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Vance County Farmers Market,
Our State Magazine

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events

- November 11 - Office closed for Veteran's Day
- November 21 @ 10am - Regional Summit Kick-Off Planning Meeting
- November 21 @ 2p.m. - RAAC Meeting at Kerr-Tar COG
- November 28-29 - Office closed for Thanksgiving

HALLOWEEN AT THE COG



LAST DAY TO VOTE IS NOV. 5!



ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 5

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

Voting on Election Day?



You can do the
following things:

- **Find Your Polling Location:** Use your state's election website to locate where you should vote.
- **Bring Necessary ID:** Check if your state requires photo ID and make sure to bring it.
- **Plan Your Time:** Voting hours vary, so plan ahead to ensure you have time to vote.
- **Review Your Ballot:** Take your time to ensure your selections are accurate before submitting.
- **Request a Provisional Ballot if Necessary:** If there's any issue with your registration, you have the right to a provisional ballot.

HAPPY 30th WORK-IVERSARY



Our ombudsman Kim Hawkins is celebrating 30 incredible years with Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments as of Wednesday, October 30th!

Join us in congratulating Kim on this remarkable milestone!

ARPA Deadline & Support Office Hours

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

The obligation deadline for ARPA funds is 12/31/24. If you are uncertain whether all of your ARPA funds are obligated, please contact High Country COG (kconner@kerrtarcog.org)

ARP OFFICE HOURS

The UNC School of Government (SOG) hosts virtual ARPA Office Hours for local governments to discuss issues related to the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Fund program and local government finance. NCACC participates in these sessions and provides timely updates for counties on ARPA-related matters. Click [here](#) for the UNC SOG ARPA Office Hours and to access the Zoom link.

Upcoming ARP/Finance Office Hours:

- Monday, Nov. 4 – 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 14 – 12-1 p.m.
- Monday & Tuesday, Nov. 18-19 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Disaster Response Training)
- Wednesday, Nov. 20 – 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- Monday, Nov. 25 – 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Disaster Relief Through Local Partnerships

DONATE to CIVIC Federal Credit Union for Hurricane Helene Relief

One of the most effective ways to help local communities is to partner with local government. Civic Federal Credit Union has partnered with the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Government to ensure that 100% of every dollar donated for disaster relief will go to people that are most in need. Join us by donating to a trusted source!



For more information or to donate, please go to [NC Association of Regional Councils of Governments](#)

Henderson Mayor Proclaims October 15 as Chamber of Commerce Day

Mayor Melissa Elliot officially declared October 15th as "Support Your Local Chamber Day" in Henderson. City Manager, Terrell Blackmon, read the proclamation, highlighting that the Henderson Vance Chamber of Commerce was established in 1938 and has since provided vital marketing resources, educational opportunities, and advocacy for over 300 active members. Margier White, a valued member of the chamber, also contributed to the celebration describing it as "I wouldn't have it any other way."

As the COG we want to take this moment to recognize and celebrate our fellow chambers across the region. We want to give a huge shout out to the Lake Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce, Granville County Chamber of Commerce, Henderson-Vance Chamber of Commerce, Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce, and Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce.



Join the Broadband Planning Committee

Broadband Planning Committee

Internet and Training for all



The Kerr-Tar Regional Broadband Planning Committee will consist of an actively engaged group that will:

- Brainstorm regionalism through the lens of Digital Inclusion & Equity
- Broadband infrastructure improvements
- Support implementation of the Kerr-Tar Regional Digital Inclusion Plan
- Maintain and update of the Kerr-Tar Regional Digital Inclusion Plan when Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren have updated their county level plans on a regular basis (optional annually or required every three years).

Committee Members: The proposed structure of the Kerr-Tar Regional Broadband Planning Committee will designate sixteen seats that promote inclusion from identified voices in the region:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Franklin County | • Higher Education (VGCC) | • Healthcare |
| • Granville County | • Higher Education (PCC) | • Farm/Agriculture |
| • Person County | • Nonprofit | • Veteran |
| • Vance County | • Small Business | • Information Technology |
| • Warren County | • Faith Leader | • Education (K-12) |
| | • Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments | |



Scan Me!

