

# THE BRADFORD BRIDGE

COMMUNITY NEWS BY NEIGHBORS FOR NEIGHBORS

Volume 14, Number 2; Issue 152

February 2004

## Kerry Wins NH Primary

Senator John Kerry won the NH Presidential Primary. But the District 34 towns of Bradford, Warner, and Sutton showed their independence by voting Gov. Howard Dean ahead. Senator John Kerry led in Henniker, Hopkinton, Newbury, and Webster.

	Clark	Dean	Edwards	Kerry	Kucinich	Leiberman
Bradford	56	124	44	106	18	21
Henniker	189	360	114	387	35	69
Hopkinton	174	484	149	569	26	113
Newbury	51	138	47	154	5	34
Sutton	50	154	54	150	6	45
Warner	77	268	54	230	12	40
Webster	46	83	56	130	7	44



Clockwise from upper left: Newbury; Bradford Poll volunteers; Sutton; Bradford

photos by Beth Rodd

## Bradford Seeks Police Chief

The Board of Selectmen announce the position of Chief of Police in Bradford is vacant. The Selectmen have established arrangements with area law enforcement agencies to insure the citizens are protected until a new chief can be recruited.

According to an article in the January 27 issue of the *InterTown Record*, a meeting of the Bradford Selectmen January 23 brought the town head-to-head with Police Chief James Kirby over a reported 911 call received by New London Dispatch in the early morning hours of Nov. 19.

Calls to the attorneys representing the town and Chief Kirby seeking further information were not returned.

The *InterTown Record* article explains that in public session at the Friday meeting, the incident was discussed in detail, but no decision was reached at the public session regarding Chief Kirby's employment. When asked for comment, both the Selectmen's Office representative, Cheryl Behr, and the patrolman on duty, Douglas Trotter, would only comment that the position is vacant.

## Special Elections Tuesday, March 2

Special elections for State Representative from Merrimack County District 34, representing the towns of Bradford, Henniker, Hopkinton, Newbury, Sutton, Warner, and Webster, will be held on March 2, 2004.

The following won the Special Election Primary and are candidates vying for the open seat: Beth Rodd, (D), Bradford, and Peter Russell (R), Hopkinton.

The results of the District 34 Primary Election, held on January 27, are as follows:

Candidate	Votes
Beth Rodd (D)	3,456
Peter Russell (R)	600
Jim Powell (R)	563
Fred Creed (R)	168
Timothy Troncone (R)	41

"[The political mind] is a strange mixture of vanity and timidity, of obsequious attitude at one time and a delusion of grandeur at another time. The political mind is the product of men in public life who have been twice spoiled. They have been spoiled with praise and they have been spoiled with abuse."  
Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933)

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## THE BRADFORD BRIDGE



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### Submissions

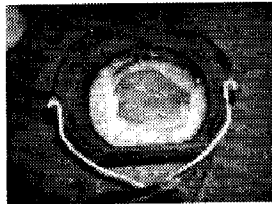
The Bradford Bridge is written by neighbors, for neighbors. Anyone is welcome to submit articles and/or photographs of interest to the community. The Bridge reserves the right to edit submissions for length or content. Send articles or letters to Beth Rodd/Bev Leo at the address, FAX number, or e-mail address above by the 20th of the month.

## HOW COLD WAS IT?

On the morning of January 25, 2004, our thermometer showed -10°F. How cold is that? It is 42° below freezing. It is 88.6° below body heat. It is 202° below the boiling point. But it is still 450° above Absolute Zero! And it is not the coldest we've had this winter. We've seen it reach -15°. At ten below, the water in the horse buckets freezes solid, bowing out the bottom of the bucket. We have to bring the buckets indoors by the woodstove to thaw them out.



The bottom is pushed out by the ice



Solid ice--buckets of fresh water are carried out to the horses four times a day!

