

Downey rejects residential daycare facility

The facility would have operated out of a single-family home on Suva Street. The Planning Commission denied the application after complaints from neighbors.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY - The Downey Planning Commission denied an appeal to allow the operation of a large family daycare in a residential property at their meeting on Tuesday.

Downey resident Sandra P Castro Magallon submitted an application on April 16 to run a daycare for up to 14 children at her single-family residence from the proposed hours of 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week.

This was denied by the city, citing potential nuisance to neighboring properties and traffic concerns.

The 6,022 sq. ft. property is located at 7542 Suva Street, on the south side between Guatemala and Wiley Burke avenues.

Tuesday brought Magallon—who was joined by her legal representation – an opportunity to convince the commission to reverse the city’s initial decision. Several community members – many of which are Magallon’s neighbors – also came out to speak on the issue, mostly in opposition.

Magallon’s attorney, who primarily addressed the commission in her client’s stead, argued that any concerns on the basis of concentration, traffic, parking, and noise were hypothetical and not based on an actual study, and that Magallon’s proposal met all ordinances in terms of a large family daycare.

She also added that Magallon is already running a smaller daycare, and that it would only be adding a few more children.

Magallon and her corner were unable to sway the commission, however, who voted 3-0 in favor of the city’s initial denial.

Commissioner Jimmy Spathopoulos said that it was “pretty clear” that the needs of the four essential elements of the plan – concentration, traffic, parking, and noise – were not met.

“Those other items I think are really big items,” said Spathopoulos. “I think we need to focus on traffic. I think we need to focus on spacing. I think we need to focus on noise, not only when it comes to daycare, but when it comes to everything.”

“As planning commissioners, it’s our job to listen to what [staff] is telling us, and understand if they’re telling us this then it has to be that way. If those four items are not met – with just one being an opportunity to deny – we have to take that in consideration. I think there’s overwhelming support from council to strongly take that position.”

Vice Chair Miguel Duarte and Commissioner Patrick Owens were absent from Tuesday’s meeting.

1,800 students sign-up for free college courses

The new fall semester started Monday at Cerritos College; the college offers two years of free tuition.

NORWALK - Students heading back to Cerritos College this week for the fall 2019 semester will see several upgrades and new programs.

Cerritos College welcomed more than 1,800 new high school graduates into its Promise Program Cerritos Complete this fall semester.

Beginning this semester, Cerritos Complete offers two years of free tuition to students who are committed to achieving success. The award-winning program offers personalized support to help students graduate from college in less time.

On August 13, the college hosted a kick-off event for participating students from ABC, Bellflower, Downey, Lynwood, Norwalk-La Mirada, Paramount Unified school districts, and Field of Dreams Charter School. Since its inception in 2015, Cerritos Complete has benefited 4,376 students.

Cerritos College is one of only 12 California community colleges that offers two years of free tuition.

With its continued focus on student completion, the campus also unveiled its new Stats in Motion program, which offers a creative way to teach students math concepts. The pilot program is a partnership



Photo by Leslie Castaneda
TalonMarks.com

between the mathematics and athletics departments and provides academic support to student-athletes in an untraditional way.

The curriculum is customized for athletes using game scores, team performances, and rankings to make content more relatable and identifiable. While student-athletes are playing their respective sports, they are also learning how to apply math to the game.

Creating a healthy campus environment that encourages and supports student success is critical. The College is introducing peer educator programs for sexual assault violence prevention and advocating for a fresh air campus smoking policy. The brand new Health & Wellness Complex that opened in April is the College’s first green-certified building.

The Complex centralizes essential functions to the Health, Physical Education, Dance and Athletics department and the Student Health Center, making it a more accessible, efficient facility where students can receive quality education and health care services.

“We are thrilled to welcome new and continuing students to our campus,” said Dr. Jose Fierro, president and superintendent of Cerritos College.

“Our goal is to provide students with all of the resources and they need to complete their education. Our programs like Cerritos Complete and Stats in Motion reduce barriers to help students reach their goals. We will continue to invest in developing innovative programs that help students successfully complete a degree, certificate, or transfer on time.”