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NC MS&RP Development Workshop



DOWNTOWN AND NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT SMALL-SCALE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP AND HISTORIC TAX CREDIT TRAINING

What is it?

Fostering small-scale development is key to creating a strong downtown or neighborhood commercial district. A small-scale developer rehabs one building at a time, learning as they go, and completes a custom project with the rehabilitation of each building. These developments translate into new businesses, jobs, and housing units, and most importantly, they catalyze incremental investments in downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts for continued economic growth.

Join us to learn how economic development professionals can take the mystery out of redevelopment and grow more local developers for your community. This day-long training is intended for any North Carolina community that has a commercial National Register Historic District or a commercial district that is on the National Register Study List.

This training will position small-scale developers and the local staff, such as Main Street programs, city staff, and local economic development staff, that developers will work with to better understand the process of using historic tax credits as a funding mechanism to redevelop historic commercial properties.

These workshops are hosted by the NC Department of Commerce Main Street & Rural Planning Center, the NC Department of Natural & Cultural Resources State Historic Preservation Office, and the host community.

Who should attend?

Anyone who supports the redevelopment of historic properties, including but not limited to, Main Street Directors, Economic Developers, Historic Preservationists, City/Town Staff, including building inspectors and fire marshals, CPA's, Architects, Engineers, and especially, Small Scale Developers working in small to mid-sized communities, and Downtown or Neighborhood Commercial District Property Owners.

Schedule

2024

Apr 24 - Tryon, NC (Western)

June 12 - New Bern, NC (Southeast)

July 17 - Washington, NC (Northeast)

Aug 21 - Lenoir, NC (Northwest)

Oct 2 - Mount Airy, NC (Piedmont-Triad)

Nov 13 - Salisbury, NC (Southwest)

2025

Jan 8 - Clinton, NC (Sandhills)

Feb 12 - Oxford, NC (North Central)



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Vance County Designated as a Certified Retirement Community

Retire NC recognized Vance County as a Certified Retirement Community. This designation recognizes the county's commitment to providing a high quality of life for retirees. Vance County is a destination for retirees looking to enjoy a vibrant, active lifestyle with access to healthcare, cultural amenities, and a welcoming community. The program also highlights the county's assets, including Kerr Lake, rich historical sites, outdoor recreation, and proximity to larger metropolitan areas like Raleigh-Durham, all of which contribute to a well-rounded retirement experience.

Retire NC, as a part of the North Carolina Department of Commerce, is a state initiative that certifies communities that meet criteria for retirement living, ensuring they offer retirees a wide range of services, activities, and amenities. Communities with this designation are recognized as great places for retirees to live, work, and enjoy life.



Rack Em' Up: New Billiards Room for Seniors



The Louisburg Senior Center has opened its expanded billiards room to encourage social activities for its members. In addition to billiards, the Louisburg Senior Center offers educational programs, Senior Games, BINGO, dance classes, exercise classes, fitness centers, Cardio Drumming, crocheting, and chess lessons. The Franklin County Department of Aging also operates a senior center in Franklinton.



Kerr-Tar at Vance County's National Night Out



On October 1st, Kerr-Tar's Area Agency on Aging and Safe Routes to Schools made an appearance at Vance County's National Night out. Our table had a special table to win a variety of prizes including T-shirts, back scratchers, and candy! Families of all ages were able to receive information about bike and pedestrian safety along with our aging and ombudsman services.

National Night Out had three exciting performances including the Vance County Schools Cheer Team and drum line, clog dancing from Ballet Arts and Hendfact with their dance performance seen below.

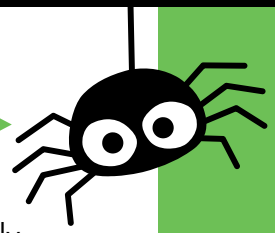


Senior Center Fall Fest

The North Granville Senior Center and the South Granville Senior Center in Creedmoor held the fall festival at Stovall Community Park on Friday October 18. Senior center participants had lots of outdoor fun, food, and festivities. They enjoyed lots of outdoor activities like horseshoes, cornhole, croquet, bocce and more!



