

Thursday, December 2nd 6pm-9pm

- Bridge Lighting Ceremony at 6:00pm Featuring - "Voices of Freedom" carolers
- Trolley rides throughout Ada Village 6pm-9pm
- Old World Santa greeting people throughout Ada Village
- Meet West Michigan Youth Ballet performers presenting portions of "The Nutcracker" at The Community, 7239 Thornapple River Dr.
- Merchants open late for your convenience
- Treats & refreshments throughout Ada Village

Christmas Parade

Saturday, Dec. 4th

- 10:30am PARADE LINE-UP (Ada Drive/Thornapple Shopping Ctr.)
- 11:00am PARADE BEGINS! (The parade route will start at the Shopping Center turn right on Thornapple and end at Fire Station #1)
- 11:30am MEET SANTA, free hot Chocolate and cookies at Fire Station #1 (Compliments of the Ada Fire Association and Ada Township Board)

A special appearance by Santa's favorite elf, Fireman Dave!

Special thanks for supporting the Village of Ada



adabusinessassociation.com

and

Ada
Downtown Development Authority

FIREFIGHTER OF THE ISSUE

Firefighter Steve Ryan



I am 54 years old and own my own business. I moved my family to Ada Township from Grand Rapids in 1986 and joined the fire department in October of 1989. I found myself helping at accident scenes near my home and the fire chief at the time Butch Visser recruited me. I really enjoy giving back

to the community I live in and being involved with such a great group of professional rescue and fire personnel. I highly value the people I have worked with and the training I have received over the years and am very happy to help my neighbors in the township. It's a very rewarding sideline career that I take very seriously.

SOME WINTER SAFETY TIPS

As the weather gets colder many households look to alternative methods to reduce heating costs. There are a variety of appliances available to help with this and most are safe if used properly. Some of the things to consider when using them are:

- Maintain and use the appliances per the manufactures recommendations.
- Keep portable heaters away from drapes, comforters, blankets, Christmas trees, and other combustible materials.
- Keep the chimney on wood stoves and fire places clean and use only seasoned hard wood.
- Keep a screen in front of the fire place.
- Don't use gasoline or other flammable liquids to start the fire.

NOTICE

Included with your tax bill that you will be receiving on December 1st will be a **PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY** for Ada Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan. Please fill out the survey as soon as possible and return with your taxes in the enclosed envelope, or in a separate envelope, to the Township. Thank you!

** If you would prefer receiving the AdaView via email, please email the Clerk's office at:

suburton@adatownshipmi.com



COUNTY OF KENT OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF LAWRENCE A. STELMA

Kent County Sheriff's Office Official News Release

Lieutenant Kevin Kelley - Public Information Officer (616)632-6236 kevin.kelley@kentcountymi.gov

Sheriff Lawrence Stelma Offers Safety Tips For Hunting Season

KENT COUNTY—Michigan's fields and forests will soon be alive with blaze orange hunting gear. Sheriff Stelma wants both visitors and residents of Kent County to know some important safety rules before setting out to deer camp.

- Your hunting license and the identification used to purchase it (Michigan driver's license, identification card, or DNR sport card) must be carried with you at all times while hunting.
- All hunters must wear an item of clothing (hat, cap, vest, jacket, or rain gear) in "hunter orange"; it must be the outermost garment; and it must be visible from all sides. If it is camouflage, at least 50 percent of the garment must be orange.
- Hunting hours begin approximately one-half hour before sunrise and last until approximately one-half hour after sunset.
- Safety zones include all areas within 150 yards (450 feet) of an occupied building, house, cabin, barn, or other farm building. You may not hunt in this area or shoot at any animal within this area, unless you have the written permission of the property owner.
- It is illegal to drink alcohol or use intoxicating drugs before hunting.