Norwalk/Santa Fe Saints Opening Day

Photos courtesy city of Norwalk



Norwalk restaurant grades

Smart Choice Supermarket
15933 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 8/20/19
Grade: **A**

Smart Choice Supermarket (Meat)
15933 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 8/20/19
Grade: **A**

RT Kitchen LLC
15933 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 8/20/19
Grade: **A**

Tacos Miranchito
15933 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 8/20/19
Grade: **B**

Pan De Loretto (Bakery)
15933 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 8/20/19
Grade: **A**

Tacos Chihuahua
11735 The Plz
Date Inspected: 8/19/19
Grade: **A**

Chinatown Express
13925 Pioneer Blvd.
Date Inspected: 8/19/19
Grade: **A**

Santos Juice Bar
13041 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 8/15/19
Grade: **A**

Bionicland
13041 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 8/14/19
Grade: **A**

Sushi Joint
10901 E Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 8/14/19
Grade: **A**

The Buffalo Spot
12303 Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 8/14/19
Grade: **A**

Northgate (Tortilleria)
11660 E Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 8/14/19
Grade: **A**

Northgate Supermarket
11660 E Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 8/14/19
Grade: **A**

Starbucks
13001 E Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 8/14/19
Grade: **A**

Renu Nakorn Restaurant
13019 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 8/14/19
Grade: **A**

Burger King
13400 Rosecrans Ave.
Date Inspected: 8/14/19
Grade: **A**

On and On Restaurant
13019 Rosecrans Ave.
Inspected: 8/13/19
Grade: **A**

7 Eleven
10965 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 8/13/19
Grade: **A**

Taco Bell / Pizza Hut Express
11005 E Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 8/13/19
Grade: **A**

Chuck E Cheese’s
10949 E Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 8/13/19
Grade: **A**

VS Donuts Croissants
10959 Firestone Blvd.
Date Inspected: 8/13/19
Grade: **A**

ABC Donuts
10620 E Imperial Hwy.
Date Inspected: 8/13/19
Grade: **A**

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 79°

Saturday 87°

Sunday 89°



Proud Festival

All Weekend - Pershing Square

Celebrating the culture, history, and diversity of the growing LGBTQ+ community in Downtown Los Angeles and beyond. \$10 admission per day



Taste of Brews Long Beach
Saturday- Shoreline Aquatic Park, 12-5 pm

Dozens of craft breweries and select hard ciders, seltzers and kombucha along with mobile eateries. \$32-\$42



OC Zine Fest

Saturday - Anaheim Public Library, 11 am to 4 pm

Over 100 zine vendors, panel discussions, author meet and greets, and food by Chicana Vegana. Free admission.



Toy-Zilla Swap Meet

Saturday - 201 E. Bay St. in Alhambra, 10 am to 3 pm

Shop from dozens of vendors selling collectible toys, games, comic books, art, pop culture items, and more. Free.



Elvis Festival

Sunday - Historic Main Street in Garden Grove, 10 am to 6 pm

A tribute to the king of rock and roll with live musical performances, Cadillac car show, food trucks, vendors, dunk tanks, and family fun. Free.

TWEET OF THE WEEK

@CityofNorwalkCA: Thanks to our generous community partners, our students can look their best for school! With a \$5 donation, youth, up to the age of 14, can get a free backpack and regular haircut on Sun, Sept 1 from 8am - 1pm at Imperial Barber Shop, 11005 Firestone Blvd.

Follow us on Twitter at: [Twitter.com/NorwalkPatriot](https://twitter.com/NorwalkPatriot)

NORWALK HAPPENINGS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

Boards, Brushes and Beverages, 7 pm. Crafty fun for adults 21 and over. \$25 per person fee includes all materials, instruction, appetizers and soft drinks. Guests may bring alternative beverages from home. Norwalk Cultural Arts Center, 13200 Clarkdale Ave.

Smarty Pants Storytime, 10:30-11 am. Enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement while learning school readiness skills. Attendance is limited, and advance registration is required. For ages 2-5 with an adult caregiver. Alondra Library, 11949 E. Alondra Blvd.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Meditation for Beginners, 10 am. Learn Isha Kriya, a simple twelve to eighteen-minute practice that will help you become meditative effortlessly. For ages 18 and up. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

Lit Wits Book Club: Mary Coin, 6:30 pm. Join us to read and discuss the novel, Mary Coin by Marisa Silver. For ages 18 and up.

Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

Suncatcher, 4-5 pm. Join us for this fun program where we will make a dazzling ornament using glass pebbles and glue. Attendance is limited, and advance registration is required. Sign up at the customer service desk. For ages 8-12. Alondra Library, 11949 E. Alondra Blvd.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

Origami Lotus Flower Notebook, 2-3 pm. Join us as we create decorative mini-notebooks for notations, photos and more. For adults 18+. Alondra Library, 11949 E. Alondra Blvd.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

Harbor Groove Band, 9 pm. Ring in September and the start of fall with live cumbia, Latin and R&B by the Harbor Groove Band. IV Lounge, 12500 Firestone Blvd.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Legal Research Class: Estate