Halloween Cheer at Maple Heights



Maple Heights Rest Home in Person County embraced the Halloween spirit with a lively pumpkin-painting activity! Led by the caring staff, residents put their creativity on full display, decorating pumpkins with vibrant colors, unique designs, and plenty of personality. This cheerful event brought joy and togetherness to our seniors, making Halloween extra special at Maple Heights.



2025 Aging Well Conference



[Click here for more information.](#)

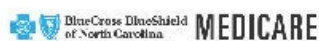
SAVE THE DATE

2025 Aging Well Conference
May 15–16, 2025

In-person

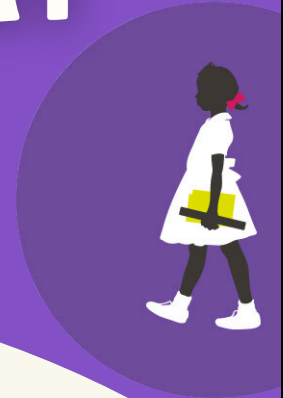
Appalachian State University
Boone, NC

For more information, contact Gail Pawlik at gpawlik@wakehealth.edu or call 336-713-7761.



WALK WITH US FOR RUBY BRIDGES DAY

Come join us for a Ruby Bridges walk
joined by a story walk around the track,
goodies, and other fun activities!



November 14th 3:30-6pm

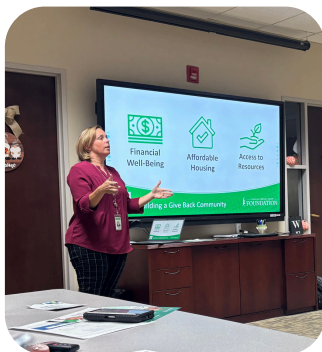
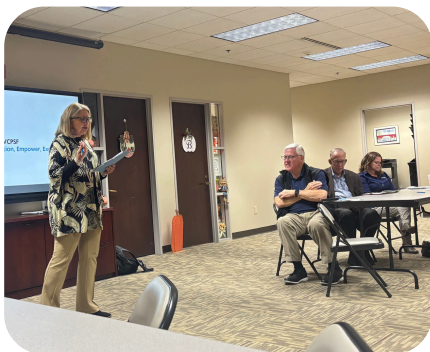
Aycock Recreation Center
307 Carey Chapel Rd.

The walk will begin as you arrive
where we will all follow around the
track awarded with a sticker for
each lap we take.
During this walk we will be reading
the book "I am Ruby Bridges" with
vendors providing fun goodies
and information!

JOIN US!



Non-Profit Engagement Meeting



On October 29th, the Chamber of Commerce hosted their quarterly non-profit engagement meeting at the Vance County School Administration Building.

The event featured four key organizations:

1. **Vance County Public Schools Foundation:** Superintendent Dr. Cindy Bennett, along with board members Dr. Abidan Shah and Aarika Sandlin, shared insights on their operational successes. They highlighted the foundation's focus on four educational pillars: *Equity and Inclusion, High-Performance Culture, Innovation, and Experiential Learning.*
2. **Duke Energy Foundation:** Beth Townsend provided valuable guidance on grant applications, tailored to various organizational needs, and offered to connect attendees with additional funding opportunities.
3. **Coastal Credit Union Foundation:** Karen Jones discussed their initiative, "The Power of the Penny," which contributes a penny to local nonprofits for every purchase made with their card, fostering community support.
4. **Vance County Early College High School:** Principal Debbie Hite showcased student achievements and sought potential internship opportunities for her students.

This meeting was a fantastic opportunity for local non-profits to connect and collaborate for community growth!

Grant Opportunity: T-Mobile Hometown Grant

T-Mobile

T-Mobile is committing up to \$25 million through 2026 to support small towns, villages, and territories across America by funding community projects.

