



Neighborhood vitality program holds kick-off meeting for Oakridge

By Mike Dollar
ONA President

I hope you were able to make it to the November 11 Strategy for Vital Neighborhoods Kick-Off Meeting. This meeting was specifically for the Oakridge Neighborhood Program Area. It was a chance for people to share the thoughts on our neighborhood and help identify the priorities that will shape our future. Surrounding neighbors were in attendance, as well as business owners, schools, the faith community, and service providers.

Last month the City of Garland hosted a summit meeting for area leaders in the residential, public, private, and non-profit sectors. Many of the city's leaders were in attendance, as was our own city councilperson, Mark Monroe. Workshops were employed to discuss such topics as building a positive neighborhood image, the influence of the real estate market, creating high-quality physical conditions around your neighborhood, and taking charge of

your neighborhood's future.

Keith Engler, Martha Dollar, Mike Rose, and I attended from our neighborhood and are eager to implement ideas presented there.

Courses have been announced for the new Garland Neighborhood University. They are set up to provide basic tools in leadership and communication for managing neighborhood growth and change. The courses are free to all Garland residents, and I encourage each of you to attend at least one. The first course, The City Government 101, begins in February.

Please visit www.garlandvitalneighborhoods.org or call the Office of Neighborhood Vitality at 972-205-3346 for information on all the courses offered, dates, times, and registration deadlines.

Your ONA remains focused on our goals of neighborhood involvement, building community, and beautification and renovation. The Board of Directors worked hard this past summer, and the fruit of these labors are becoming evi-

dent. We continue to gain more new members and volunteers every month. We have plans for an exciting caroling party in early December, and the neighborhood will look grand wrapped in decorations for the season.

We have interviewed several landscape architects and are beginning to work out the kinks in our landscape lighting and sprinkling systems.

We still need your help in so many ways and appreciate your e-mails, phone calls, support, attendance, encouragement, and friendship.

Thanks for being such a good neighbor to us and those around you! As we move forward as a neighborhood and community, it is important we remain thankful for family, friends, and neighbors.

Please feel free to contact me at ONAPresident@aol.com. I always enjoy hearing from you and will try to reply within a few days of receiving your correspondence.

Have a great Thanksgiving holiday!

I·N·S·I·D·E *this issue*

The Oakridge Daytimers had a great, costume-filled meeting for the month of October. Get the latest. **Page 2**

But the Daytimers weren't alone there, because the Women's Club also had a great time this Halloween. Find out who wore what. **Page 3**

The Garland Fire Department has honored two Oakridge residents for their heroism in assisting a heart attack victim. Read the story in this month's CPS Report. **Page 4**

Jack Frost nipping at your nose already? Don't forget about the plants. Get the scoop on how to keep your garden ready for spring. **Page 5**

Robbie Lang has a good Chinese restaurant to recommend. **Page 6**

Why might pill bugs pick this fall to invade your house? And how can you prevent them? **Page 7**

Carolers will take to the streets in December

By Sherri Rutherford-Franks
Special Events Coordinator

Oakridge is never more beautiful than during the holidays. Roger and I like to take the many Oakridge scenic routes home during the holidays. So make hot chocolate and treat yourself to a nighttime drive through Oakridge sometime during the holidays.

But if you are taking that drive on Sunday, December 3 be sure to watch out for the carolers. Or better yet, join us! We will meet in the Oakridge Country Club parking lot at 5:30 p.m. The plan is to have two groups of carolers sing several traditional holiday songs at each stop. We will have words to all the songs so no need for a practice. Afterwards, carolers are invited to hot chocolate, coffee, apple cider, and dessert at Roger and my house at 2313 Lone Oak

Trail. It's not too late to sign up as a caroler or to have the carolers make a stop by your house. Please leave me a message at 972-496-5454 if you would like to join us caroling or leave me your address if you would like us to sing to you on your front lawn. My e-mail is sherri72@comcast.net if you prefer to contact me via e-mail.

Here's an idea: Why not have some of the neighbors over that you met at the summer block party for some holiday treats and let the carolers provide the entertainment?

