

Raymore Review

Fall 2016



The City of Raymore is dedicated to being a quality community in which to live, work and play.



Flip over!
For the Parks & Recreation Program Guide



Raymore Review

The Raymore Review is produced by the City of Raymore. For more information or for comments about this publication, contact Communications Manager Mike Ekey at 816-892-3109.

Important Numbers

City Hall	816-331-0488
Municipal Court	816-331-1712
Animal Control	816-331-0530
Building Inspection	816-331-7916
Cable Service (Comcast)	816-795-1100
Chamber of Commerce	816-322-0599
City Clerk	816-331-3324
Communications	816-892-3109
Community Development	816-331-1803
Economic Development	816-331-5000
Electricity (KCP&L)	816-471-5275
Emergency Management	816-892-3032
Engineering	816-331-1852
Fire Department -	
South Metro Non-Emergency	816-331-3008
Gas (Missouri Gas Energy)	816-756-5252
Parks & Recreation	816-322-2791
Planning & Zoning	816-331-1803
Police (non-emergency)	816-331-0530
Post Office	816-331-2736
Public Works	816-331-2377
Raymore Peculiar Schools	816-892-1300
Trash Service - Residential (Town & Country)	816-380-5595
City Utilities Office	816-331-5182

Meeting Schedule

City Council Meetings

2nd and 4th Mondays, 7 p.m.

City Council Work Sessions

1st and 3rd Mondays, 7 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Commission

1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Arts Commission

2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Park Board

4th Tuesday, 7 p.m.

All Meetings in City Council Chambers, 100 Municipal Circle • Raymore, Mo.

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COVER: The Raymore Arts Commission wraps up its summer-long Pop-up Art Project: Relax in Raymore. Learn more about the project and how you can participate next summer.

Contact Us

Have a Question?

Ask questions and report concerns to the City 24/7 on our online Request Tracker. Visit www.Raymore.com and click on Report a Concern.

City Officials

Kristofer P. Turnbow, Mayor
Jim Feuerborn, City Manager

Ward One

Kevin Kellogg

Ward Two

Joseph Burke, III
Derek Moorhead

Ward Three

Kevin Barber
Jay Holman

Ward Four

Sonja Abdelgawad
Charlene Hubach

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@CityofRaymoreMO
@RaymorePD

City Hall

City of Raymore
100 Municipal Circle
Raymore, MO 64083
816-331-0488

www.Raymore.com

Public invited to weigh in on City budget

Following its release in August, residents will have the opportunity to weigh in on the City's proposed annual budget at several public hearings this fall.

The Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council will hold public hearings on the Capital Improvement budget and annual budget that will guide the City through fiscal year 2017.

7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 6

Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearing on the Capital Improvements Budget

7 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 10

City Council Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget. The City Council will give its final approval of the budget at its following meeting on Oct. 24.



To read the full proposed budget, visit www.Raymore.com/Budget

Charter Review Commission set to begin work

The commission's recommended changes will be presented to the City Council later in 2017.

Starting this fall, the Charter Review Commission will begin the detailed review of the City's guiding document: the City Charter.

Every 10 years the City Council forms a volunteer commission made up of residents to review and recommend changes that will ultimately be approved by voters in one of the 2017 elections.

In August, the City Council officially appointed the nine-member commission and tasked them with reviewing both the Charter and City Code to ensure both are up-to-date and do not conflict with one another.

Charter Review Commission Members

Ward 1

Sheldon Castleman
Tim Stidham

Ward 3

Michael Wilson
Matthew Wiggins

Ward 2

Stephanie Dareing
Derek Moorhead
Joseph Burke, III

Ward 4

Charlene Hubach
Calvin Acklin

To learn more about the commission, and see a schedule of meetings, visit www.Raymore.com/CharterReview



Google Fiber construction begins

Google Fiber high-speed internet and cable will soon be coming to Raymore.

While many are excited for a new high-speed internet and cable provider, it also means Google will be undertaking a major infrastructure project in Raymore to install the new fiber required for their network.

Residents can expect to see Google Fiber contractors working within the City's right-of-way and various public easements. Residents should receive door-hangers from Google Fiber contractors prior to construction activity beginning in their immediate neighborhood.