Photos and text Beverly Leo

## Bradford Country Squares

The Bradford Country Squares will host a "Sweetheart Swing" Mainstream/Plus afternoon square dance from 2:00-5:00 pm on Sunday, February 22. Please note the new day and time. Jerry Maurice will call and Bernie Porter will cue. Admission is \$5 per person and includes refreshments. For further information, you may call Arlo and Norma Burns at 927-4454. Spectators are free and always made welcome.

—Arlo & Norma Burns

## Thank You, Jarna!

The Bradford Area Community Center Governance Board would like to express its appreciation of our director Jarna Perkins. She has brought a new dimension of humor, efficiency, welcome, and cheer to the center. The Governance Board is delighted to have Jarna as director of the Community Center. It is especially appropriate since Jarna has lived all her life here in Bradford and is descended from a long line of Bradford residents. She is invested in the success of our operation and spends extra hours when needed to keep the center functioning. Jarna, we, as a board, want to tell you that we appreciate you and hope that your enthusiasm continues in the future. The BACC is there for all residents in Bradford and surrounding communities. Come visit us and inquire about our many offerings for all ages from pre-school to seniors.

—BACC Governance Board

## The Workshop

Dean Bensley, Chairman of the KRS Board; and Beth Rodd, candidate for State Representative, to speak on February 12

Dean Bensley, Chairman of the Kearsarge Regional School Board, will be a guest speaker at the Workshop Meeting on Thursday, February 12, at 12:30. Bensley will discuss what's involved with the potential high school expansion and the new middle school: why they're needed, what they'll cost, and problems we'll encounter if we delay the process.

Also joining us is Beth Rodd, Democratic candidate for the place left vacant in the House of Representatives when J. Colcord left to fill Bernie LaMache's spot as a County Commissioner. She will describe the position and answer questions. The public is invited to attend this meeting to be held at the Friendship House in South Newbury on Thursday, February 12th at 12:30. Take this opportunity to meet the candidate for a seat in the New Hampshire House of Representatives and learn more about the schools. Residents of Bradford, Sutton and Newbury will be voting on both items at Town Meeting in March.

For more information call Dolores Hansen at 938-5586.

Dolores Hansen



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## Bradford Rescue Squad Profile—Sue Sneck

What is rewarding about the squad?" Sue Sneck repeated back to me, as she sat reviewing her experiences with Bradford Rescue. "We do something that is immediate; that potentially can save a life in some cases." Sue is the daughter of a retired Fire Chief and feels she comes by a desire to help and be involved in her community naturally.

In her early forties, Sue, who is married with a 5-year-old son, several pets, including a horse, and a busy multi-faceted career, still finds time to commit to the one call-night a week and one weekend every fifth week as a Bradford Rescue Volunteer. Her background in teaching psychology and as a Mental Health and Addictions Counselor in a private school lend well to the helping others enthusiasm that is much needed to be a squad member.

Sue, a cancer survivor, brings a tremendous amount of energy and inspiration to the Squad. She has been a squad member now for almost three years, advancing her training to the intermediate level. Being at this skill level affords Sue more options of patient care including the starting of IVs and additional patient assessment skills. Regardless of the nature of the call, Sue explains, "when a person dials 911, the situation is an emergency to them." The squad responds to a gamut of emergencies from minor accidents to various body maladies, to a heart attack in progress. Each may rate differently in their severity, some life-threatening, but all are equally an emergency to the caller.

"The part of EMS that is difficult," Sue went on to say, "is the strength of having a local volunteer squad. We are neighbors helping other neighbors through a time of crisis. In one instance, a Rescue Volunteer offered to stay at the scene to prepare scrambled eggs and tea, to help calm a person who was just through a traumatic experience."

Sue encourages anyone who has thoughts of joining the squad to follow through on that urge because something is drawing them to it. The Rescue Squad is always interested in speaking to folks who want to become involved. We need people from all walks of life to volunteer because each of us has our own unique abilities and experiences which could benefit the squad's operations. For various reasons, the squad will be losing three EMS members in the upcoming months. Frankly, this will leave us short even as we bring new folks onto the squad. If you have been thinking about a way to become involved in the town and give so much to those in need, please call.