Don't forget about the annual ONA-sponsored Holiday Lawn Decorating Contest. Judging will occur after the second week of December with the signs for first, second, and third place winners put in the yards shortly there-

See ONA plans on page 2

ONA plans old-fashioned holiday caroling

continued from page 1

after. The decorating gets more imaginative and competitive each year.

As special events coordinator, I get to have a lot of fun with events and meet so many nice people, but I want to tell you about a special event I witnessed the other day by a party of one.

I was on my way to work about 7:15 a.m. out the Ridge Oak entrance, and there was one of our residents picking up trash that had blown off Jupiter onto

our common areas. This was a special event because it doesn't happen often enough.

The ONA's funds are limited to the voluntary annual dues of which 50 per cent are spent on landscape maintenance once a week or less. Please help by just stopping for a quick minute to pick up litter at our entrances.

People visiting our neighborhood might not notice there *isn't* litter in our neighborhood, but they will certainly notice if there *is* litter in our community.

Daytimers don costumes running the gamut

**By Dianne Winter
Oakridge Daytimers**

Spiders, witches, laughter, candles, pumpkins, and a strawberry smoothie (Jo Dietz) greeted costumed Daytimers at the home of beauty queen, Ms. Whatever (Chris Beyers), for the October Coffee.

The food hostesses, Margaret Fowler, Shirley Mohler, Becky Parks, and Sue Pauly, served treats from a festively decorated table.

Several witches, JoAnn Williams, Clara Meurer, Becky Parks, Martha Boyette, and Dianne Winter, gathered with a pirate with bird (Audrey Golden), hippies (Audrey Castleman and Sharon Carlton), saloon dancer (Pat Sharp), a graduate in original 1970 cap and gown (Gail Durbin), Raggedy Ann (Arlene Tovey), feathered socialite (Mary Jensen), two queens of hearts (Dot Mohrle and Beverly Pierce), a proper lady (Trudy Schmidt), poodle skirt dancer (Jewel Wooldridge), a flapper with fish nets stockings no less (Agnes McGhee), jester (Betty Prickett), and static cling (Suzanne Snow).

Other attendees, dressed as themselves, included Sue Pauly, Monica Evans, Ruth King, Eleanore Nelson, Fran Hagar, Norene Murphy, Jackie Tucker, and Lucy Brock,

Pumpkin (Sally Weiss, president) opened the meeting by noting that October is Computer Learning, National Dessert Seafood, and Adopt a Dog months. In addition, October includes a Moldy Cheese, Angel Food Cake, Babbling, and Chocolate Day.

Sally introduced Courtney Flatt from *The Dallas Morning News* and

noted that pictures and stories about the Daytimers and art contest winner, Beverly Pierce, had been included in the Neighbors section. Also introduced were visitors Venita Bass,Carolynn Franks, and Melva Knox.

Paul Revere (Audrey King) announced birthdays and illnesses of members and read a thought-provoking poem, "October Mourn," which she had penned.

Margaret Fowler reported on the ONA meeting and answered questions and encouraged members to be informed and take part in the recent issues.

The door prize winner was Martha Boyette, who was celebrating her birthday.

Reoccurring group events and activities were announced.

In addition, the ETC and Late Bloomers Group announced a trip to Farmers Market and lunch.

Book Club is up and running with a diverse book list for the year, and Norene reminded members that the chatting is as good as the stitching at Stitch and Chat.

Daytimers invite you to the next fall coffee at the home of **Monica Evans, 2815 Hickory Bend, Tuesday, November 14 at 10 a.m.** and then the Cookie Exchange at the Oakridge Country Club on December 12.

Daytimers is a social organization that requires residence in Oakridge and \$15 dues. Daytimers promote the Oakridge Community and the ONA. Questions should be directed to President Sally Weiss at 972-202-1140.

About the ONA

Oakridge News is a publication of the Oakridge Neighborhood Association.

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Women's Club enjoys evening of trick-or-treating, costumes, fun

By Rebecca Chanez
Oakridge Women's Club

I am sorry to say this month's article is going to be somewhat short and lackluster. My husband and I recently found out we are expecting again. Although this is wonderful news, this pregnancy has already worn me out — and I am still in the first trimester! Therefore, I was unable to attend this month's meeting. However, I can give you the highlights and tell you about the Halloween party, which was held at Rita's house.