Google Fiber contractors will be placing buried conduits, installing fiber (both aerial and buried), and replacing utility poles if necessary.

You may expect the following during the construction process:

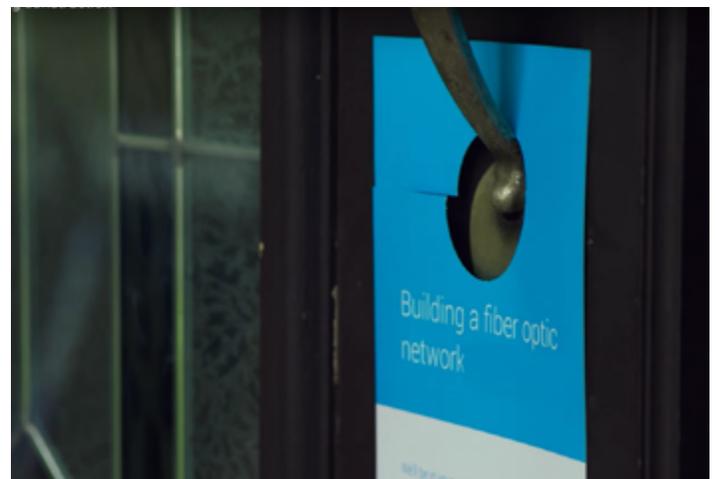
- Occasional lane closures as contractors work along residential streets.
- Contractors may need to access utility poles or underground equipment on or near your property.
- Digging in numerous easement or right-of-way areas will be necessary to install the fiber network within your neighborhood.

What is Google Fiber?

Google Fiber is an ultra-high speed internet service which provides internet connection speeds up to 100 times faster than today's average broadband internet service. Google Fiber may also include high-definition television service and phone service depending on the option purchased by the resident.

Where can I find out more information about Google Fiber?

For questions about Google Fiber service, contact Google Fiber Customer Service at 866-777-7550 or visit fiber.google.com/cities.



Google Fiber contractors will notify residents before construction in their area begins with door hangers.

Who do I contact with questions or concerns about Google Fiber construction work, or if my property is damaged due to the construction work?

Please contact the Google Fiber Construction Phone Line at 877-454-6959.

What is a right-of-way or utility easement?

For specific questions regarding right-of-way or utility easements on your property, please contact the City of Raymore Public Works Department at 816-892-3048. In general, right-of-way or utility easements are an area in which a municipality or utility has the right to access and use the area for the benefit of the public. Typically, this would be for transportation purposes (i.e. roads, sidewalks, etc.) and depending on the area it may extend approximately 10 – 15 feet behind the edge of the street or curb. It can also include areas along the side and behind your property.

What is the City's role in the Google Fiber project?

The City supports business development activities within the City; however, the City does not endorse the products and/or services of businesses. The City will monitor and review the infrastructure work being done by Google, but there is no requirement for residents to purchase or subscribe to the services they will eventually be offering.

What if I want to contact someone at the City of Raymore with questions?

You can contact Communications Manager Mike Ekey at 816-892-3109 or MEkey@Raymore.com

If you have questions or concerns with Google Fiber construction in your area, call the Google Fiber construction phone line at 877-454-6959.

For more information, you can also visit www.Raymore.com/Google



Mark your sprinklers for extra precaution

As Google contractors make their way through the City installing the new fiber, they will be conducting some of that work in residents' yards.

Although they will be marking all public utilities and taking precautions as they work, it will be important that residents also mark where their in-ground sprinkler heads and lines are located as well.

The City has a record of homes with up-to-date back-flow permits, but if you have installed a new system or not had the system inspected recently, the City might not know to notify Google's contractors of your existing in-ground sprinkler system.

Residents can pick up a free set of pink yard flags to mark their sprinkler system and ensure that Google's contractors know where your system is located in your yard.

To pick up your free set of pink yard flags, contact the Public Works Department at 816-331-2377 or email Melissa Paith at MPaith@Raymore.com.

Keep your pets safe:

Five reasons why you should license your dog with the City

Being a dog or cat owner requires all sorts of responsibility. One that is often overlooked is registering your dog with the city and getting them properly licensed.