Probate and Trusts, 1:30 pm. Learn about the legal process that happens when someone dies, including how probate court works, and resources available to help. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Tea Time with OISS, 11 am. Practice your English speaking skills over tea with Cerritos College's Office of International Student Services and hear from Cerritos College librarian Paula Pereira and her story as an ESL student. Cerritos College, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Rain Barrel Distribution, 9-11 am. Learn about rainwater harvesting, water conservation tips, and benefits of a rain barrel. At the end of workshop, participants will have an opportunity to purchase rain barrels for \$20 each. City Hall, 12700 Norwalk Blvd.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Quartermania Fundraiser, 12-4 pm. Bring your quarters for

bidding or purchase quarters from the vendors. Plus, enjoy shopping and lunch. \$10 admission. Norwalk Masonic Center, 12345 Rosecrans Ave.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Mexican Cooking Demo Lite with Chef Marco Zapien, 3 pm. Join us as we celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month! Chef Zapien will demonstrate Mexican recipes and participants will get to taste everything on the menu (first come, first served). For ages 18 and up. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

Opening Reception: Southern Geometries, 5-9 pm. Opening reception for "Southern Geometries: Contemporary Non-Objective Art and the Latin American Diaspora" featuring artwork by Eduardo Aispuro, Marsia Alexander-Clarke, Linda Arreola, Leonardo Bravo, Romina Del Castillo, Mariangeles Soto-Diaz and Sandra Vista. Cerritos College Art Gallery, 11111 Alondra Blvd.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Fall Fiesta, 5-10 pm. A three-day carnival (Sept. 27-30) with carnival games, rides, live music, food, and more. St. John of God Church, 13819 Pioneer Blvd.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Smart Gardening Advanced Workshop, 11 am. Learn the fundamentals of organic gardening, drought-tolerant landscaping, and integrated pest management. No reservations needed. For ages 18 and up. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

Women's Personal Safety Workshop, 2-3:30 pm. In this 90-minute workshop, receive a basic introduction to hand-to-hand defenses and non-lethal weapons. If you've always wanted to take self-defense, this basic workshop is a good place to start. Out of Harm's Way, 12521 Alondra Blvd.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Lit Wits Book Club: The Story of Arthur Truluv, 6:30 pm. Join us to read and discuss the novel, "The Story of Arthur Truluv" by bestselling author, Elizabeth Berg. For ages 18 and up. Norwalk Library, 12350 Imperial Hwy.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

Celebrity Waiter & Dance, 6 pm. Get waited on by local celebrities at this annual dance fundraiser in support of CAPC, which works on behalf of people

with developmental disabilities. DoubleTree Hotel, 13111 Sycamore Dr.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Harbor Groove Band, 9 pm. Dance to live music by the Harbor Groove Band, playing a diverse playlist of 70s, 80s, and 90s music, plus Latin and R&B. IV Lounge, 12500 Firestone Blvd.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Diabolic Lounge, 6:30 pm. An all-ages concert with music from The Radiacs (UK), The Quaranteds, The Peabrians, Radarmen, Lost Boys and Salems Ghosts. American Legion Post 359, 11986 Front St.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Diabolic Lounge, 6:30 pm. Live music by The Grim, Peabrians, and The Dead Ricardos. \$14 pre-sale, \$18 at the door. All ages show. American Legion Post 359, 11986 Front St.

Compiled by Eric Pierce. Email calendar listings to eric@thedowneypatriot.com

Paging Dr. Frischer...

By Dr. Alan Frischer

Did you know that endometriosis affects about 200 million women worldwide? Here in the United States, more than 11% of women aged 15-44 have this chronic condition.

Endometriosis can cause significant pain. Endometrial tissue normally lines the uterus and is shed each month during menstruation. However, with endometriosis there is tissue growing outside of the uterus: on the ovaries, the Fallopian tubes, the surface of the uterus, the bowel, or on the lining of the pelvic cavity. (Quite rarely, it's even found outside of the pelvis: in the liver, brain, lung, or on old surgical scars.)

Still, most women who have endometriosis have no symptoms at all. When there are symptoms, the most common are: pain before menstruation, painful sexual intercourse, cramping during bowel movements or urination, and infertility. Symptoms can vary from month to month.



Although pain is the clue that most often leads to the discovery and diagnosis of endometriosis, sometimes nodules can be felt during a vaginal exam. An ultrasound or laparoscopy with tissue biopsy will usually be done in order to confirm the diagnosis.

While the cause is unclear, there are several factors that place a woman at greater risk for endometriosis. These include: never having given birth, starting menstruation at an early age, going through menopause at an older age, short menstrual cycles (fewer than 27 days), heavy menstruation that lasts longer than seven days, higher levels of estrogen, low body mass index, having one or more relatives with endometriosis, having any medical condition that prevents normal passage of menstrual flow, and reproductive tract abnormalities.