My son is now 2 years old, and I was excited he could now enjoy trick-or-treating through the neighborhood. Last year he was 13 months and not walking and didn't understand why our doorbell kept ringing. This year, he got to experience ringing the doorbell himself. So, you might understand why this was so exciting for me — so exciting, in fact, that I dressed up a bit myself as a good witch. My son was Jack Jack, a character from the animated movie *The Incredibles*.

We arrived at Rita's house at about 6:15 and enjoyed hot dogs, punch, and watching the other children arrive all dressed up and ready to go trick-or-treating through the neighborhood. We had Buzz Light-Year, a ballerina, a ghou, a bad witch, and a go-go dancer, as well as a few other characters. Although it was quite chilly, we made our way through the neighborhood.

My son at first was quite apprehensive and was not comfortable going up to total strangers, as he should be. When he realized they were putting his

favorite treats in his bucket, lollipops, he started to run down the sidewalk when we would go to the next home. The neighbors were great and seemed to really enjoy passing out candy. There were kids everywhere.

This is what I love about our neighborhood. Everyone really seems to participate in the events that take place in the subdivision. After going to a few homes around Rita's house, we came home to hand out candy. My husband and I always enjoy handing out the candy and seeing all of the characters that come to our door. We had Emmet Smith in full gear, Captain Jack Sparrow from *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and several Supermen. It was lots of fun.

Then poor Rita had to clean up from the Halloween party to host our monthly meeting, which was held Thursday, November 2. It was Keno night.

Everyone who came had to bring a \$5 gift. The food theme was Chicken Salad.

Although I missed it, I was able to get the highlights from Libby, our club president. We are having our annual Adult Christmas party. What this basically means is *no* children allowed. The party will be held December 7 at Benihana's. There will be a white elephant gift exchange and fun had by all.

The next event is our annual Christmas Limo ride, which will be held December 14. This involves dinner at a member's house, followed by a limo ride through nearby neighborhoods to see the Christmas lights. This is just for ladies. We bring snacks and drinks and let someone else do the driving. The last event in December is the children's Christmas party, which will be held at

my house. We get what is, in my opinion and in some of the club members' opinions, one of the best Santas around. His costume is beautiful and his white hair and beard are real! We each bring a wrapped gift for our child, and he gives them out from his big red sack. The kids just love it and have such a wonderful time. The children take pictures with Santa and get to ask him all kinds of questions and he answers all of them.

If you have children and want them to meet other children and have fun at our events, please come out and visit us. I guarantee you will get hooked. You will meet some wonderful ladies that have a lot in common with you, enjoy great food and conversations, and love to get out of the house from time to time. Sometimes, we need it.

Because of all of the events taking place next month, I don't believe will be having a monthly meeting. However, you are certainly welcome to contact Libby or me if you would like to join the club and participate in these wonderful events. We'd love to have you.

The Oakridge Women's Club meets the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

If you would like more details about the upcoming events or joining the OWC, please contact President Libby Morse at TOMLIB@comcast.net.

The Oakridge Women's Club is open to women in the Oakridge neighborhood who share a strong and common bond in the love of children and families.

We welcome prospective new members at all meetings! Annual dues are \$20.

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Garland Water Use Restrictions

The City of Garland continues to enforce Stage 2 of its Drought Control Program. The city will turn off water service to repeat offenders, and there will be a \$50 reconnection fee in addition to other expenses.

Designated Watering Times:

- Even-numbered addresses: Sundays and Thursdays, from midnight to 10 a.m. and from 8 p.m. to midnight
- Odd-numbered addresses: Saturdays and Wednesdays, at the same times

Prohibited Except on Watering Days:

- landscape irrigation except with hose-end sprinklers or automatic systems
- washing of any vehicles
- filling, refilling, or adding to any pool or hot tub

CPS lauds Oakridge heroes recognized by Garland Fire Department

**By Eric Morris and Carol Garrison
Crime Prevention and Safety**

October brought cooler temperatures and lower crime statistics. We only had four reported incidents according to the Oakridge Siren. Three of these incidents involved burglary of a vehicle: one at the country club and two on the same day on Big Oaks. The fourth incident was mail theft on Stoneridge.

