

Remember Mom on Mother's Day, May 12



# THE TIMES

## Scotch Plains - Fanwood

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FIFTY CENTS

### My Town

By RAY PARDON

I was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Queens  
So from New York out west I did roam  
To this small town in Jersey  
That's a bit topsy-turvy  
But today I call it my home.  
Park Avenue is the main street in town  
Where the traffic goes up and down.  
The county recently paved it  
For what was surely quite a few bucks  
But I would be happy if they would just get rid of the trucks!  
Our schools are a bit taxing  
Which keeps me from relaxing  
But our kids learn well I am told  
A good job they will get and a trailer they will let  
For us to live in when we get old.  
A few years ago something happened  
That I truly thought rather odd  
The council decided  
Three names for one street was better then Centre Boulevard.  
We once had a zoo that the children enjoyed  
But the neighbors began to squawk  
So the zoo was shut down  
And bought by the town,  
And now we get to pay to take a walk.  
Our council is wise  
They speak truth and not lies



SCOTCH PLAINS LEADER...Ray Pardon, who stepped down as President of the Scotch Plains Business & Professional Association (SPBPA), was honored for his service last Friday evening during the SPBPA's annual Spring Dinner/Dance. Pictured, left to right, are: SPBPA Vice President Joanna Marsh, Mr. Pardon, and Steve Goldberg, who will assume the Presidency.

On the fires the water they douse  
But I hope they come to their senses  
and maintain the fences  
And not let policemen come into my house.  
Business in town is slow these days  
And some businesses are out on a ledge.  
There is no easy answer  
But it will survive  
If the township would just sell the Hedge.  
My town has its 'faults and problems and issues  
Just as all towns do  
But it will survive  
And can only improve  
Because of people like me and you!

## Proposal to Curb Underage Drinking Still Poses Quandary

By FRED ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Times

After wrestling again with the particulars of a proposed law aimed at curbing underage drinking, the Scotch Plains Township Council appeared to be moving toward eventually introducing, and permitting the public to comment on, the ordinance, although its final form is still unclear.

At its conference meeting on Tuesday night, Mayor Martin Marks expressed some frustration about what he felt were "misperceptions and misunderstandings" among some residents about the proposed ordinance, which, as currently being considered, would permit local police officers to enter a private residence and take legal action if they witness the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by someone under 21 years of age.

Mayor Marks and the council spent more than an hour discussing the matter, especially its constitutionality and potential effectiveness. Mr. Marks said the ordinance would not expand police powers, but merely provide law enforcement officials with a new "item" on their list of offenses to be policed.

Addressing opponents' fears of an overzealous police force, Mayor Marks said that "nothing in the ordinance changes the protocol for police action" regarding search and seizure matters.

"We're not changing the powers of the police," he stated.

And after questioning Township Attorney Douglas Hansen on police rights in certain hypothetical situations involving underage drinking, Mayor Marks stated his belief that the proposed ordinance was not unconstitutional.

The specific actions of police in the enforcement of such an ordinance could be struck down by a court as unconstitutional, he said.

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## Area Schools Get Needed Face Lifts

By DEBORAH MADISON and LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Times

Multiple schools in Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood are currently undergoing construction, and will continue into the summer.

Business Administrator for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district Anthony Del Sordi has reported that of the eight schools being renovated, the five elementary schools and two middle schools would be completed over the summer before the start of the next school year.

Renovations at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) would be finished by October.

Construction at Evergreen, Coles, Brunner, School One and McGinn Elementary Schools will be completed by Sunday, September 1. All five elementary schools are receiving a new multipurpose room and Brunner and McGinn Schools are also having their media centers renovated.

Two new classrooms at Coles School are up and receiving the finishing touches on their interiors. School One will have their first floor completed by June.

Terrill Middle School awaiting the delivery of steel for their new media center. The walls are going up for a 12-classroom addition and the brick is being applied to the new gym.

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## David Trumpp Named to Fanwood Governing Body To Fill Term of Late Councilwoman Carol Wood

By KIMBERLY MERZ  
Specially Written for The Times

The Fanwood Borough Council welcomed a new member to its ranks Tuesday evening, as Republican David Trumpp was sworn into office during a special meeting of the governing body.