Sheriff Stelma also wants hunters to take the following precautions to prevent injury or death while hunting this season:

- Familiarize yourself with the area where you will be hunting
- Never assume you are alone in the woods
- Never assume other hunters are acting responsibly.
- If sitting against a rock or tree, make sure it is wider than your shoulders so you are not mistaken for a target.
- Be 100 percent sure of your target before shooting.

Sheriff Stelma urges all hunters to act responsibly this season. "Reacquaint yourself with Michigan's hunting laws and follow these safety tips to prevent a tragedy from happening this year."

Ada Historical Society & Museum

Events for December 2010, January and February 2011

December 2, 2010: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE.

Wander or ride the trolley down to the museum and help us celebrate Christmas past! We will feature a Victorian-style Christmas tree, Christmas carols, and cookies and hot cocoa. Gift shop items will be given a 10% discount. Children can decorate Holiday cards. Our annual Wreaths Sale will continue in the barn. Come wander the walks aglow with luminaries. Bridge lighting is at 6:00 p.m.; museum is open 6 - 9:00 p.m.

December 4, 2010: SANTA PARADE AND COOKIE DECORATING. Come warm up at the barn before and after the Ada Santa Parade. We will have hot chocolate and cookies from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The parade begins at 11:00 a.m.

December 11, 2010: MEMBERSHIP MEETING. 10:30 a.m. at the museum. All are welcome.

Wreath Sale. 2010 will be the 11TH year for our Wreath Sale. Each beautiful, fresh-cut, fragrant wreath comes decorated with a custom bow. We have 12", 16" and 36" Douglas Fir for \$20, \$22, and \$50 each. We have 12" and 16" Fraser Fir for \$21 and \$24 each. The Wreath Sale is held in the Barn.

The sale days and hours are:

Friday, Nov. 26TH from 1:00 - 5:30 Saturday, Nov. 27TH from 9:00 - 5:30 Thursday, Dec. 2ND from 4:00 - 8:00 Friday, Dec. 3RD from 1:00 - 5:30 Saturday, Dec. 4TH from 9:00 - 5:30 Friday, Dec. 10TH from 1:00 - 5:30 Saturday, Dec. 11TH from 9:00 - 5:30

Hours of Operation: The museum is open Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. and also by appointment.

The museum will be closed during the months of January and February as a time of renewal for our hard-working volunteers and to provide extra care for the museum collections.



Contact Information

Address: 7144 Headley St., Ada

Phone: 616.676.9346

E-mail: <u>adahistoricalsociety@gmail.com</u>
On the Web: <u>www.adahistoricalsociety.org</u>

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Ada residents may drop off their used natural Christmas trees to the back parking lot of Ada Park until Monday January 15th, 2011. They will be recycled into wood chips for use in the park. Please remove any decorations, wires, strings, ribbons or other items that might interfere with a chipper. Please no wreaths or garland.

FIELD INSPECTIONS

The assessor's office will be working on all open building permits for the year as well as those permits pulled for new construction since January 1st.

The assessor's office will also continue to be working on neighborhood reviews. We will be in a marked vehicle and will have identification. If you have concerns please call the Ada Township office at 616-676-9191.

CONDITIONAL RESCISSION OF PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION (PRE)

A conditional rescission allows an owner to receive a PRE on his or her current property and on previously exempted property simultaneously if the previous principal residence (all must apply)

- · Is not occupied
- Is for sale
- · Is not leased
- Is not used for any business or commercial purpose.

To apply for a conditional rescission, the owner must submit a Conditional Rescission of Principal Residence Exemption form to the local assessor in which the property is located on or before May 1 of the FIRST year of the claim.

An owner may receive the PRE on the previous principal residence for up to three years if the criteria are met. The owner must annually submit the form

on or before **DECEMBER 31** to verify to the assessor that the property for which the PRE is retained is not occupied, is for sale, is not leased, and is not used for any business or commercial purpose.

If you have any questions or concerns contact the assessing office at 616-676-9191.