"I was absolutely the least likely person in my family to ever get involved with a rescue squad," one person commented to me. She said this after having volunteered for eighteen years on the ambulance and becoming Captain of the Squad. If you would like to speak to someone regarding Bradford's Rescue Squad, call Jim Powell at 938-2228.

—Stephen Manley, Lieutenant

District 34 Special Election for State Representative Tuesday, March 2  
Bradford Town Meeting Tuesday, March 9

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SPECIAL ELECTION DISTRICT 34  
Tuesday, March 2nd



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for State Representative

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**Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter**

**B**en Steele, who teaches a course in Bird Ecology at Colby Sawyer College, will present a slide program for the Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter entitled "Decisions Faced by Common Eiders: Birding Stress and Brood Coalition in Finland," on Friday, February 13, 7:30 pm at St. Andrews Episcopal Church on Gould Road in New London. This program is open to the public and refreshments will be served. For more information contact Fred Sladen at 526-4321.

Peter Newbern will lead the annual Soo-Nipi Audubon field trip to Cape Ann, Gloucester-Rockport Massachusetts on Saturday, February 14 to look for over-wintering water and shore birds. Participants should meet at Warner Park and Ride, exit 9, I-89, at 8:00 am. Bring lunch, beverage, and binoculars. Scope is optional. Inclement weather automatically cancels the trip. For details call Peter Newbern at 763-4308.

—Phyllis H. Curtiss

**Celebrating the Small Farm**

**N**ortheast Organic Farming Association-NH's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winter Conference will be held on Saturday, March 6 at Rundlett Middle School, 144 South Street in Concord. An educational experience for all farmers, gardeners, and consumers, this conference, entitled "Celebrating the Small Farm: The Bedrock of Healthy Communities", will feature more than two dozen workshops. Some of the workshop topics include: Season Extension/Hoop House Growing; Controlling Insects & Weeds Organically; Joan's Famous Composting Worms; Community Supported Agriculture; Dowsing for Abundance and Joy in Your Organic Garden; Your Food Shall Be Your Medicine and Your Medicine Shall Be Your Food; Small, Diverse, Four Season Farmsteading for a Healthy Living; Getting Your Town to Ban GMOs; Whole Farm Return on Investments; Home Brewed Beer; and Raising Livestock Organically. Full details and price options will be available soon! Check our website [www.nofanh.org](http://www.nofanh.org) or e-mail us at [nofanh@innevi.com](mailto:nofanh@innevi.com).

Karen Booker

**Senior Council Plans Programs For 2004**

**T**he second Saturday of each month, members of the Bradford Area Community Center's Senior Council gather for recreation, informative speakers, delicious refreshments, and entertainment.

On February 14 from 1:00-3:00 pm Pot Luck Luncheon, business meeting, and Valentine games are on the agenda. Any and all seniors from the area are welcome. Membership is simple: just attend and express your interest. There are no annual dues. Those present just add something to the basket being passed.

Among the suggested activities for this year are "Car Pool" travel to "Mystery Restaurants;" a Community Service Project; a visit from our founder, Lynn Smith, now of Concord, to review the group's history, purpose, and goals. Other speakers are presently being recruited. Our January meeting was fascinating as Bev Leo described verbally and visually her long stay as a Peace Corps Teacher in the vastly different culture of Nepal.

For information please call 938-5387 or 938-5352.

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## Exciting Land Protection Opportunity

The newly-incorporated Rural Heritage Connection and the Bradford Conservation Commission have been involved in increasingly intense negotiations to arrange protection of the entirety of the rare Atlantic White Cedar swamp in the southwest corner of town. The cedar swamp and adjoining quaking bog have long been on State and regional lists of important plant communities. Atlantic Cedar has become sparse in its former range on the coast and it occurs in only a handful of locations inland, Bradford being one.

