make sure we have your *current email address* on file. We continue to add features to our new website and shortly we'll be adding a membership portal, which will only work for you if our records reflect your current email address. Just email Jodi in the SVCA office with your current address.


South Venice

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HOME SALES October 16 to November 15, 2023

Address	HTD	BE	FB	Built	Pool	Garage	Lot Size	ADOM	List Price	Close Price
5635 STEPHENS RD	1,376	3	2	1966	None		8,000	32	\$289,000	\$295,000
293 GRANT RD	1,167	2	2	1973	None		8,000	100	\$320,000	\$307,000
1215 LEMON BAY DR	1,422	2	2	1979	None	1	8,000	76	\$345,000	\$340,000
1210 GRAHAM RD	1,453	3	2	1958	None		12,000	67	\$346,900	\$346,900
5910 REGENT RD	1,304	3	2	1997	None	2	8,000	66	\$369,000	\$361,000
432 BEVERLY RD	1,312	3	2	1988	Private	2	10,000	2	\$400,000	\$401,000
4731 EGRET RD	1,471	2	2	1980	Private	2	10,000	65	\$427,000	\$405,000
270 SOUTHLAND RD	990	2	1	1961	None	1	12,000	3	\$249,900	\$249,000
391 BARD RD	1,091	2	2	1987	None	1	8,000	1	\$330,000	\$330,000
111 ABALONE RD	1,155	2	2	1987	None	2	8,000	26	\$345,000	\$331,380
586 CORONADO RD	1,212	3	2	1973	None		8,000	107	\$335,000	\$335,000
854 CUMBERLAND RD	868	2	2	1978	Private	1	8,000	4	\$325,000	\$350,000
3090 ARROWHEAD RD	1,956	3	2	1963	None	2	14,529	258	\$370,000	\$350,000
1007 S VENICE BLVD	1,672	3	2	1971	None	1	10,000	9	\$390,000	\$352,500
1350 SOUTHLAND RD	1,310	2	2	1991	None	2	8,000	9	\$365,000	\$355,000
4729 LEMON BAY DR	1,037	3	1	1954	None		8,000	30	\$399,000	\$360,000
3781 SECOR RD	2,012	3	3	2003	Private	2	10,000	8	\$475,000	\$450,000
87 CLEMSON RD	1,860	3	2	2022	None	2	8,000	265	\$468,586	\$469,086
624 HOBART RD	1,852	3	2	2022	None	2	8,000	306	\$496,316	\$476,316
724 CITRUS RD	1,674	3	2	1982	None	2	8,000	0	\$175,000	\$160,000
426 MAGNOLIA RD	1,324	2	2	1961	None	1	8,000	13	\$369,900	\$325,000
1075 FALCON RD	768	2	1	1953	None		10,001	18	\$249,000	\$210,000
421 URBANA RD	1,742	2	2	1988	None	2	10,000	16	\$426,000	\$420,000



**Welcome to the
best neighborhood
in Sarasota County!**





State of the Market

KELLEY ANN AYERS

Happy Holidays and a Peaceful New Year from Kathy and I and all of Ayers & Associates Real Estate!

During this recent period—October 16 to November 15 - South Venice Beach experienced a vibrant real estate market, maintaining its allure as a favorite destination. A total of 23 closings were recorded, indicating normal market activity for this time of year. The highlight was the sale of 624 Hobart Road for \$476,316. It's a 3/2/2 with 1852 square feet under air and had numerous infrastructure upgrades. In contrast, a 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home on Stephens Road changed hands for \$295,000, showcasing the diverse range of properties available in the area. The average sale price this period was \$346,921, and properties were on the market an average of 64 days, a 40-day increase from the last period. With 22 homes currently pending and 88 active listings spanning a price range of \$239,000 to \$1,299,000, the South Venice Beach market appears promising and diverse for prospective buyers and sellers alike.

This market activity aligns with the expertise of Ayers & Associates Real Estate, which has facilitated the sale of twenty-four homes in recent months. Our office at 718 Albee Rd W in Nokomis serves as a convenient hub for those looking to explore this thriving real estate market, promising smooth sailing for all involved parties. We always welcome you to visit and join us for an ice cream treat at Sweet Melissa's, conveniently located next to our office.

As I write the final article for 2023, reflecting on two decades of this tradition, gratitude fills my heart for the enduring community connections. Signing off with an adapted Irish Proverb, appropriately reflecting a love for the sea and an appreciation for lasting friendships, wishing all a Happy New Year! *"There are good ships and wood ships and ships that sail the seas, but the best ships are Friendships, so here's to you and me, and may they always be!"*

Disclaimer: The sales information was gathered from the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). The sales were by various participants of MLS. All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

Garden Club *continued*

can't breathe); yes to plastic if plenty of holes punched on sides and bottom

- Space: Consider how much space your plant is going to take up when mature – especially those with runners.

Catch up with the Wolinskys at farmers' markets in Englewood, Wellen Park, and Punta Gorda or at thegourmetgardeners.org.

Join us at upcoming Garden Club meetings:

December 18 Holiday luncheon and gift exchange (bring gift around \$20, wrapped), bring appetizer or dessert to share, no speaker, no plant raffle.

January 15: Greg Vine, the New Venice Urban Forest Story, nearly two miles of lush forest where people of all ages can enjoy an oasis of relaxation and peace.

SVCA welcomes our newest members!

Jill Berenson
Raimundo Martinez
Kent and Terri Ross
Kimberly Szanyi

Membership makes us strong!

February 19: Laurel Schiller, co-owner of the Florida Native Plant Nursery

February 19: Laurel Schiller, co-owner of the Florida Native Plant Nursery

and Landscaping, "Plant a Patch for Pollinators and the Importance of planting for pollinators."

ALSO FOR NATURE LOVERS

Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society nature walks

The public is welcome to these Society Walks. For more information, contact mangrovechapter@fnps.org.

Wednesday, December 6, 9:30-11:00am Join member Dr. Mary Davis for a walk at the Carlton Reserve in Venice and learn about ecological considerations for native plant gardeners. Meet at the first parking lot off the entrance road. Be prepared for wet feet, sun, and mosquitos. Bring a bag lunch or snack to eat at the nearby picnic shelter after the walk for discussion.

Friday, December 8, 9:00-11:00am Join Dr. Bill Dunson at the Sleeping Turtles Preserve-North in Venice. The 2-mile loop walk will trail along the entire eastern edge of the preserve which is bordered by the Myakka River and is prone to either drying up or periodic flooding. Thus, the predominant habitat there is a type of riparian oak forest that is uncommon.

CHAPTER MEETING

December 12 at 1:00pm Join us and learn about our Chapter Grants: Past and Present with environmentalist Bobbi Rodgers at Lemon Bay Park & Environmental Center in Englewood. BYOPicnic social at 12:15pm.

ONE MISSION for our community

To protect, preserve and improve our community's character, conditions and quality of life. To bring South Venice together to promote our civic, social, intellectual and recreational interests.



South Venice Civic Association

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