** Please visit the Ada Township Website at www.adatownshipmi.com for more information and updates.

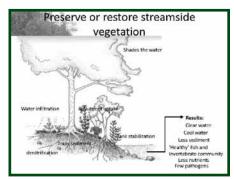
PRESERVING ADA'S NATURAL BEAUTY AND WATER QUALITY—OPTIONS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

Ada Township's Open Space Preservation Advisory Board recently sponsored a public educational presentation by Nate Haan, Acting Director of Calvin College's Native Landscapes program. The presentation focused on actions property owners can take to preserve natural landscapes and protect water quality in our rivers and streams at the same time.

Among the stewardship activities highlighted by Haan were the following:

- Preserving natural vegetation, particularly adjacent to stream corridors.
- Minimizing area of turfgrass lawns, and using fertilizers minimally, if at all.
- Use of native plants in landscape plantings.
- Installing "rain gardens" with native, water-loving plants to help manage stormwater on site by slowing down and filtering runoff.
- Use of rain barrels to collect water from downspouts and store it for later use in your landscaping and gardening.
- Removing invasive, non-native species from your property that tend to displace diverse, native species. Invasive species that threaten our local natural landscapes include Autumn Olive, Garlic Mustard, Asiatic Bittersweet, Japanese Knotweed, Japanese Barberry and Common Buckthorn.

Slides from the presentation can be viewed on the Ada Township web site; www.adatownshipmi.com.



A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER...

Winter tax bills were mailed the week of November 29, 2010. If you have not received it please call our office to obtain another copy. All tax payments are due in our office by 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 14, 2011. Remember **POSTMARKS**ARE NOT ACCEPTED as date receipted. After March 1, 2011 all unpaid real property will be turned over to the Kent County Treasurers Office for collection.

The usual payment options still apply; by mail, in person, by credit card (see the reverse side of your tax bill for instructions). Credit cards are **NOT** accepted at the Township. Additionally, you may sign up for ACH electronic payments. Please contact our office for more information about ACH.

Dog license are available at the Township starting December 1, 2010 through March 1, 2011. The State of Michigan requires all dogs age 4 months and older to be licensed. In order for a 2011 license to be issued, a current rabies certificate, and proof of neuter/spay must be presented. You can receive a copy of these through you veterinarian.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!!

Norm Rhoades, Treasurer 616-676-9191 ext 23 nrhoades@adatownshipmi.com.

Gina Olszewski, Deputy Treasurer 616-676-9191 ext 27 golszewski@adatownshipmi.com.

ADA TOWNSHIP WATER/SEWER RATE INCREASE

On October 25, 2010 the Township Board approved an increase in the Township water and sewer rates to become effective on January 1, 2011. The chart below reflects increases for both the readiness to serve charge and commodity (usage) charges being applied to the users of the utility system.

Readiness to Serve Charges

	Monthly Readiness-to-Serve	Monthly Readiness-to-Serve Cost
Meter	Cost Township	Grand Valley
Size	System	Estates
5/8	\$15.00	\$13.50
3/4	\$15.00	\$13.50
1	\$24.45	\$22.00
1 1/2	\$45.31	\$40.77
2	\$66.30	\$59.67
3	\$147.00	\$132.30
4	\$227.85	\$205.06
6	\$404.55	\$364.10

Water Commodity Charge for Township and Grand Valley Estates systems.

\$2.60/1,000 Gallons

Sanitary Sewer Charge

Proposed REU Charge = \$20.00/REU/Month

REU= RESIDENTIAL EQUIVILANT UNIT

Ada Township is a Wholesale Water and Sewer customer of the City of Grand Rapids. As a Wholesale customer, the Township is responsible for all operations of the system including billing, customer service, maintenance, repair and replacement of the system. Ada Township also operates and maintains the Grand Valley Water System which is a ground water (well) system.

These systems are operated as an Enterprise, which means they are managed as a business, and all costs associated with the business are borne by customers (users).

Please contact the Utility Director, George Haga at 616-676-9191, extension 50 or ghaga@adatownship.com for additional information.