Mr. Trumpp will fill the vacancy created by the sudden death on April 7 of Councilwoman Carol Wood, who was elected to her freshman term in November of 2000. Council

terms in Fanwood are for three years.

Mr. Trumpp ran three times for the council since 1997, most recently last year, when he lost by just 14 votes. The son of former Fanwood Mayor Theodore "Ted" Trumpp, he is now part of the GOP's 5-2 majority on the governing body.

In addition, first readings were held on two new ordinances during the special meeting, which preceded the council's monthly agenda session.

### David Trumpp Biography

**Party:** Republican  
**Education:** Mr. Trumpp is a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and Alfred University in New York.

**Professional Background:** Employed with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, he has held the title of Marketing Coordinator for the past two years.



David Trumpp

**Gov/Pol Experience:** The son of former Fanwood Mayor Theodore "Ted" Trumpp, he previously ran in 1997, 1998 and 2001.

**Family Life:** A lifelong Fanwood resident, he presently lives on Oakwood Court.

**Clubs/Organizations:** Mr. Trumpp is President of the Fanwood Lions Club. He is a member of the Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission and Fanwood Republican Club.

The first ordinance would provide an appropriation of \$1,192,350 for various capital improvements, such as road improvements, including Sheelen's Crossing Bridge, sanitary sewer improvements, field renovation, the acquisition of equipment

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## Green Party, Others Propose Options To Deal With N.J.'s Garbage Problem

By DEBORAH MADISON  
Specially Written for The Times

Between 1985 and 2000, the amount of solid waste generated in New Jersey has consistently risen by approximately one ton per year. According to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), a total 17.5 million tons of solid waste was generated in New Jersey in 2000.

The total amount recycled in New Jersey in 2000 was 9.4 million tons, or approximately 53 percent of the total solid waste stream. Union County had 1.1 million tons of solid waste, of which 51 percent was recycled.

The figures for 2001 are expected to be released soon. The DEP's goal is to increase recycling to 65 percent by 2005, through stricter enforcement of recycling laws in each county.

Disposal of the eight million tons per year of New Jersey's un-recycled garbage occurs by incineration or by shipping it to out-of-state landfills.

Westfield Leader and The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood, interviews Green Party Presidential candidate Ralph Nader, who was in Princeton last Friday to address the subject of New Jersey's incinerators and waste disposal.



GETTING THE STORY...Deborah Madison, staff reporter for The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood, interviews Green Party Presidential candidate Ralph Nader, who was in Princeton last Friday to address the subject of New Jersey's incinerators and waste disposal.

New York City is negotiating with Linden to ship another four million tons per year to New Jersey, for consolidation and shipment to out-of-state landfills. New York City is also planning to send garbage to Newark for incineration.

The DEP recognizes that many recyclables are slipping into the solid waste stream, and that they end up in incinerators or landfills. DEP regulations require facilities to document the amount of recyclable materials they receive. These materials are supposed to be separated from the burnable solid waste and transported to recycling facilities.

Al Ivany, spokesman for the DEP Media Inquiry Department, told The

Times that the DEP is currently conducting a stack test, which tests for emissions compliance. There have been some 'exceedences,' however, these could have been caused by temporary equipment failures, which were promptly repaired.

According to Mr. Ivany, the Rahway facility is linked directly to the DEP by hi-tech computer monitors, so that the DEP is constantly aware of any compliance failures in real time.

DEP regulations governing the operations of incinerators, such as the use of state-of-the-art technology, well-maintained equipment, frequent inspections, recording and reporting procedures, are all designed

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## Terrill Middle Students Lead By Example Since Tragedy on 9/11

By JENNIFER PINTO  
Specially Written for The Times

The tragic events of September 11 encouraged many Americans to help people who were directly affected by these tragedies. Communities came together to gather supplies, raise money, and to just simply help in any way.