Failing to license your pet can hinder your chances of getting him back if picked up by the City Animal Control Officers and can earn you fine.

If the above isn't reason enough for you to properly register your dog, here are a few more reasons why you should:

1. It's the law. In Raymore, it is mandatory that dog owners have their pets licensed. If you get caught without a license, which can and does happen, you will be hit with a fine. Dogs must have a renewed license each year, which must be displayed on them at all times.

2. It helps lost pets. If your dog goes missing, having them licensed drastically improves your chances of getting your dog back. A license tag helps animal control and shelters quickly identify your pets and get them back to you safely. If your dog is found wandering the streets, our staff can easily look up your dog via its license identifying number.

3. Avoid fines. The cost of the license is far less than the penalty for being caught without one. If an animal control officer finds your dog without a license, you can end up paying a fee of up to \$250.

4. It shows your dog is healthy. Licensing lets people know that your dog is up to date on its rabies vaccinations. A dog cannot be licensed unless it is properly vaccinated. Animal control or a good samaritan will be much more likely to want to handle and care for your missing pup if they know that it is healthy and without rabies.

5. License fees support the efforts of our City's Animal Shelter. By paying to properly ID your dog, you are helping to feed and house stray dogs found on the streets within your city.

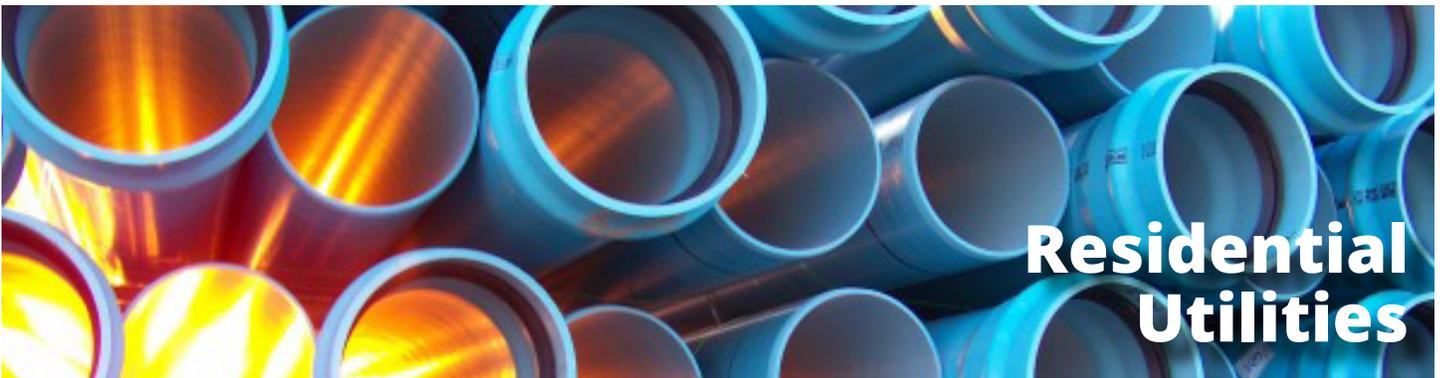
How do I get a license?

To receive a license, visit www.Raymore.com to download an application and return it to the Utilities Office at 100 Municipal Circle. You must provide a certificate showing that your dog is up to date with its rabies vaccinations and will also need to pay \$5 for spayed/neutered pets or \$20 for each unspayed/neutered pet.

**Visit www.Raymore.com
or call 816-331-5182 to
download an application.**

**Pets MUST be licensed
each year by Jan. 1.**





Is Winter Averaging right for you?

How does the City's Winter Average billing system save me money?

When looking at your monthly utilities bill, residents might notice they are charged for both water and sewer usage.

Typically, the City calculates your sewer usage based on the amount of water a home or business used in that month — which is measured at the water meter. The assumption is that the water that goes into a building then also goes out through the sewer system.

However, we know there are many different water uses where the water might not directly return to the sewer system (e.g. watering the lawn or garden) and it is not appropriate for sewer to be charged for these uses.

This is why Raymore created the Winter Average program to help residents save money on their sewer bill.

Under this opt-in program, the City will look at a resident's water/sewer usage during the winter months of December, January and February to determine a home's average sewer use for those months. That average will then be applied to the monthly bills throughout that year.