The following comparisons are for customers using the Township water and sewer system. For typical residential customers using the Grand Valley Estates system, the water bills will be \$2/month less.

Family A

Assume two retirees with water consumption of about 90 gallons/day or 2,700 gallons/month. The bi-monthly bill will be:

	Current		Effective 1/1/11		
	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>	Rate	<u>Total</u>
Water Use	5,400 Gal	\$2.10	\$11.34	\$2.60	\$14.04
RTS	¾" Meter	\$12.00	\$24.00	\$15.00	\$30.00
Sewer	1 REU	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	<u>\$40.00</u>
Bi-Monthly	7		\$55.34		\$84.04

Family B

Assume two parents with one child with water consumption of about 200 gallons/day or 6,000 gallons/month. The bi-monthly bill will be:

	Current		Effective 1/1/11		
	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
Water Use	12,000 Gal	\$2.10	\$25.20	\$2.60	\$31.20
RTS	¾" Meter	\$12.00	\$24.00	\$15.00	\$30.00
Sewer	1 REU	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$40.00
Bi-Monthly	τ		\$69.20		\$101.20

Family C

Assume two parents with four children. Their water consumption is about 320 gallons/day or 10,000 gallons/month. The bi-monthly bill will be:

	Current		Effective 1/1/11		
	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
Water Use	20,000 Gal	\$2.10	\$42.00	\$2.60	\$52.00
RTS	¾" Meter	\$12.00	\$24.00	\$15.00	\$30.00
Sewer	1 REU	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	<u>\$40.00</u>
Bi-Monthly	7		\$86.00		\$122.00

If a street light goes out on your street or in your neighborhood, you may report this with Consumers Energy at the following link: www.consumersenergy.com.

Once on home page:

- ➤ Use drop down for "Your Home"
- ➤ Hit "Energy answers"
- ➤ On left side under "Your Home" Hit "Report an Electric Outage"
- > On left side under "Report an Electric Outage" Hit "Report Streetlight Problems Form"
- > Fill in form and hit "Submit" at bottom of form

If unable to resolve any issues, please contact Ada Township Supervisor, George Haga at 616-767-9191 extension 50 or ghaga@adatownshipmi.com

Parks & Recreation Department

Contact Information:

Phone: 616-676-0520 fax: 616-676-5870 E-mail: mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com

Web site: www.adatownshipmi.com

Office in Ada Park: 1180 Buttrick Ave, Ada, 49301

Mailing address: P.O. Box 370, Ada, 49301

E-News: To receive news and updates from the Parks & Recreation Department via e-mail send a request to: mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com

Mission: "To provide all community members with diverse recreational opportunities including access to premier natural, historical and cultural areas that enhance our quality of life and inspire the preservation of nature."

Ada Township Parks:

Ada Park & Locke Arboretum 1180 Buttrick Ave., 57 acres.



Softball & soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball court, playground, fishing pond, trails, picnic tables, grills, pavilion, gazebos, Park offices, Learning Center and Locke Arboretum.

Leonard Field & Ada Covered Bridge 7490 Thornapple River Dr., 2 acres. Softball field, bike path, Thornapple River overlook deck, Ada Covered Bridge.

Grand River Natural Area Grand River Drive SE. Enter via Ada Park or McGraw Park, 110 acres. Nature area, trails, bike path, woodlands, wetlands, Grand River shoreline.

Roselle Park 1010 Grand River Dr. NE, 247 acres. Bike path, trails, picnic area, observation decks, natural areas, wetlands, prairie, woods, Grand River shoreline.

Facility Use

Park Hours: Park grounds are open to the public dawn to dusk, seven days a week.

Dog Policy: Township ordinances require dogs to be on a leash and cleaned up after in all parks.

Ada Park Shelter & Gazebo Rentals and Reservations:

Available April through October. For rates, availability, use policies or reservations, contact the Park office. The Ada Covered Bridge is not rented out for private use.