Endometriosis treatments usually involve medication and/or surgery. The goals are to relieve symptoms and (if pertinent) treat infertility. Anti-inflammatory medications may help to relieve pain. Other medications can be used to suppress or stop menstrual cycles, which trigger pain, or to reduce the size of the endometrial tissue.

Surgery (usually laparoscopic) may be considered when the symptoms are severe, medications are not effective, or if scarring and inflammation interfere with the pelvic organs, bowels or urinary tract. Unfortunately, endometriosis often returns, so medication is usually continued as well.

If you suffer from chronic pelvic pain, I urge you to seek medical care. Treatment can make an enormous difference. And of course,

the cause of the pain may not be endometriosis - other possibilities include interstitial cystitis, irritable bowel disease, pelvic floor dysfunction, or neuropathy.

Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff and former chief of medicine at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240.

Community forum this Tuesday at Corvallis Middle School

NORWALK - The Norwalk City Council is hosting a community forum this Tuesday, Aug. 27, starting at 6 p.m. inside the multi-purpose room at Corvallis Middle School.

The forums, held on a quarterly basis at locations throughout the city, provide an opportunity for the public to engage with council members on a variety of issues impacting quality of life.

Brief presentations on economic development, emergency preparedness and the 2020 census will be provided followed by an open floor discussion.

Translation services will be available for residents who speak Spanish. For more information, call Public Affairs at (562) 929-5735.

RAIN BARREL Distribution & Rain Harvesting Workshop

Rain Barrels have many benefits. They divert water from municipal storm drain systems, conserve a vital natural resource, protect our ocean from runoff pollution and help you save money by reducing water bills. Norwalk Municipal Water, along with Golden State and Liberty Utilities, are hosting a one-day rain barrel distribution event. Customers will be given the opportunity to easily pre-order a rain barrel and pick it up from the location below. **The cost of the rain barrel is \$20 plus tax. Maximum 2 rain barrels per household.**

Pre-Order Required:

Visit RainBarrelsIntl.com, click the "EVENTS" tab and select "City of Norwalk" or call 919-602-6316

Date: Saturday, September 14

Location: Norwalk City Hall
12700 Norwalk Boulevard

Workshop 1: 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Distribution 1: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Workshop 2: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Distribution 2: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Discussion Topics Include:

- Rainwater Harvesting
- Installation of a Rain Barrel
- Water Conservation Techniques
- Benefits of a Rain Barrel

For Information Contact: Info@RainBarrelsIntl.com or 919-602-6316

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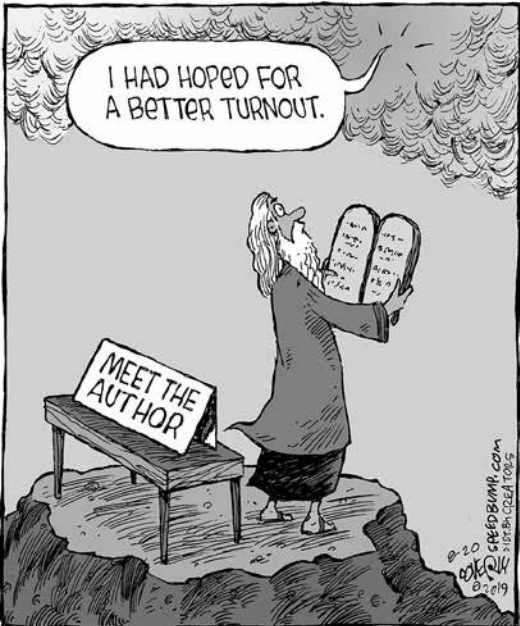
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Email:

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAYS

1st, 6:00 p.m. - Public Safety meetings - Council Chambers

TUESDAYS

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Farmers Market - Excelsior High School

12:00 p.m. - Rotary - Doubletree Hotel

1st & 3rd 6:00 p.m. - Toastmasters Meetings - Registrar Recorder/County Clerks Office

1st & 3rd, 6:00 p.m. - City Council - Council Chambers

3rd, 5:45 p.m. - Housing Authority - Council Chambers

WEDNESDAYS

1st, 12:30 p.m. - Soroptimist International - Soroptimist Village

1st & 3rd, 7:00 p.m. - Lions Club - Bruce's Restaurant

2nd, 10:30 a.m. - Norwalk Woman's Club - Masonic Lodge

2nd & 4th, 1:30 p.m. - Alondra Senior Citizens - Social Services Center

2nd & 4th, 7:30 p.m. - Planning Commission - Council Chambers

4th, 11:30 a.m. - Coordinating Council - Arts & Sports Complex

THURSDAYS

7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts Troop 924 - Norwalk United Methodist Church

2nd, 7:30 p.m. - Golden Trowel -Norwalk Masonic Lodge

3rd, 8:00 p.m. - American Legion Post No. 359 - 11986 Front St.