James Alfano and Victoria Fosdal, students at Terrill Middle School in Scotch Plains, are two young indi-

viduals who took action by becoming leaders during such a difficult time.

James told the Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood, "I was looking through The Star-Ledger one day when I saw an article about Kate Walsh...we both wanted to help the family."

cause. The Times asked Victoria, what she did to get other students involved in this project, she replied, "I would reach students through morning announcements and during meetings."

Students sold stickers donated by a parent; stationed collection jars in the lunchroom, and had posters in the

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## SPBPA Tributes Founder, Ray Pardon, During Dinner

By FRED ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Times

Ray Pardon, the founder of the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association (SPBPA), was saluted by the group's members and others last Friday night for his years of effort at improving the downtown business district.

At SPBPA's annual dinner-dance at Snuffy's Pantagis restaurant, nearly 100 people turned out to pay tribute to Mr. Pardon, who founded the organization back in 1994 and helped build it into a force for positive change in the downtown area.

Until earlier this year, Mr. Pardon was the group's only President and saw membership grow from a mere handful to more than 200 at present.

Steve Goldberg, SPBPA's President, said Mr. Pardon was, "number one responsible" for the changes in the central business district, including the Classic Car Show, Scotch Plains Day, the winter holiday celebration and the Farmer's Market, all of which have become annual events.

"As a resident, it makes me proud

to come into town and see these great events," Mr. Goldberg said.

Scotch Plains Deputy Mayor Frank S. Rossi, who joined Township Council colleague Geri M. Samuel at the dinner, said "the vision of an improved downtown started with Ray," and called the increased membership in SPBPA "testimony to his dedication and perseverance."

State Assemblywoman Linda d. Stender presented Mr. Pardon with a joint legislative resolution commending him for his service and thanking him for his work over the years.

Members of SPBPA's board presented Mr. Pardon with a plaque of appreciation and a wristwatch.

In brief remarks, Mr. Pardon, the owner of Nuts 'N Plenty on Park Avenue, said the secret of SPBPA's success over the years was, "taking ordinary situations and making them extraordinary," citing such examples as turning a summer Sunday afternoon into something fun and interesting like the Classic Car Show.

"I simply wanted to do some good" for the town, he said. "That's what I wanted to do when I started."



VOLUNTEERS AT TERRILL MIDDLE SCHOOL...Pictured, from left to right, are: student, Victoria Fosdal; teacher, Susan Laffey and student, James Alfano. Victoria and James helped to raise over \$10,000 for a local woman, Kate Walsh, who lost her husband, Jim, in the September 11 terrorist attacks.

viduals who took action by becoming leaders during such a difficult time.

James told the Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood, "I was looking through The Star-Ledger one day when I saw an article about Kate Walsh...we both wanted to help the family."

CYAN YELLOW MAGENTA BLACK

# Green Party, Others Propose Options To Deal With N.J.'s Garbage Problem

to ensure incinerators operate with the least amount of detrimental impact on surrounding communities or on the environment.

Absolute adherence to these regulations would, in fact, make incinerators fairly environmentally safe, according to Dr. Clifford Weisel, an Environmental Engineer with the Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of Rutgers University. "If strict adherence were possible," he said.

"If the technology is well maintained to function at an optimum level and if dangerous materials are stringently separated out, then it is possible to incinerate safely," Dr. Weisel commented.

"The goal is to attempt to achieve a balance," he noted. "There is no risk-free system and all of the available options have detriments."

Environmentalists urge a dramatic increase in recycling, and they are against the use of incinerators for disposal of garbage.

Joseph Parrish, the Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Elizabeth, has been monitoring the incinerator's impact on the health of his parishioners for several years. Mr. Parrish has a doctoral degree in chemistry from Harvard University and worked as a scientist with Merck Laboratories for many years.

Mr. Parrish told *The Leader* and *The Times* that in the mid-1990s, when the incinerator began operating, he noticed an alarming increase in the incidence of asthma among the children in his parish, which rose from a rate of near zero to 40 percent.

He said he knows there are serious flaws in the regulation and compliance system of incinerators in New Jersey.