You could find that this system saves you money as you get outside in the summer to water your lawn, wash your car or fill the pool.

Of course, the City also offers sewer billing based on the Volume Method.

Customers who choose this option pay for the same number of gallons of sewer as they actually use in water, no matter what month it is.

For some customers, particularly lower water users, this may be a cheaper alternative to the Winter Average method.

To learn more about the City's Winter Average program call the Raymore Utilities Office at 816-331-5182, or visit www.Raymore.com.

An example of how the City calculate a Winter Average:

December water use: 4,400 gallons
January water use: 4,900 gallons
February water use: 4,000 gallons
Total 13,300 gallons

Average amount: 13,300 / 3 = 4,433 gallons)

In this example, you would only be billed for 4,433 gallons at the current rate for sewer every month through the rest of the year. It could lead to a possible savings based on your individual water use in the summer.



The new Municipal Center will serve as a community gathering place for Raymore residents. It will also become the new administrative home to the Raymore Parks & Recreation Department.

Municipal Center begins to take shape

The City is scheduled to break ground on the new facility in late fall.

Raymore's newest community gathering place moves closer to breaking ground as City staff and members of the City Council give their final approval to plans later this month.

Plans for the Municipal Center began more than a year ago based on resident feedback that the City had no large public gathering spaces. To meet that need, the 9,180 square foot center will include several meeting spaces (both indoor and outdoor) as well as a hall that could seat more than 300 people.

"This will be more than just a building," Assistant City Manager Meredith Hauck said. "It will be a place where residents can come together as a community and connect with one another as neighbors."

The building is primarily being funded through money allocated by the City's general fund. Residents also approved an expansion package that increased the size of the building through a no-tax-increase bond election in April.

Along with the increase in size, the building will also feature a community art gallery space, warming kitchen for catering, outdoor fire pit and several connections to area trails so residents can walk to the center from surrounding neighborhoods. The center will also become the administrative home for the Parks & Recreation Department.

"Whether it is the Arts Commission or Parks & Recreation, we know this facility will allow us to expand our cultural and community offerings for many years to come," Hauck said.

Construction is expected to be completed by summer 2017.



Architects incorporated a large amount of outdoor space that could be used for meetings or gatherings. The area trails will also be extended to give pedestrians the option of walking to the new Municipal Center once completed.

The 9,180 square-foot Municipal Center will include a large community room that could seat 300, theater style or 250 around large round tables for banquets, weddings or other events.



Proposed building floorplan & amenities

Architects from DRAW have been working with staff and City Council members since June to capture as many amenities as possible based on resident feedback. These plans are still conceptual, but give a solid idea of what the final building could look like. Once finalized later in September, the City will break ground sometime this fall.

1. Lobby
2. Community Art Gallery
3. Community Room
4. Community Room Storage
5. IT/AV Closet
6. Warming Kitchen
7. Check-In Counter
8. Staff Offices
9. Private Staff Office
10. Bathrooms
11. Meeting Room
12. Building Entrance Plaza
13. Vestibule
14. Tree Bosque and Seating
15. Shade Structure
16. Rear Patio Space
17. Grove and Walking Trail
18. Lawn/Outdoor Space
19. Staff Entrance
20. ADA Access To Patio
21. ADA Access To Lawn
22. Family Bathroom

For updates on the Municipal Center and to see more information, visit www.Raymore.com

City recognized as Bronze-Level Community for All Ages

The City of Raymore was recently named a "Community for All Ages," which recognizes its work to become more age friendly.

The recognition program encourages communities to respond positively to the rapid increase in the older adult population and to adopt policies and programs that make the region a great place for residents of all ages to live and age well.

Raymore received a Bronze level recognition, which recognizes awareness of the issues and requires a resolution or commitment by the city's elected body, as well as community presentations and engagement.

Raymore City staff worked with program managers from the Mid-America Regional Council's KC Communities for All Ages to learn about the issues, using materials developed by the program and attending workshops to learn how to assess Raymore's age-friendliness and make their community more welcoming for all age groups.