The conservation-minded owners of this 72-acre parcel have lowered the selling price for this effort and have agreed to wait until March to provide time to raise the needed funds. All sources of funding are being researched, though grant processes require more time than is available. Potential for a land swap for cash exists and virtually all of the conservation fund of the Conservation Commission will be called upon. As a last resort, a warrant article may be proposed for an amount to match the conservation fund's \$30,000. It is expected that this article will be withdrawn entirely or reduced at the Town meeting as the results of the fundraising effort are totaled. Approximately \$70,000 will be needed. The exact transaction costs are not known at the time of this writing. Some services will be donated and a survey may not be required. The intention would be for the Town of Bradford to hold the title with a conservation easement in place.

The Rural Heritage Connection was created around the realization that the identity of a community is formed in part:

- by its history, and what remains of its representation in the current landscape in architecture, rural views, and granite artifacts,

- by its unique habitats and the presence of viable wildlife populations and plant communities,

- and by the continued availability of clean water and open space that caused many of us to choose this place as our home.

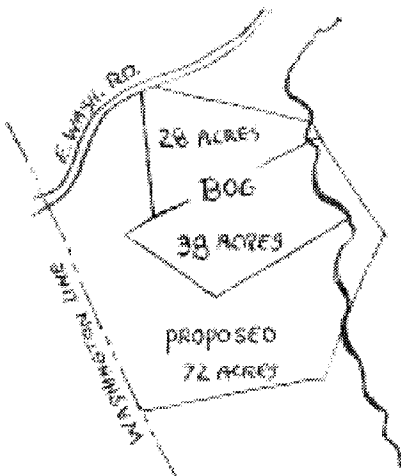
Education will be a primary focus for the RHC. There are potential tax advantages for owners interested in preserving lands of importance by several methods. Various grant programs are tailored to specific qualities as well. And, of course, there are community tax advantages as well.

Within the past year, more than 100 new house lots have been approved or proposed. Even a rudimentary grasp of mathematics indicates that the tax income from these predominantly minimum acreage lots will not approach the costs in services for the increase in population. Schools, police, rescue, and transfer station are some of the main expenses. The majority of these lots are in four new subdivisions on new inroads. This should not be the fate of the Bradford Bog.

Retaining the best of our remaining land in undeveloped open space—by protecting favorite views and recreation lands, the best water resources and wildlife habitats, and the stories contained in the old buildings—serves the dual purpose of preservation of the rural atmosphere and moderation of property taxes.

Growth has accelerated in surrounding towns, it will continue here as well. Fundraising for the preservation of properties of significance, including the project in front of us, will be ongoing. Any donations large or small to this effort will be accepted at the following address: Rural Heritage Connection of Bradford, PO Box 296, Bradford, NH 03221. For more information contact Miranda Levin at [inthering@conknet.com](mailto:inthering@conknet.com).

Ann Eldridge



## Bradford Board of Selectmen

Bruce Edwards, Chairman

Peter Fenton

Dave Pickman

Cheryl Behr, Administrative Assistant

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# LETTERS

To the editor:

At our March Town meeting there will appear on the Town warrant a petition in support of the establishment of a US Department of Peace. On April 8, 2003 House Bill 1673 was presented to the US House of Representatives in Washington DC which proposed the formation of a Cabinet level Department of Peace.

As we have said to many, this concept is not about any particular candidate who is running for President, either as a hopeful or as an incumbent. This is about establishing, at the national level, an option for people to consider when needing to respond to situations that can lead to hostilities, be they within our homes, our schools, in our workplace, or between nations. We cannot begin to change our behavior if we do not know ways to do so. This bill is about creating a choice. And if given a choice, we might be able to consider options other than violence to resolve our differences.

This bill not only has the support of its sponsor but also an additional 49 representatives from the House who signed on as co-sponsors.

The Department will be staffed by an Undersecretary, appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate as stated in our US constitution relative to these kinds of appointments.

In addition, there shall be assistant Secretaries likewise appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, with responsibilities for the following:

- Peace Education and Training,
- Domestic Peace Activities,
- International Peace Activities,
- Technology for Peace,
- Arms Control and Disarmament,
- Peaceful Coexistence and Nonviolent Conflict Resolution, and
- Human and Economic Rights.

The cost of this Department as stated in the legislation would be an "amount equal to at least 2 percent of the total amount appropriated for that fiscal year for the Department of Defense."