Athletic Fields & Courts: Located at Ada Park and Leonard Field, used spring, summer and fall for leagues and instructional programs. Contact the park office for information, schedules or reservations.

Winter Facilities

Ice Rink at Leonard Field

An outdoor winter ice rink is set up at Leonard field and is available as the weather allows. It is open to the public for general skating. Children need to be supervised by a guardian.

Cross Country Ski Trails at Roselle Park

Cross Country Ski trails are set up at Roselle Park and are available as weather allows. The trails start near the silos and extend through the north section of the park. Trail markers are set up along the trail. Please do not walk on or allow dogs on the X-C ski tracks.

Walking & Bike Paths

Our best attempts will be made to clear the snow off of the paved park trail after each major snowfall. Note that conditions may remain wet, icy and/or slippery throughout the winter.

You're Input Is Requested

Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department is in the process of updating the *Township's Parks*, *Recreation and Open Space Plan*. This document is used as a guide for park master plans, land acquisition goals, recreation programs and our strategic planning process. It is updated every 5 years.

We would like your input, ideas, comments and suggestions! One of our tools to do this is a survey that we have been distributing to Ada Township residents. Look for a copy of the survey with your December tax bill. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and then return it to us with your tax payment envelope. You may also receive a copy of the survey from the Park office, at programs, or from the Ada Township web site.

We will also hosting a public input, information and comment sessions where we would appreciate your attendance. Please note the following date and time on your calendar so you may join us: **Tuesday, January 11, 2011 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** At the Learning Center in Ada Township Park, 1180 Buttrick, Ada, MI.

Comments may also be sent by direct mail to: P.O. Box 370, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI 49301, or emailed to: mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com. A copy of the current "2007 Recreation Plan" is available on the Ada Township web site "Parks & Recreation" page: www.adatownshipmi.com.

Pardon Our Construction



Thank you for your support and patience while sections of Roselle Park were under construction this past fall. Our recent development there includes restoring a stream where the old Ada Beef building was and dredging the drain through the center of the park. Both these efforts will help restore the site to its normal water flow and improve the wetland habitats. In the

spring, look for grasses and wildflowers growing up in the bare areas and water flowing in the stream. Contact the Park office for more details.

Youth Programs

Pre-registration requested by calling 676-0520 or email mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com.

Discovery Days (for ages 3 - 5 and their guardians)
Wednesday and Thursdays
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Ada Park
\$5/child

Pre-Schoolers bring your parent or guardian out to Ada Park for a fun morning of nature study, hands-on activities and a craft. Programs will have inside and outdoor activities so come dressed to be outside. Each program repeated on 2 consecutive days (pick one),

Wonderful Winter" January 19, 20

Look at snowflakes at see how they are alike or different. Take a walk outside to look for animal tracks. Make your own beaded snowflake to take home.

"Build a Bird Feeder" February 16, 17

What do birds eat in the winter? Feel and try to identify different kinds of bird seed with your eyes closed, make 2 different bird feeders to take home.

"Whoooo are you?" Owls in Michigan March 9, 10



Learn about owls and their amazing adaptations. Pretend to be an owl or a mouse while you play "Hide and Squeak".

Young Explorers (ages 5 - 7)

Various Wednesdays 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Ada Park \$5/child

Parents may drop off their children at Ada Park for these programs. Topics are similar to "Discovery Days" but geared for older age group. Programs will have inside and outdoor activities so come dressed to be outside.

"Wonderful Winter" - January 19

"Build a Bird Feeder" - February 16

"Whooo are you?" Owls in Michigan - March 9

Junior Naturalist (ages 7 - 11)

Various Saturdays Ada Park \$5/child

Insects and Their World

January 15 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Ada Park Learning Center

Elly Maxwell, an entomologist at Dow Gardens, will bring bug exhibits and live creatures to help us understand insects and their world. Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Junior Audubon Club, free to their members, non-members will be charged \$5.