SATURDAYS

2nd, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast - First Christian Church of Norwalk

Have an event you want listed? E-mail news@thedowneypatriot.com

On This Day...

August 23, 1939: Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed a non-aggression treaty.

1947: Margaret Truman, U.S. President Truman's daughter, gave her first public performance as a singer. The event was at the Hollywood Bowl and had an audience of 15,000.

1959: In the Peanuts comic strip, Sally debuted as an infant.

1990: President Saddam Hussein appeared on Iraqi state television with a group of Western detainees that he referred to as "guests." He told the group that they were being held "to prevent the scourge of war."

THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

ON THE GRILL: Let's get cooking

by Gail Grabowski

ACROSS

- 1 Connection point
- 5 Fiji neighbor
- 10 Walk casually
- 15 Skating maneuver
- 19 Gem mined in Australia
- 20 Of cities
- 21 Vuitton of fashion
- 22 Auto from Bavaria
- 23 Mystic River actor
- 25 Jazz Age dance
- 27 Sign off on, in a way
- 28 Frequent cause of mistakes
- 29 Country singer Steve
- 30 Thing of value
- 31 Place to buy bread
- 34 Flatbread of India
- 36 Red diamonds, for instance
- 39 Interval of inactivity
- 40 Earth tone
- 43 Mistaken, so to speak
- 47 Exaggerated tale
- 49 What Hamilton won before Broadway
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- 51 Empty spaces
- 52 Agenda detail
- 53 Update, as cartography
- 55 Aquamarine shade
- 57 Trifle with
- 58 Window treatments
- 61 Gets no new ideas
- 64 Action grouping
- 65 Tube obsessives
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- 72 Hawaiian hot spot
- 73 Reusable carriers
- 78 Presses one's luck
- 80 Late arrival's comment
- 84 Mark on some oranges
- 85 Just __ (slightly)
- 86 Roadie's burden

DOWN

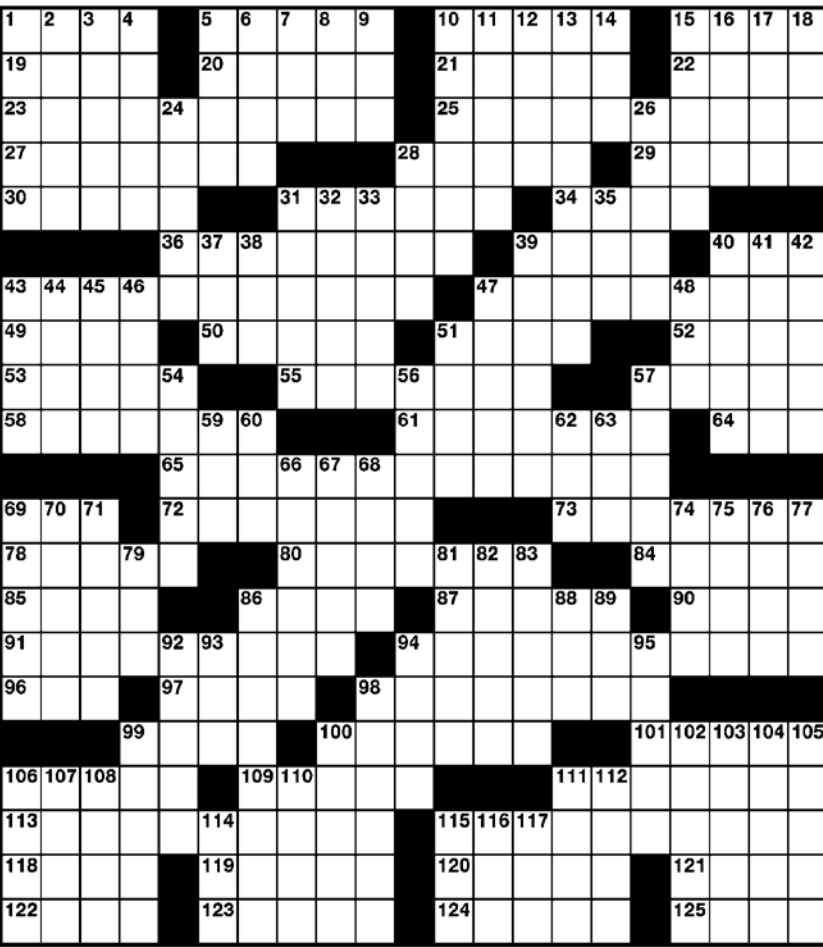
- 1 Finnish telecom giant
- 2 Starts the bidding
- 3 Garfield cartoonist
- 4 High society
- 5 Hefty horn
- 6 Contract descriptor
- 7 Tonight Show network
- 8 Federal audit agcy.
- 9 Author Patchett or Rule
- 10 Sites for nuptials
- 11 Timid
- 12 Songwriter Bacharach
- 13 Portrait, for one
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- 15 Paradise Lost figure
- 16 Engine sound