"The existing DEP regulations, even if they were being enforced, are not adequate to protect the health of residents in the surrounding communities," Mr. Parrish stated. "These types of facilities are making people sick."

"The regulations permit an unhealthy amount of toxins to be emitted and many toxins produced by the burning of garbage, particularly PVC (poly vinyl chloride plastic), are not being properly measured and documented," Mr. Parrish added.

According to information released by the American Lung Association, there is an "alarming increase" in the rate of new asthma cases reported each year. "Asthma-related hospitalizations have risen disproportionately for inner-city children and, in particular, for minority populations," stated a report from the Association.

Environmental groups, such as the Sierra Club, the Green Party and Concerned Citizens of Union County blame these increasing statistics, in part, on the cumulative effects of emissions from all sources, including the operation of incinerators in New Jersey.

According to Union County Green Party representative George DeCarlo,

the DEP regulations, such as the allowable parts per billion of certain toxins, were "pulled out of thin air."

## Terrill Pupils

hallway to create awareness for the "Jim Walsh Fund."

James and Victoria also mentioned that many parents wrote checks and donated money during "Back to School Day." Victoria also spoke to the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) about this project and, in return, the PTA actively began to endorse the fundraising.

Coles and McGinn Elementary Schools also joined to help the cause and eventually donations for the "Jim Walsh Fund" were being received from Union County and even from other states.

Kate Walsh is a mother of a toddler and is now expecting her second child. James and Victoria discovered that Mrs. Walsh was in need of a snow removal service, a housekeeper, and a babysitter. Each service was donated for free by individuals of the community.

The two students designed a special ceremony in conjunction with the Student Council's Veteran's Day Assembly. The special event paid tribute to veterans and also served as a tribute to the victims of September 11. The Walsh family was invited to attend this special assembly, not knowing that they would be the guests of honor.

At this event, James and Victoria presented Mrs. Walsh with donated services offered by members of the community and with a check in the amount of \$7,775.

In addition students at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School collected \$2,000, raising the total of the fund to over \$10,000.

James and Victoria are continuing their efforts for the Walsh family. They are currently planning a "Wishing Well" in order to collect gifts for Mrs. Walsh's unborn baby. They are also planning on other projects that will continue to support Mrs. Walsh. Plans of a scholarship in the memory of Jim Walsh are also underway.

James and Victoria serve as an example to people on a local and national level. The dedication and determination that these students have for serving their community speaks for itself.

"They did this all on their own," stated Susan Laffey.

The two students were recently honored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and have been nominated for the Governor's Award by English teacher and Community Service Club Advisor, Maureen Semple.

To donate to the Jim Walsh Fund, please contact Ms. Laffey at (908) 322-5215.

He claimed that for some toxins, such as mercury or dioxin, there were no scientific studies of the effects of these substances on health.

*The Leader* and *The Times* interviewed Green Party Presidential candidate Ralph Nader, who was in Princeton last Friday to address the subject of New Jersey's incinerators and waste disposal. Mr. Nader told this newspaper that all New Jersey residents, particularly those in the counties which house incinerators, such as Union County, need to organize and fight for the quality of their air and environment.

"You have to let your municipal and county officials know that your health and air quality are not for sale," Mr. Nader said. He reaffirmed the Green Party's platform that, "DEP regulations have been proven unsafe" and do not account for the most recent scientific evidence regarding the effects of incinerator emissions on air quality and health.

"Incinerators cause high levels of asthma in children, particularly in minority children. All five of New Jersey's incinerators are located in poor, minority communities," Mr. Nader said.

"These towns were lured by the promise of lower taxes and other monetary incentives," he added.

He suggested the residents of Union County who are concerned about the detrimental effects of incinerators should "call up talk radio; write op-ed letters; send photos to your local paper, to articulate and publicize the issue. Tell Washington that you want them to redirect their massive military budget to renewable energy and recycling."

"And elect county officials who are also concerned about these issues," he advised.

Mr. Nader and the Green Party maintain that recycling and reduced packaging could reduce New Jersey's solid waste production by 90 percent. They claim that there is still plenty of landfill space to handle the remaining 10 percent.