The Communities for All Ages recognition program was developed by the First Suburbs Coalition and KC Communities for All Ages. Blue Springs, Liberty, Raymore and Roeland Park all achieved the Bronze level. In addition, Gladstone earned the KC Communities for All Ages Gold award and Mission will receive the Silver award. The cities were recognized at the First Suburbs Coalition meeting on Friday, June 17.

The recognition program recognizes three levels of achievement that reflect increasing degrees of commitment to becoming a Community for All Ages. The other levels are Silver, which includes the completion of an assessment process and requires the community to appoint a citizen-based committee to assess city activities and investments; and Gold, the highest level, which recognizes communities that formally adopt a Communities for All Ages plan based on the assessment completed at the Silver level.

More information about the recognition program is available online at www.kccfaa.org.

What does it take to earn a Community for All Ages designation?

Each step in the process asks that cities take on more action items to show their commitment to creating a community that is truly welcome to all ages.

To earn Bronze

Awareness:

- Adopt a resolution
- Make a presentation to Council.
- Hold at least one community meeting to discuss issues and present information.
- Prepare written materials on age-friendly communities and distribute to the public.
- Include information about Communities for All Ages on your website.

To earn Silver

Assessment:

- Meet the requirements for Bronze
- Form a Community for All Ages committee of community members and have members use the Communities for All Ages Checklist to assess your community and issue a report based on their findings.

To earn Gold

Implementation:

- Meet the Bronze and Silver level
- Adopt a Communities for All Ages Plan or include a Community for All Ages component in a major local plan, such as a comprehensive plan, strategic plan or park plan.

Learn more about the City's Community for All Ages initiative at www.Raymore.com/CFAA

POP-UP ART PROJECT

RELAX IN RAYMORE



Community art project sends residents on a new kind of search

It is not uncommon to see residents walking through parks or neighborhoods with their smart phone out searching for something.

Only this past summer, the Raymore Arts Commission beat the Pokemon craze with a search of its own: creative adirondack chairs.

The City collected all of the entries from the June Summer Scene arts and music festival and created an interactive map to highlight exactly where each chair is located.

“While it was great to see all the chairs together at Summer Scene, this project was about bringing art to the whole community,” Arts Commission Chairwoman Sharon Parys said. “Now, wherever went in our community, you were bound to find one of the chairs.”

In June the Relax in Raymore project awarded two artists with the top chairs as decided by a panel of judges and by those residents who participated in the Summer Scene arts and music festival.

Shari Lindsay won for Judges Choice while Aubrey Gann-Pedmon won the People’s Choice award.

Roughly 300 who attended the Summer Scene festival voted in the competition.

Although the Relax in Raymore community art project ended in August, residents will get another chance to show off their creativity next summer when the Pop-up Art Project returns.

Visit www.Raymore.com/Arts to learn more.



Shari Lindsay (TOP) won for Judges Choice while Aubrey Gann-Pedmon (BOTTOM) won the People’s Choice award.



A Monarch butterfly eats from a Milkweed plant.

City pledges support for native plants, dwindling area monarch butterflies

On June 13, Mayor Kris Turnbow and City Council members pledged Raymore's support in sharing in the responsibility of planting native plants that sustain the Monarch butterfly.

Through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, cities and municipalities around the country are taking similar pledges to create habitats and educate citizens about how they can make a difference at home.

The Monarch Butterfly is an iconic species whose population has declined by 90 percent in the last 20 years due, in large part, to the decline of milkweed and nectar producing native plants.

The annual migration of the Monarch Butterfly from Canada to Mexico passes through the Midwest, putting Raymore — and the entire Kansas City area — in the path of this natural phenomenon.

The Raymore Parks & Recreation Department has also taken this pledge and the use of native plants in the parks system to heart. In 2016 alone, parks staff planted five Monarch butterfly gardens throughout the park system.

Native plants help make a difference

On Sept. 10, parks staff will also help with a native



Raymore Tree Board member Paula Diaz accepts the proclamation from Mayor Kris Turnbow pledging the City's support of the Monarch butterfly.

plant sale at T.B. Hanna Station where residents can purchase native plants for their home gardens.

These plantings and efforts to encourage the use of native plants, come through the cooperative efforts of Bridging the Gap, Missouri Department of Conservation, Critsite, Missouri Wildflower Nursery, Platte Land trust, South Grand Watershed River Alliance, Paula Diaz and many other volunteers.