The citizens of Bradford, by passing this petition, would be respectfully instructing our elected representatives, Congressmen Bass and Bradley, and Senators Gregg and Sununu to actively work to have HB 1673 come out of all committees as "Ought to Pass" and once on the full floor of the House and after crossing over to the Senate, work in support of and vote in favor of its final passage.

The passage of this petition will further instruct our elected representatives, speaking on our behalf, to elicit the support of the President of the United States in the creation of this Department of Peace as presented in HB 1673.

To read the text of the bill you can go online to: [www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov) and enter HB 1673 in the search box. Once there, click on the "Printer Friendly Display" box in the upper right corner. It is 13 pages long (if you decide to print it) and is very readable.

We hope that in March when we stand to speak on this item, the people of Bradford will vote to support this effort.

For further information you may contact: Sue McKeivitt and Tom Wilkins at 938-2401 email: [mcwil@iamnow.net](mailto:mcwil@iamnow.net).

*Sue McKeivitt and Tom Wilkins*

To the editor:

I was in excruciating pain on one of the coldest nights in January and had to call the Bradford Rescue Squad. One policeman, three EMTs, and a driver appeared to transport me from house to Concord Hospital. I just want to thank these people publicly for taking such good care of me. They took time away from their families to help me and it

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**Letters**, Continued

did not cost me anything. I do not know the policeman's name nor the EMT with him who was from Sutton who did not go to the hospital, so please forgive me. Sue Sneck and Chuck Johnsen were the EMTs and Dave Bowie was the driver. A few days ago I learned that three EMTs will be leaving the Squad and we are in danger of losing this valuable service. If we do not get replacements we will have to depend on New London for assistance and of course will have to pay for the ambulance. Please contact the Bradford Rescue Squad if you can qualify.

*Sincerely, Jane Johnsen*

To the editor:

What have Americans learned about George W. Bush in three years? Certainly not power to the people. Since day one in office Bush has lied, misled and deceived a sleepy nation. George W. has exploited the system, the 9/11 tragedy, and corporate greed.

Wesley Clark, Howard Dean, John Edwards or John Kerry can, any one of them, beat Bush in '04 if Democrats, liberals, progressives, and the environmentally concerned get off their butts and vote their conscience and conviction. You're living on Planet X if you think things will be better after another four years of George W. Bush.

*Ron Lowe, Nevada City, CA*

To the Editor:

Mark your calendars for the Special Election on Tuesday, March 2 when a state representative will be elected to replace Rep. J.D. Colcord of Warner. Mr. Colcord, in turn, will fill the County Commissioner's seat vacated by Commissioner Bernie Lemach who relocated to Florida.

This is a particularly important election because issues that directly affect constituents in District 34 (Bradford, Henniker, Warner, Sutton, Newbury, Webster, and

Hopkinton) are often decided by one or two votes. Since redistricting realigned our representatives' districts, smaller towns with lower populations lost a voice in Concord and we deserve to have our interests and needs heard. I am not alone when I offer my choice for the State House as former two term State Representative Beth Rodd.

Beth was a valued member of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee where she served from 1998-2000. She is a thoughtful, progressive, experienced legislator, highly regarded by her House colleagues of all political persuasions, who is pro-family, pro-children, and pro-choice. She has consistently voted to protect the interests of small towns, the environment, better educational opportunities for our children, and has rejected the notion that the state has no responsibility for supporting our schools and the needs of our communities. She understands that when the state short funds our communities by reducing aid to our nursing homes and county jails, the cost merely shifts to local property taxes and results in decreased essential services and unaffordable, skyrocketing property taxes for all of us. Underfunding education results in disparate quality of education from town to town. We deserve, our children deserve, better.

Beth has worked hard to legislate thoughtful, fair, and balanced approaches to issues relating to domestic violence, milfoil eradication, preservation of our natural resources, health care coverage, and many other issues that speak to the quality of our lives. We need representation in Concord. Beth has experience, keeps us informed, and will continue to work to represent the "little guys" who are often overlooked. Please join me on Tuesday, March 2 in reinstating Beth Rodd as our hometown representative in Concord.