You can submit an application at by clicking **[HERE:](#)**

- Small towns with populations less than 50,000 are eligible to apply
- Recipients are selected and awarded on a quarterly basis
- Grants are up to \$50K per town
- Selected winners will provide status updates on their projects at 6 and 12 months
- Plans must be able to be executed within 12 months of receiving funds

Check out this flyer!



Carolinas Renewable Energy Development Assistance and Siting Hub



(DASH)



On March 25, 2024, as part of President Biden’s Investing in America Agenda, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced six state-based projects that will receive federal funding through the Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP) grant.

One of the awarded projects is a collaborative project between North and South Carolina called the **Carolinas Renewable Energy Development Assistance and Siting Hub (DASH)**, and it is being led by NC State University’s North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC). The NCCETC is partnering with the NC State Cooperative Extension, the Center for Energy Education, the South Carolina Energy Office, and the Southeastern Wind Coalition to carry out the project.

Housed under the U.S. DOE Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (EERE) in collaboration with EnergyWerx, R-STEP is intended to be a “go-to” resource for information and engagement when it comes to state-based renewable energy planning siting, and permitting.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

As part of the Carolinas Renewable Energy DASH, NCCETC is hosting community meetings throughout the Carolinas to better understand local concerns and thoughts about large-scale solar and wind energy project development.

RSVP FOR A COMMUNITY MEETING!



FEEDBACK WILL ALLOW US TO:

- Identify topics & questions for future educational community workshops and;
- Shape the project’s online technical assistance hub with resources for communities across the Carolinas.

Disclaimer: The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Department of Energy or the United States Government.

Thanksgiving Conversation Starters: Renewable Energy Edition!



Solar Roads: Imagine driving on roads that generate clean energy! Countries like France and the U.S. are embedding solar panels in pavement, producing enough energy to power hundreds of homes.



Fish Ladders: Hydropower is saving aquatic life with innovative fish ladders that help fish migrate upstream past dams, preserving ecosystems while generating energy.



Iceland's Geothermal Heating: 90% of Icelandic homes are heated using geothermal energy. The country powers its hot springs and homes with 100% renewable energy!



Wind-Powered Ice Cream: Ben & Jerry's has cut 53% of its emissions by powering its Netherlands factory entirely with wind energy since 2011. Enjoy guilt-free scoops!



Solar-Powered Airplanes: The Solar Impulse 2 made history as the first aircraft to fly around the world using only solar energy—no fossil fuels needed!



Underwater Kites: In the Faroe Islands, unique underwater kites harness tidal energy to power homes, aiming for 100% renewable energy by 2030!

Information provided by earthday.org

Share these intriguing facts and inspire your family to think about the exciting future of renewable energy!

Duke Energy Foundation Awards KTCOG for Chestnut Street Park

The Duke Energy Foundation has awarded Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments with \$10568.00 for the Chestnut Street Park project. The Chestnut Street Park revitalization project is an Adopt-A-Park community volunteer lead project to enhance the city park in that neighborhood. By acquiring this grant we will utilize unused park space to increase park participation and visitation. Making this park a more family orientated location for birthday parties, community events and safe haven for citizens in this area. The request submitted to the Foundation was to purchase picnic tables, benches, and ADA accessible tables for guests to enjoy the beautification of Chestnut Street Park –estimated to begin construction in Spring 2025. Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments is thrilled to collaborate with the City of Henderson and the Duke Energy Foundation for the benefit of Henderson's residents and visitors. Regional Project Manager Amanda Lewis emphasized, "Without strong community partnerships, these projects would not be possible. Thank you Duke Energy Foundation, the City of Henderson, and CJ Turrentine for their shared alignment focus on Vibrant Economies, Climate Resiliency, and Opportunity and Inclusion."



FEMA Awards Cybersecurity Grant to the Town of Warrenton

On October 14th the Town Administrator Robert Davie announced that The Town of Warrenton was awarded a \$165,837.39 cybersecurity grant provided by FEMA through the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program. Our grant writer, Amanda Lewis provided technical assistance for this grant that will provide Warrenton with the security measures to prevent phishing attacks. According to the Warren Record, Davie said "The grant funding will allow Warrenton to convert all emails to a Microsoft security app. He said that the grant includes four years of Microsoft products plus six years of incident response."