ACROSS

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- 90 One euro predecessor
- 91 Run amok
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- 96 Poetic preposition
- 97 Bovine farm workers
- 98 Disneyland's "It's a Small World," for one
- 99 Arise (from)
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- 101 Proverbial result of
- 106 Outburst often blessed
- 109 Give a keynote, say
- 111 Tells to be quiet
- 113 Lose one's nerve
- 115 Beatles album, familiarly
- 118 Thick slice
- 119 State of serenity
- 120 Eraser target
- 121 12 wine bottles, e.g.
- 122 Rescue squad VIPs
- 123 Santa in Elf
- 124 Overused
- 125 Mars alias

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2019 STANLEY NEWMAN

WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 8/18/19



- 77 Thick slice
- 79 Frat letter
- 81 One of the Coen brothers
- 82 Beside oneself
- 83 Towel fabric
- 86 Flowers in the buttercup family
- 88 Common Arabic prename
- 89 Danson of TV

- 92 Unsatisfactory
- 93 Trunk chopper
- 94 Programmer's output
- 95 Clinch, as a deal
- 98 Tart-tasting
- 99 Pair on your feet
- 100 Coating for ribs
- 102 Pet welfare org.
- 103 Gather wool
- 104 Short-winded
- 105 Twisty letters

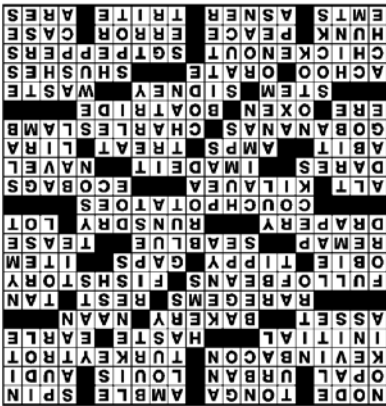
- 106 Source of discomfort
- 107 Pal
- 108 Subtle suggestion
- 110 Speckled horse
- 111 Place to park
- 112 "Try this"
- 114 Air quality org.
- 115 Good to go
- 116 Exclamation of frustration
- 117 A quarter of dodeca-

ADVERTISING POLICY

The Norwalk Patriot reserves the right to censor, reclassify, revise or reject any ad. The Norwalk Patriot is not responsible for incorrect ads beyond the first business day of an ad scheduled. Please check your ad on the first day of publication and report any errors we have made to the Classified Department at 562-904-3668 at the beginning of the next business day to have it publish correctly for the remainder of the schedule.

You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

mountain, after Kilimanjaro. named, is Africa's second-highest (Down), for which the country was Napoleon III. Mount KENYA (33) as a trunk maker for the wife of Vuitton (21 Across) was employed his own company in 1854, LOUIS to another nation. Before starting has never given up its sovereignty protectorate, TONGA (5 Across) Though formerly a British



How Downey’s demographics continue to evolve

Continued from page 6

By mid-1994, anti-immigrant populism weakened bilingual education efforts in DUSD. The changes in nomenclature and coverage were telling. In early 1994, the Eagle reported on students with “limited English proficiency,” the technical but otherwise neutral term. By June 1994, those students had become “English deficient,” a pejorative term that connoted something lacking or incomplete.

From April 1 to November 1 of 1994, 674 new students entered the district; 83 percent of those new students had limited English proficiency, most of whom were Spanish-speaking children of recent immigrants. In the face of a “soaring” population of “deficient students,” the newspaper reported, DUSD began “fighting a desperate battle to maintain a tradition of academic excellence.” The newspaper warned of schools “sapped by [the] language gap,” a “weight, as every teacher knows,” threatened DUSD’s academic excellence. Thus opposition to LEP students and bilingual education really represented a defense of the DUSD—and, by extension, of the quality of life. Pedagogical orthodoxy lost favor as the Mexican Americans prioritized English-speaking.

In fact, LEP students did not hinder educational achievement. At Downey High and Warren High, where LEP students made up 21 and 22 percent of the students, respectively, standardized test scores improved over the school years in 1992 and 1993. By 1995, dropouts fell from 2.3 to 1.3 percent—irrespective of total population growth. (This also matched a statewide trend in dropout reduction due to alternative educational paths like the General Education Development program, but the change nonetheless shows that LEP students did not harm the reputation and efficacy of DUSD instruction.)