This claim is, however, widely disputed by landfill opponents, who say that landfills will eventually become full and do not provide a long-term solution. Many municipal and county officials also maintain that recycling and reducing packaging is not a realistic goal in the immediate future and would take extensive effort and time to implement.

Garland "Bud" Boothe, who sat on the Union County Solid Waste Advisory Council and was a member of the Union County Utilities Authority during the planning phase for the Rahway incinerator, told *The Leader* and *The Times*, "The problem with the Green Party's recycling solution is that the garbage is here, now. Enforcing recycling and reducing packaging are certainly viable long-term options, but not options that can be realistically implemented overnight."

Assemblywoman Linda d. Stender agreed with Mr. Boothe. She told *The Leader* and *The Times* that New Jersey already has some of the best recycling laws in the country, but that it is just not realistic to expect packaging producers and consumers to change their methods and habits overnight.

The problem of providing safe and environment-friendly waste disposal is certain to escalate in New Jersey until solutions are found.



Lauren S. Pass for *The Times*  
PEELING PAINT...Scotch Plains has begun their streetscape project in conjunction with Union County along Martine Avenue. The project is not yet complete and the paint is starting to wear off from heavy traffic. Westfield is set to begin a similar project on Elm and East Broad Streets.

## FW Council

and various renovations to municipal and fire department buildings.

A second ordinance amends the salary and compensation schedule for Borough of Fanwood employees.

During the agenda meeting that followed, Special Counsel Dennis Estis presented a finalized "request for qualifications" (RFQ) document for the redevelopment plan for a block of downtown property bordered by South, Martine and LaGrande Avenues and by Second Street.

In addition, Mayor Louis Jung said a public hearing on the 2002 municipal budget is scheduled to take place during a special meeting of the governing body on Monday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Councilman Trumpp, who was born and raised in Fanwood, commented after the meeting that he was deeply honored to have the support of the Mayor and council in his new position. He said it is important for people to give back to the community whenever they can.

"We lost a valuable member of the council three weeks ago, but I will remember Carol Wood through spirit, by committing myself to the residents," Mr. Trumpp remarked.

Mr. Trumpp will take over Mrs. Wood's council responsibilities, chairing the Public Works Committee and serving as Liaison to the Board of Education and the Environmental Commission. He will also replace his predecessor on the Shared Services Coordinating Council.

Mayor Jung told *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* yesterday that he is looking forward to serving with Mr. Trumpp.

"He really wants to do the job," Mr. Jung said, adding that he knows for a fact that Councilwoman Wood thought highly of Mr. Trumpp.

According to Mr. Estis, the RFQ document for the redevelopment plan is ready for approval. Mayor Jung said yesterday that the council hopes to advertise for bidders for the downtown revitalization project as early as the end of this month.

Mr. Estis said an April 3 meeting with the borough's Blue Ribbon Committee was very productive and that he was surprised at the amount of new good ideas.

The 11-member committee included Fanwood citizens, business owners and property owners. Mr. Estis, along with Borough Attorney Wilfred Coronato and Richard Preiss, who crafted the redevelopment plan, made the necessary revisions to the document from the numerous committee suggestions.

Upon approval, parts of the document will be available for viewing on [www.visitfanwood.com](http://www.visitfanwood.com) for prospective bidders. According to Mayor Jung, there have already been calls from 15 to 20 interested developers.

"The process has been extraordinarily open," Council President Joel Whitaker said.

Councilman and Police Commissioner Thomas Ryan requested support from his colleagues to authorize Police Chief Donald Domanoski to hire a new patrolman, bringing the Fanwood force to a total of 21 officers.

The hiring would give the police department a full complement and save the borough money, by lessening out less in overtime wages. Last year, \$72,000 was spent in overtime.

The 2002 budget includes a cap of \$60,000 for overtime wages. Currently, the police department is short two officers with its current structure. The council has already authorized the hiring of one patrolman.

Councilman Stuart Kline said he had an open mind regarding the issue. "I don't know how to run a police department, but I am willing to talk to someone who does," he said.