This last reporting should be taken quite seriously; mail theft is a potential start to identity theft. If you notice anyone tampering with a neighbor's mail box, please notify the authorities immediately. Need the number? The

NPO, Officer Bergin, is at 972-485-4896, while the non-emergency police line is at 972-485-4840.

On a more seasonal note, the CPS would like to give thanks to a pair of heroes in our community. On Oct. 22, The Garland Fire Department presented awards to Ken and Donna Byrd for their lifesaving efforts in May 2005. Donna coached Ken over the phone to perform CPR on one of their neighbors until the paramedics arrived. We should all be thankful for having such great people in our neighborhood!

Last but not least, CPS offers a bit of Thanksgiving trivia for all to enjoy: Ben Franklin wanted the turkey to be the

official bird of the USA, but was outvoted in favor of the bald eagle, the Aztecs kept domesticated turkeys as pets, and Sarah Hale is the lady responsible for Thanksgiving Day.

She campaigned for a day of Thanksgiving for 40 years, and her dream was realized when Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday of November as the official day of Thanksgiving in the United States. Franklin Roosevelt moved the date up one week for a longer Christmas shopping season, and the fourth Thursday was sanctioned by Congress in 1941. Sarah also wrote "Mary had a Little Lamb." Have a wonderful and safe November!

Learning these tips can help you avoid common household dangers

Safety in the Bathroom *from the American Academy of Family Physicians*

Falls and spills in the bathroom are commonplace, especially in and around the bathtub or shower.

Here are suggestions on how to prevent bathroom falls, courtesy of the American Academy of Family Physicians:

- Keep a bath mat on the bathroom

floor, and quickly clean up any puddles that form.

- Use a non-slip mat in the bathtub or on the shower floor.
- Install and use handrails in the bathtub or shower.
- Use a shower chair if you have a tendency to become tired or tend to slip in the shower.

Medications, both prescription and over the counter, should be stored appropriately to maintain their full effectiveness.

Extreme temperatures and other conditions may affect the way medicines work. Improperly stored medications may even become dangerous.

For the rest of this health article and an archive of others, please visit the official site of the ONA at www.oakridgena.com.

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NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

Arrival of Jack Frost means dormant plants, but remember to water

By Bruce Miller
www.brucemillernursery.com

Jack Frost! We never know when he is going to show up, but it's almost always before or during the first week of November. This signals the dormant season for most plants and doom for tropicals and summer annuals.

For those of you who really like to get in the spirit of fall, Bruce Miller Nursery stocks pumpkins, gourds, hay bales, corn stalks, Indian corn, and scarecrows.

If you have fruit trees, it's time to spray with a dormant oil spray to smother over-wintering eggs of potentially harmful insects. Also spray with a fungicide bordeaux mixture or Cap-

tan to control peach leaf cure and bacterial cankers.

It is time to get your indoor bulbs started to force bloom by Christmas. Paper white narcissi and amaryllis can be started without pre-chilling. For tulips and hyacinths, chill until about three weeks prior to desired bloom time and then plant in pots and put in a warm environment — ideally, in good strong light. The fragrance of paper whites and hyacinths is outstanding.

If you have not planted pansies yet, get busy. You may also plant daffodils, crocus, and grape hyacinth now. Wait until after Thanksgiving or when chilling has been completed (45 degrees for 45 days) to plant tulips and hyacinth bulbs.

November is a good time to plant your trees and shrubs — or, after the first freeze, to transplant any tree or shrub that was planted in the wrong place and needs to be moved.

Don't forget to water! Just because it is winter and things are dormant doesn't mean plants don't need watering. You can cut back on watering to about once a week, depending on the weather. When the TV weatherman says the temperature is going to drop below freezing and the ground is dry, turn on the water and get everything wet prior to the cold.

Please do not water when the temperature is below freezing. The accumulation of ice on trees and shrubs can cause a lot of damage, not to mention the hazard of icy walks and streets.