Congrats to the Town of Warrenton!



2024 NADO Conference: New Orleans



On October 21-24, the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) held their conference in New Orleans where some of the COG staff including our Director, Diane Cox, the directors executive assistant Katie Connor, and our Community and Economic Development Manager Desiree Brooks were able to enjoy this great opportunity to connect with others and sharpen their skills. They heard from experts throughout the conference learning tracks consisting of regional resilience, organizational development and equity. This invaluable experience not only enhanced their professional development but also strengthened our commitment to fostering resilient and equitable communities in our region.

Help North Carolina Advance



Help our state **AdvaNCe**
www.advanceNCtransportation.com

- Watch our video
- Take our survey
- Try our calculator

North Carolina is **rethinking** how we fund transportation.

Our transportation network is key to helping the traveling public safely and efficiently reach their destinations.

Questions? info@advanceNCtransportation.com

Nicole's Visits to Our Local Farms

Our AmeriCorps staff member, Nicole Manalis, has been hard at work visiting farms across our region, connecting with local farmers, learning about their unique needs, and exploring ways we can support their efforts. Her dedication is helping us strengthen ties within our agricultural community! Enjoy some of the pictures below and remember to **shop local!**

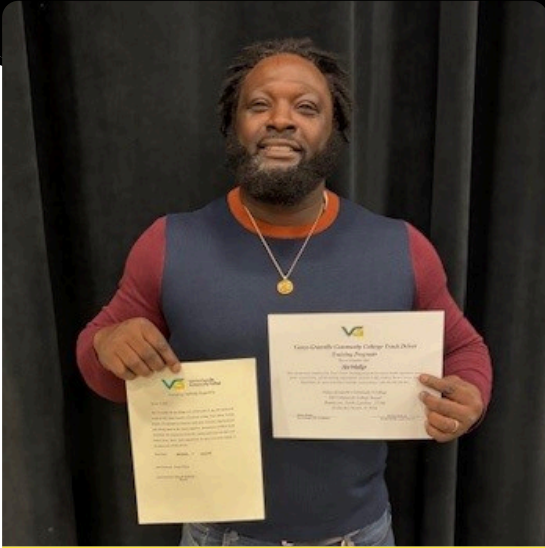


NC A&T Joins Kerr-Tar Food Council for Vision Planning



On October 30, the Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council was joined by a team of Extension Specialists from NCA&T. The Aggie faculty members answered questions pertaining to statewide initiatives as part of a panel and offered insight as the food council worked to establish a vision statement for the group. This marked the 6th monthly meeting of the KTRFC.

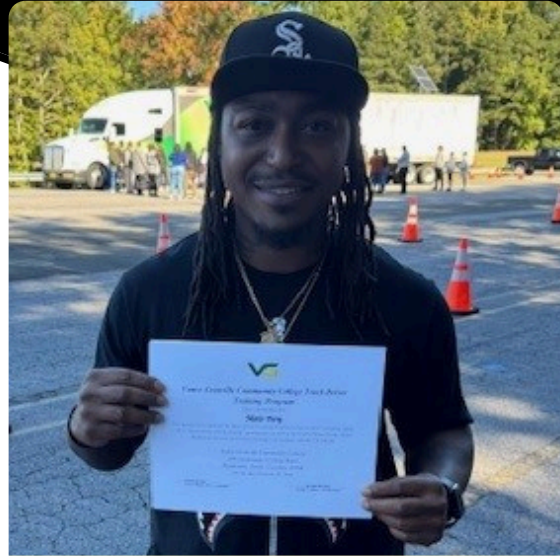
Success Stories



Iba Walker

Congratulations to Iba Walker for successfully completing the CDL program and gaining employment! Iba was enrolled in the WIOA program on July 8th, 2024, with the goal of obtaining his CDL Certification and License.