The Parks & Recreation Department has used native plants as part of the landscaping and maintenance program for several years along stream buffers, trails, in landscape beds and in open green space.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, native plants help the environment the most when planted in places that match their growing requirements. They thrive in the soils, moisture and weather of our region. That means less watering, which can be wasteful, and fewer pest problems that require chemicals.

Native plants also assist in managing rainwater runoff and maintain healthy soil as their root systems are deep and keep soil from being compacted.

Native plants form a solid foundation for any healthy ecosystem

According to Tree Board Member Paula Diaz, 70 percent of the plants we use at home and in landscaping across the country are originally from other continents.

This means there is an abundance of different plants, insects and animals native to this area losing the food they rely on to survive.

It is essential that we begin integrating our native plants back into our landscape to provide the needed resources that complete the food chain for the Monarch Butterfly, migratory birds and all kinds of wildlife.

The Mayor's Pledge is a small way the City can do its part to improve the declining population of the Monarch and improve the life cycle of other wildlife. Planting beautiful, cost saving natives in your own landscape areas and gardens is a great way for you to do your part and utilize plants that are cultivated by nature to thrive right here in Raymore.

Create your own butterfly garden at home

Plant your garden in full sun

Plants, especially flowering plants, need sun to make food for themselves and nectar for butterflies. Butterflies also need sun to warm their bodies for flight.

Plant butterfly-attracting flowers

Butterflies are attracted to flowers with strong scents and bright colors where they drink sweet, energy-rich nectar. Select plants that are native to your area and they will attract local butterflies.

Include host plants in your garden

Butterflies lay their eggs on host plants that the emerging caterpillars will eat. The sight of a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis will more than make up for the chewed leaves.

Use colorful plants

Butterflies see more colors than humans do. They seem to prefer red, orange, yellow, purple and dark pink. A large, colorful garden is easy for butterflies to find and encourages them to stay longer.

Don't use chemical pesticides

Pesticides kill butterflies, caterpillars and other useful insects.

Learn about native butterflies

Each butterfly has a favorite nectar plant and needs a specific host plant where it will lay eggs. Learn about local butterflies, so you can provide the right match of plants to make your garden a popular hangout.

Sit back and enjoy the butterflies

You've set the stage; now watch the show. You won't be disappointed.

Source: The Missouri Botanical Garden

EVENTS CALENDAR

FALL 2016



SEPTEMBER

30 - Trucktober-fest

Food trucks, live music and much more. Friday from 6-9 p.m. at T.B. Hanna Station Park.



NOVEMBER

8 - Election Day

Polls open at 6 a.m.

10 - Veterans Day Celebration

Join us for special guest military personnel, a flag raising and refreshments. Tuesday at 4 p.m. at T.B. Hanna Station Park.

11 - Veterans Day

City Hall will be closed.

24-25 - Thanksgiving Holiday

City Hall will be closed.

OCTOBER

25 - Final Farmers Market

The final farmers market of the season. Join the Parks & Recreation Department for a spooky good time. Plenty of trick-or-treating for the kids. Tuesday, 4-7 p.m. at T.B. Hanna Station Park.



28 - Harvest Night

Join us for a haunted hayride and walking trails, s'mores, face painting, pumpkin decorating and more. Friday from 6-9 p.m. at Recreation Park.

DECEMBER

2 - Mayor's Tree Lighting

Join Mayor Kris Turnbow as he flips the switch on the City's tree to kick off the holiday season.

23 & 26 - Christmas Holiday

City Hall will be closed.



JANUARY

2 - New Years Day (observed)

City Hall will be closed.

WHY IS THIS PAGE UPSIDE DOWN?

Starting in 2016, the Raymore Review and Parks & Rec Program Guide have been combined into one easy-to-read booklet. At this point, you have reached the end of the Fall Raymore Review.

Just flip this booklet over and you can find all of the winter and spring program offerings from your Parks & Recreation Department. There is a lot there you don't want to miss.

Of course, you can also find ALL of these stories and the Parks & Rec Program Guide online at www.Raymore.com.



City
100 Municipal
Raymore, Mo. 64085
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