Snowshoes Stomp

February 12 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Ada Park Learning Center

Learn about the history of snowshoes and how some animals survive with their own "built in" snowshoes. Then venture outside for a fun snowshoes walk through the park. Snowshoes provided. \$5/per youth.



Schools Based Programs

Opportunities for preK-12 schools range from guided field trips in the parks (\$2/student), to service learning projects (free) to shelter facilities for rent (\$25/day). Contact the Park office for details, curriculum, fees and scheduling.

Boy and Girl Scout Programs:

Scout groups are welcome to the resources of Ada Parks & staff to help complete badge requirements, have field trip outings, conduct service projects or rent a facility. Contact the Park office for details, fees and scheduling.

Family & General Programs

Cross Country Skiing 101—The Basics Saturday, January 8 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon Roselle Park \$5/adult \$3/ youth

Introductory lesson on cross-country ski equipment and techniques followed by a guided ski outing in the park with personalized coaching. Program is targeted for beginners and intermediates. Pre-registration is appreciated by calling 676-0520 or email. Pay on site. Bring your own skis or rent from area vendors.

X-C skis rentals available locally at Bills & Paul's Sporthaus, 1200 E. Paris SE, Grand Rapids 49546 616-458-1684 \$17/day \$34 /weekend

Feeder the Birds

Saturday, February 5 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon Ada Park \$5/adult \$3/ youth

Learn to identify local winter birds and how to attract and support them. Then build a bird feeder to take home and put in your yard. All materials and supplies provided. Plus find out how to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count!

Rulers of The Sky

Wednesday, March 16 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Ada Park Learning Center \$4/adult \$3/youth

A Special Birds of Prey presentation by John Ball Zoo with live birds. Some rule by day and some rule by night. Raptors are magnificent creatures admired for their strength and beauty. Get an up-close view of some of nature's incredible feathered hunters and learn about them through hands-on activities and demonstrations. Pre-registration requested due to limited seating.

Adult Programs

Adult Softball - Spring/Summer 2011

Ada Parks & Recreation Department will start taking team applications for the adult spring/summer softball program in February. Contact the Park Office at 616-676-0520 or email rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com for an application. We welcome new teams. Standings from the past seasons are posted on the web site: www.adatownshipmi.com.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Ada Parks & Recreation Department is recruiting Volunteers to assist in the following areas: Grounds, gardeners, odd jobs, ski trail groomers, trail monitors, habitat stewards, program instructors and clerical. Contact the Park office at 676-0502 to apply or set up an interview.

CALENDAR {2010 / 2011}

December

- 2 Tinsel Treats & Trolley, and Bridge Lighting 6:00 p.m.
- 4 Christmas Parade 10:30 lineup, 11:00 parade
- 6 Downtown Development Authority 8:30 a.m.
- 7 Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30 p.m.
- 9 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd 4:00 p.m.
- 13 Ada Township Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Planning Commission 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Christmas Holiday, Township Offices closed.
- 27 Christmas Holiday, Township Offices closed.
- 31 New Years Holiday, Township Offices closed.

January

- 3 New Years Holiday, Township Offices closed.
- 3 Downtown Development Authority 8:30 a.m.
- 4 Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30 p.m.
- 10 Ada Township Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd 4:00 p.m.
- 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Township Offices closed.
- 17 Ethics Board Mtg 6:15 p.m.
- 20 Planning Commission 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Ada Township Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.

February

- 1 Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30 p.m.
- 7 Downtown Development Authority 8:30 a.m.
- 10 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd 4:00 p.m.
- 14 Tax Bills Due!
- 14 Ada Township Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Planning Commission 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Ada Township Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Coming March 19TH - The 2011 Forest Hills Business Expo!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION (remove & save)

AdaView is published by Ada Township Board.

7330 Thornapple River Drive SE., P.O. Box 370, Ada, Michigan 49301

TELEPHONE:

616-676-9191

www.adatownshipmi.com

HOURS:

Monday-Friday

8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Closed Holidays

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