DUSD maintained high levels of achievement despite having so many LEP students, so

much so, that the Los Angeles Times recognized the district for sending high numbers of LEP students to the California State University and the University of California. And not every teacher felt the “sapping weight” of LEP students: Dolores Neria, one of only two Spanish-speaking teachers at Downey High in 1994, taught the first English Learner course. Though most teachers sent Neria their “rough” students—the Spanish-speaking students, primarily—she had no problems with them.

But again, campaigns for Prop 227 mobilized voters in Downey and throughout the state. Proponents advertised Prop 227 as improving education for LEP students. Political ads portrayed bilingual education as preventing immigrants from learning English and limiting their academic achievement. One ad by the publisher of the Downey Eagle posited that Spanish-language media was the only source of support for bilingual education so that its consumers would not learn English and keep the network ratings high. In an anti-immigrant and pro-assimilation atmosphere, these ads were muted and neutral. Anti-227 groups only weakly opposed the proposition.

President Bill Clinton remained noncommittal on the measure before officially opposing it only one month before the election. Even ads on Spanish-language television offered no defense of bilingual education programs like that in DUSD. Leaders from the district, including the superintendent, officially opposed Proposition 227 on the grounds that it “denied local governing bodies any option on how to best serve the linguistic and academic needs of their English language learners.” But patience for English learners ran thin among voters.

Downey residents used their vote to protect the school district. In 1998, Latinos/as/xs surpassed fifty percent of Downey’s population (and Mexican Americans made up close to forty percent of all residents), but 61 percent of voters in Downey cast a ballot in favor of Prop 227. The

vote for Prop 227 suggested a pro-American, pro-assimilation stance on Mexican and Central American immigrants in Downey. The vote required immigrants, even very recent ones, to learn English with little room for error. Educational studies have since then suggested that language immersion improves acquisition, but proponents in Downey framed their support in other terms. An article in the Eagle called Prop 227 a “noble cause” to “break immigrant children out of a poverty mold by giving them the language to compete in the job market.”

But others voted for Prop 227 to protect their community. As many events and habits in Downey’s history shows, including those which I’ve described in this series, the middle-class Mexican Americans invariably spoke English in public. Indeed, it formed a core component of the civic identity before and after the demographic change. But Prop 227 found an especially receptive audience in Downey’s Mexican Americans. They had a new set of economic interests as middle-class homeowners that they were anxious to protect. LEP students not only violated the civic identity with their limited English abilities, but were a “sapping weight” that threatened the quality of education—a resource that separated Downey from the other southeast Los Angeles suburbs. They saw their votes for Prop 187 and Prop 227 as votes to protect their community in the face of dramatic changes.

There was, to a certain extent, little surprising about these final episodes. The votes (and, in the case of Prop 187, silence) were natural expressions of the civic identity. In the 1990s, the civic identity governed how middle-class residents carried themselves in the absence of the white demographic majority. More importantly, it was how middle-class Mexican Americans believed they could steward their community through demographic change.

But the city has a different feel in the twenty-first century. Though less than ten years

after the events I described in this series, the Downey of my childhood was very much a Mexican American suburb. I grew up hearing Spanish in Downey as often as I did in Bell. “Race-neutral” entrepreneurship and metropolitan Mexicanness are no longer the norms; Vallarta Supermarkets, Tacos Gavilan, and countless family-owned panaderias are all staples of my childhood. Even the sizable Cuban minority partook in the expansion of ethnic-themed entrepreneurship when Porto’s opened its bakery that, architecturally and socially, anchored the revitalization of Downtown Downey after the Great Recession of 2008.

In line with the larger community-wide acceptance of demographic change, many downtown Downey businesses cater to Latino/a/x consumers, are owned by Latinos/as/xs, or both. Through it all, Downey has remained an affluent “move-up” community.

But, as in other parts of the United States, affluence has not benefited all residents evenly. North Downey neighborhoods conjure the familiar tropes of “Mexican Beverly Hills” with their large lot sizes and fantastic homes, but the southern neighborhoods of Downey have higher concentrations of rental housing, lower median incomes, and higher rates of first-generation immigrants. Whereas the median income in one north Downey neighborhood was \$103,500 in 2010, in a south Downey neighborhood it was \$40,427. Rising property values in Downey benefit homeowners, but in areas like south Downey, where rental housing is common, the booming development spells no profit, only displacement. The proximity to cities like Paramount and South Gate still prompts the same suspicion that residents identified during the Neighborhood Preservation Program meetings that I discussed in an earlier issue. Police officers patrol the area on higher alert than in, say, north Downey.

On October 22, 2011, Downey police officers shot and killed

31-year-old Michael Nida. Nida, while his wife pumped gas at a south Downey gas station, jaywalked across a main street to purchase cigarettes when officers stopped him on the grounds that he “looked like a gang member.” He attempted to flee and, despite being unarmed, was shot in the back four times. That is to say, residents, police officers, and city councilmembers still might not think of south Downey as an obvious “Mexican Beverly Hills.”