From the ONA Recipe Box



Cranberry Bars By Robbie Lang

1 pkg. butter cake mix
1 cup each, old fashioned oats
2 eggs
1 can whole cranberry sauce

½ cup canola oil
1 tsp. ground ginger & chopped walnuts
(pecans will work)

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 9-by-13-inch baking dish with Pam, set aside. Combine cake mix, oats, nuts, eggs, oil and ginger in a large bowl and stir. Mixture will be very thick. Using finger tips spread ½ of the mixture into bottom of dish. Reserve other ½ for topping. In separate bowl gently stir cranberry sauce. Spread evenly over crust. Pinch and press pieces of reserved mixture and scatter over filling.
Bake 35 to 40 minutes, or until light brown. Let cool for 30 minutes. Cut into 24 portions.

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- recipes?
- important local dates?
- health tips?
- Oakridge bylaws?
- other useful information?

OSGA holds three-day flighted medal play

Oakridge Senior Golf Association
By Jim Vineyard

October was loaded with golf, competition, and old-fashioned fun. We began the month with a mixim on October 5. The highlight of the month was the three-day, flighted medal play.

The mixim on October 5 ended in a three-way tie. The winners were Walt Capps, Bob Figone, Marshall Fryar, Bill Gamble, David Hall, Lou Knight, Ralph Morgen, Tom Schaffner, Jim Tucker, John Tucker, Ray Williams, and David Winter.

The results of the medal play conducted on October 17, 19, and 24 were as follows:

A Flight

- 1st Gross – Henry Stover
- 2nd Gross – Bill Gamble

- 3rd Gross – Steve Remington
- 1st Net – John Agee
- 2nd Net – Jay Houston
- 3rd Net – Joe Bennett

B Flight

- 1st Gross – Jim Vineyard
- 2nd Gross – Ray Williams
- 3rd Gross – Felix Rotello
- 1st Net – John Blumn
- 2nd Net – Jim Tucker
- 3rd Net – Harold Waterman

C Flight

- 1st Gross – John Tucker
- 1st Net – Bob Yen

Other Results

- Long Drive on 24th – Henry Stover
- Closest on No. 11 – Steve Remington
- Highest single-hole score (tie) – Bill Gamble and John Tucker

Treating heart attacks requires quick action

*Courtesy of the Provena
St. Joseph Medical Center*

If you see someone who appears to be having a heart attack — with classic symptoms such as chest pain and nausea — it's important to act quickly. You must call 911 immediately.

While waiting for paramedics to arrive, here are some tips on how to help the patient, courtesy of the Provena St. Joseph Medical Center:

Do not wait to call for help, as the heart can be damaged if treatment is delayed.

Try to keep the person calm, and

have them sit or lie down.

Do not try to drive the person to the hospital yourself. Wait for help to arrive.

Have him chew and swallow a non-coated aspirin. Don't have him swallow it whole, as it will not work as quickly.

If he stops breathing, you or someone else who is qualified should perform CPR immediately. If you are unfamiliar with CPR, the trained 911 operator can assist you until help arrives.

For a variety of other health-related articles, please visit the official Web site of the ONA at www.oakridgena.com.



FOOD FAVORITES

A Monthly Restaurant Review

By Robbie Lang

Restaurant: China Garden
Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., everyday
Address: 4011 E. Renner Rd. #128 in Richardson
Phone: 927-235-6888

Theme: Chinese cuisine

On the Menu: Shanghai, Canton, Hu-

nan, and Szechwan style

Luncheon special: 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., every day, including egg roll, soup (hot and sour and egg drop) or vegetable tofu, and rice (fried or steamed). Very reasonably priced.

Price range: Moderate

Comments: Enjoyed the ambience and quiet. We tried the Pu Pu Platter, Moo Goo Gai Pan, and Almond Chicken. We believe this place is a cut above other Chinese restaurants.

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Pill bugs and thrips populate long list of wintertime home invaders

By Kimberly Schofield
Program Specialist, Urban-IPM
k-schofield@tamu.edu

Pesky Pill Bugs

Pill bugs might be entering households this fall due to the lack of moisture and cooler weather. Pill bugs are in the class *Crustacea*, so they are closely related to shrimp, lobsters, and crabs. Pill bugs have seven sets of legs, and their color varies from dark gray to white. They get their name from rolling into a tight ball when bothered.