## Proposal to Curb Underage Drinking Poses Quandary

but the ordinance itself would not be a violation.

"The police would still have to follow the same search and seizure laws" if the ordinance is approved, Councilman Frank Rossi said, despite "the perception that it creates extra power for the police."

Councilwoman Paulette Coronato, the governing body member who has expressed the most skepticism about the proposal, continued to voice her objection to "giving police extra powers" and "giving police an extra opportunity to invade people's privacy."

When Councilwoman Geri Samuel, a vocal proponent of the ordinance, said the proposal would help curb teenage drinking, which she called "the biggest problem in Scotch Plains," Mrs. Coronato asked for proof for her claim.

After Mrs. Samuel told her the Police Department had conducted a study, Mrs. Coronato asked for a copy of the study's findings.

Mr. Hansen provided the council with a memorandum summarizing his conversations with officials in Cranford, which enacted an ordinance similar to the one being considered in Scotch Plains.

Mr. Hansen informed the council that Patricia Hernandez, Municipal Prosecutor in Cranford, had told him that "there have been numerous arrests with substantial proof problems" and that she "has some legal reservations concerning the constitutionality of the statute."

Mr. Hansen also said Ms. Hernandez reported "that in some cases which have already occurred, she has had difficulty proving her case and has had to reduce the charges and in at least one instance, 14 cases were unprovable due to the failure of the police to substantiate consumption by the defendants."

Mrs. Coronato saw Cranford's experience as proof that a similar law in Scotch Plains would not be effective. "Why have an ordinance if it's hard to enforce?" she asked.

Mayor Marks seemed resigned to the fact that, despite the efforts of the ordinance's proponents, some residents will continue to have the perception that a new law "expands police powers" when, he said, all it really does "is expand police opportunities to exercise their powers."

He said he wasn't sure "that we can do anything about it. Whatever we do, the perception is out there." Mayor Marks favored going forth with introducing the ordinance, "and reserving my vote on final passage until we hear from the public," al-

though no date for introduction was set.

And at the end of the discussion, in an effort to mollify fears of opponents, the Mayor broached the possibility of revising the proposal to require a police officer to obtain a warrant from a judge or magistrate before entering a private residence, an idea that Councilwoman Samuel called "an interesting compromise."

The council will discuss the issue further at its next conference meeting on Tuesday, May 21.

In other matters, the council prepared for next Tuesday's public hearing and vote on the \$17.9 million municipal budget, which calls for a five-point property tax increase to fund the local government.

Township Manager Thomas Atkins said the only outstanding matter related to the budget was pending legislation in Trenton that would allow towns to spread the funding of supplemental health insurance over several years instead of one year.

Mr. Atkins said he expected passage of the legislation, which would save an additional two points from being added to the local tax bill.

Mayor Marks also noted that a township-wide yard sale will be held on Saturday, May 18. Residents can pay a \$15 fee to have the address of their sale listed in a directory that will be available at various locations to yard sale aficionados.

Proceeds from the \$15 fee will be donated to several organizations, such as the Scotch Plains Public Library and Scotch Plains Fire Department.

## Construction

Park Middle School's lower level and first floor are completed, while completion of the third floor is expected by Saturday, June 1, according to Mr. Del Sordi. The new gym and all interiors are currently being worked on at Park School.

At SPFHS, the bleachers are complete and the windows are being fabricated, said Mr. Del Sordi. The two elevators, which will make the high school handicapped accessible, will begin construction over the summer and be completed by October. No delays in school opening are expected.

Construction at Westfield High School began on March 25. Steel has been erected to expand the guidance area, cafeteria and gym storage areas. Concrete has already been poured for the foundation on the corner of Dorian Road and Trinity Place. Also on Trinity Place digging for the foundation and footing of the new science wing is currently underway. According to Westfield Board of Education Business Administrator Bob Burman, the project is currently on schedule.

Though a complete list of projects that will occur over the summer is not currently available, the roof at Edison Intermediate School will be replaced over the summer. This project is being funded in part by the Economic Development Authority.

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