As a father of four, balancing training with family responsibilities was challenging for Iba. He was previously employed at Walmart Distribution as a machine operator. Nevertheless, his commitment and determination to improve his financial situation and provide for his family never wavered. Upon receiving his credentials, Iba accepted a position as a Transport Driver for U.S. Express, Henderson, NC. He started his new position on October 21st.



Mario Perry

Mario enrolled in the WIOA program on July 1, 2024, with the goal of obtaining his CDL certification and license. In August 2024, he began the CDL program at Vance-Granville Community College.

Prior to this, Mario worked at Hollander Sleep and Décor in Henderson, NC. His objective was to secure stable employment and improve his financial situation. Through hard work and dedication, Mario successfully acquired the necessary skills and certifications to achieve his career goals.



“Pink Day” Breast Cancer Awareness Event



The NCWorks Career Center recently held a heartwarming celebration during the all-Staff meeting on Thursday, October 24, to honor a remarkable survivor, Tatum Ryan. As the Data Analyst for the WIOA Program at the NCWorks Career Center, Tatum's journey acknowledged her resilience after being diagnosed earlier this year but also celebrated the joy of her recovery, as she is now cancer-free. As part of the event, staff members participated in a surprise “Pink Day,” by everyone wearing pink to symbolize hope and solidarity in the fight against breast cancer. A moment of silence was dedicated to allowing attendees to reflect on the lives impacted by this disease, remembering not only survivors like Tatum but also those who have tragically lost their battle against breast cancer. The event was a reminder of the importance of regular screenings and early detection. A special “Thank You” to Matris Robinson with the Reentry Program for organizing the event.



Stay Connected with Your NCWorks Career Center!



[@NCWorksCareerCenter-KerrTar](https://www.facebook.com/NCWorksCareerCenter-KerrTar)



www.kerrtarworks.com



[@ncworks_kerrtar](https://www.instagram.com/ncworks_kerrtar)

[CLICK HERE FOR KERR-TAR LABOR MARKET UPDATE](#)



2024 Holiday Celebrations

Roxboro

Jingle on Main:
December 5, 5:30pm

Christmas Parade:
December 14

Oxford

**Lighting of the
Greens &
Christmas Parade:**
December 6 4:00pm

Henderson

Christmas Parade:
December 7, 3:00pm

Warrenton

Christmas Parade:
December 14, 7:00pm

Youngsville

Tree Lighting:
December 6, 5:30pm

Christmas Parade:
December 7,
10:00am

Creedmoor

Tree Lighting:
December 6, 7:00pm
Christmas Parade:
December 7, 11:00am

Butner

Christmas in the Park:
December 6, 7:00 pm
Christmas Parade:
December 7, 2:00pm

Bunn

Christmas Parade:
December 10, 12:00pm

Franklinton

Tree Lighting:
November 30, 7:00pm
Christmas Parade:
December 5, 7:00pm



KERR-TAR

Council of Governments

COMMUNITIES SERVED

- [Franklin County](#)
- [Granville County](#)
- [Person County](#)
- [Vance County](#)
- [Warren County](#)
- [Town of Bunn](#)
- [Town of Butner](#)
- [City of Creedmoor](#)
- [Town of Franklinton](#)
- [City of Henderson](#)
- [Town of Kittrell](#)
- [Town of Louisburg](#)
- [Town of Macon](#)
- [Town of Middleburg](#)
- [Town of Norlina](#)
- [City of Oxford](#)
- [City of Roxboro](#)
- [Town of Stem](#)
- [Town of Stovall](#)
- [Town of Warrenton](#)
- [Town of Youngsville](#)

Executive Director

Diane Cox
dcox@kerrtarcog.org

Area Agency on Aging

Alan Winstead
awinstead@kerrtarcog.org

Community & Economic Development

Desiree Brooks
dbrooks@kerrtarcog.org

Workforce Development

Lou Grillo
lgrillo@kerrtarcog.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments aims to promote regionalism that provides opportunities for local governments to enhance and improve the quality of life for our citizens through effective delivery of services and programs.

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

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