Pill bugs are typically found under rocks, boards, bricks, trash, decaying vegetation, logs, or any area with a high humidity level.

Mulch, grass clippings, and leaf litter provide enough decaying organic matter to allow these creatures to survive. They are considered omnivores feeding on dead or decaying plants or animals, so some may feed on the young roots and shoots of live plants.

The female pill bug produces offspring which she carries in a pouch under her body, until they can take care of themselves. Although mating is common, males can be produced through parthenogenesis.

An immature pill bug will molt four or five times, before becoming an adult. The immature pill bugs look like adults except for size, color and sexual development. There are usually multiple generations a year.

Pill bugs are generally harmless in landscapes and they are usually considered beneficial, since they break down organic matter. However, they can become a serious pest in greenhouses if large populations exist.

Non-Chemical Control Options

Reduce areas of moisture, especially areas where moss or fungi inhabit.

Protect natural enemies such as frogs, toads, and spiders. Remove plant debris to discourage pill bugs.

Chemical Control Options

If infestation exists, then granules and perimeter sprays can be applied around structures and within the landscape, such as those containing bifenthrin.

Inviting Thrips Indoors

As winter approaches, we start to move our potted plants indoors. One insect that may go undetected are thrips. These insects are very tiny, almost microscopic and can be a nuisance since their mouthparts are able to penetrate into human skin, causing a prickly sensation.

Female thrips lay eggs inside plant leaf tissue, using a serrated ovipositor to cut through the plant tissue. This allows the eggs and larvae to be well protected from insecticides and natural enemies. The immature thrips will feed on the plant tissue until it falls to the ground to pupate. Thrips undergo a prepupal and pupal stage before becoming an adult. The total length of the lifecycle from egg to adult can be completed in about a week.

Thrips have rasping-sucking mouthparts that allow them to cut open epidermal cells to release the cell contents that are then ingested. This causes the cells to collapse due to absence of its contents. Their feeding also causes discoloration and deformities of leaves and petals.

As thrips feed, they inject saliva into the plant tissue which allows viruses to be transmitted. The viruses they transmit are Tomato Spot Wilt Virus and Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus. However, the first instar larvae are the only life stage that is capable of obtaining the virus. The virus then replicates inside the immature thrips's saliva glands as it matures into adulthood. Once it reaches adulthood, the thrips is able to transmit the disease.

Cultural Control Tactics

Dispose of weeds, trash or debris to reduce the thrips population, since these areas may serve as overwintering sites for thrips.

Avoid planting thrips susceptible plants in areas close to wheat or rye fields. Wheat and rye are both good overwintering sites for some thrips species that can attack landscape plants. Discard infested plant materials to avoid infesting other plants.

Biological Control Tactics

A natural enemy of thrips is the adult minute pirate bug (*Orius* sp.), which



Adult Pillbug. Photo by Texas A&M



Western flower thrips, *Frankliniella occidentalis* (Pergande).

attacks both immature and adult thrips. Another natural enemy is the *Neoseiulus* sp. predatory female adult mite, which attacks the first instar thrips and the soil-dwelling predacious mite, *Hypoaspis* sp, which attack the prepupal and pupal stages of thrips in the soil. Also *Beauveria bassiana*, a fungus sold in certain biopesticide products, is effective at controlling thrips. This fungus grows and reproduces on the host, eventually killing the thrips in around 7 to 10 days.

Chemical Control Tactics

Some chemical control options include products such as insecticidal soaps, products containing spinosad, permethrin, bifenthrin or acephate applied as foliar sprays or systemic products containing such chemicals as imidacloprid or acephate.

Mention of commercial products is for educational purposes only and does not represent endorsement by Texas Cooperative Extension or The Texas A&M University System. The pesticide user is always responsible for using products in accordance with the label.

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Upcoming Events

Nov. 21	Daytimers Stitch and Chat, Book Club, Afternoon Bridge, and Weekly Canasta
Nov. 23	Happy Thanksgiving!
Dec. 2	Downtown Garland First Saturday Trade Days
Dec. 8	Deadline for <i>Oakridge News</i> Articles

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