*Mary Keegan-Dayton, Bradford*

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I would like to take a moment to thank all the residents of Bradford who worked the Presidential Primary. You did a great job! It was a great turnout: we had 510 ballots cast and 46 NEW VOTERS REGISTER at the polls. I would like to congratulate the first-time voters of Bradford; we are very proud of you and glad to see you get involved.

Many thanks go out to Ed Knight, owner of the Bradford Junction, for the great lunches and for the cookies you donated. Chris and Bruce Bowie of Bowie's Market for the delicious soup and the sinful chocolate cake. (We counted only votes on Tuesday, not calories!)

I also want to say Thank You to Judy Marshall, Maureen Papuga, and Jarna Perkins. Thank you for your dedication and hard work leading up to and during the Primary. These women worked very hard preparing for the election and registering the new voters and party changes. GREAT JOB!!!

I must say that I am proud to be a resident of Bradford and proud of all the people involved in this wonderful Town!

**Don't Forget to Vote March 2, Special Election, and March 9, 2004 for the Town Election.**

Many Thanks to all.

*Ann Lucier*

*Chairman, Supervisor Of the Checklist*

Dear BBA Members:

Your decision for your annual fund raiser proceeds to benefit the scholarship given annually to a deserving local student was sincerely appreciated by all. Your financial support over the years has always been there for all community activities in our town.

On behalf of the past and future Bradford students and the scholarship committee, thank you for always supporting our youth in their quest for higher education.

*DawnRich*

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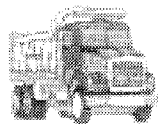
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BRADFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE



**Real Estate Hints:**

**Real Estate and Politics**

*by Laura Hallaban*

When you live in New Hampshire, you come to understand that politics play a big role in our everyday lives, especially around Primary Day. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to meet a wide field of politicians and hear about all the key issues so early in the entire process. While most discussions and debates do not hit on the subject of real estate and home ownership, this year there was news to report.

First, the American Dream Downpayment Act made its way to President Bush in mid-December for his signature. This legislation, backed by the National Association of Realtors, will provide approximately 80,000 low-income families with millions in grants over the next two years to help them pay downpayment and closing costs on their first home. The legislation will provide an average of \$5,000 in downpayment and closing cost assistance to help first-time homebuyers with annual incomes that do not exceed 80 percent of the area median income. Grants will be made to state and local governments through the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) HOME Investment Partnership Program.

The American Dream Downpayment Act also includes two other important provisions. First, it will increase Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loan limits for the construction of multifamily housing in high-cost areas and second, it will provide a technical correction to the FHA's Adjustable Rate Mortgage program that will make the product more available to consumers. Families interested in applying for grants should contact their state or local housing agency.

On the subject of President Bush, his campaign issues also include affordable housing, tax credits, and a simplified mortgage process.

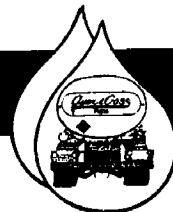
Regarding affordable housing, several candidates on the Democratic side also have campaign goals, according to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition. Sen. John Kerry hopes to boost minority homeownership rates through the National Housing Trust Fund Act and to utilize tax credits. Sen. John Edwards wants to fund brownfields redevelopment initiatives and use Community Development Block Grants and other partnership programs to lure low-cost housing and businesses to underserved districts. Gov. Howard Dean would increase Community Development Block Grants funding and eliminate predatory lenders, while Rep. Dennis Kucinich supports the construction of affordable rentals in rural locales. Ret. General Wesley Clark would bring public transit to low-income neighborhoods to curb sprawl and devote money to brownfields cleanup.

Now that voting day has come and gone and we are on our way to nominating a candidate to take on the current President, keep an eye on these issues and see where each stands as you consider all the issues for next November.

**District 34 Special Election for State Representative Tuesday, March 2  
Bradford Town Meeting Tuesday, March 9**



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