The greatest pushback to the Los Angeles Times article on the “Mexican Beverly Hills” came from a south-Downey-born-and-raised writer, Tina Vasquez, who noted the wealth and privilege inequalities between north and south Downey. It is my hope that this series has encouraged residents to consider this too.

I have written and ordered the stories of this series to logically and clearly make a difficult point: as uncomfortable as it may be, we benefit from and perpetuate a legacy of racial ideology. Downey homeowners, as in middle-class suburbs across the United States, was defined by practices that meant to minimize integration. This began with the underwriting of the Homeowners Loan Corporation and subsequent race-restrictive covenants before shifting to “property-values”-restrictive covenants. We ended with a set of home-owning norms, customs, and practices meant to maximize property values that, in many ways, reified the stereotypes that first defined “good” and “bad” home-owning along racial lines. But racial ideology shifted its shape without losing its grip.

The difference in Downey—indeed, the principal anomaly that I sought to clarify—is that the same practices transferred to a new, previously restricted homeownership in middle-class Mexican Americans. This was not always intentional or malicious. At first, middle-class Mexican Americans continued these practices to blend into white-majority neighborhoods, avoid race-based tensions, and secure access to a higher quality of life. But after demographic change reached Downey and Mexican

Americans became the plurality, these home-owning practices were continued to preserve the “good” home-owning practices, norms, and customs—all to maximize investments, to protect their spot in the American middle class, and to safeguard newfound economic gains. The middle-class Mexican Americans stewarded the community through questions of undocumented immigration, fluctuating property values, and other perceived threats in surprising ways.

Ethnic minorities, then as now, suffered from low access to economic and social capital like that of Downey’s middle-class Mexican Americans. In the process of acquiring and defending that capital, though, they unwittingly perpetuated the very ideas about race that first restricted them, the ideas of “good” and “bad” home-owning practices that stemmed from HOLC practices. For the middle-class Mexican Americans, race and class were no longer one and the same. They were Mexican Americans—with the full diversity of that term that I have shown in this series—but they were also independently members of the American middle class.

On the one hand, this may appear to be the end of race in the United States. But on the other hand, the way we think about property values in this community, as everywhere in the country, still bears the mark of racist ideology. As much as it may be uncomfortable to think, race is still a part of the fabric with which we think about our homes today. To some, race may not be dead, and to others it lives. But above all, the history of demographic change in Downey shows how in the modern United States, the nexus of race and class has changed.

We must keep thinking about—as I titled this series—race, housing, and confronting history.



Most everyone used to have a friend in the car business. Someone you could trust to give you the straight scoop and a great deal. Now that most car dealerships are owned by mega corporations, it’s harder to do business with the local dealer who will make your car buying experience a breeze. My Dad started selling cars in the Crenshaw district in the mid-50’s and now we’re managing a three- generation car business with 9 dealerships from South Bay to Laguna Beach. We have succeeded all these years by putting our customers first, and that is how we will continue to earn and keep your business. Plus, we support the local schools and charities in our neighborhoods because that’s the right thing to do. Visit any of our 9 dealerships and be prepared to do business with a friend. It will be a surprisingly refreshing throw back to a simpler time.



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Shared Stories

Miles of Smiles

By Maria L. Garcia Contributor

Who would ever think that one can experience a life changing moment by merely sitting on a couch?

Watching the 2018 movie, “Pope Francis Man of His Word,” gave me such an experience. It was at the movie’s end when Pope Francis declares his true confession: “I pray every day for two things : To smile and to have a sense of humor.”

Smile — it can cost from nothing to millions of dollars. Either way, it’s a win-win fashion statement if one chooses to wear it.

I got a recent email from Darlene, daughter of Phillip Lucas, our very first friend whom I met together with his wife, Lumen, in 1982 as a new immigrant. She had attached two photos of her dad marking his death at age 105. Interestingly, one picture was labeled “Dad’s Classic Smile” and the other, “Dad’s Million Dollar Smile” Though Philip’s smile was worth its weight in gold, it must not have cost him a single dime.

School pictures require payment with the pro photographer making profit out of the student’s free smile, with just a click. So much so with investors who set up photo

booths at events for guests to pose, smile and stare at the dot within five second countdowns.

The unfading enigmatic smile of Mona Lisa is classic. Currently costs \$837 million in insurance value though, in reality, this Leonardo da Vinci masterpiece is un-insurable as it is irreplaceable. Mona Lisa is the inescapable Renaissance painting on the course outline I had taught for 12 years. Not until 1985 did I see the painting before my very eyes at the Louvre Museum in Paris.

In 1958, transcending into the world of music, was the popular song, “A Certain Smile.” Lifetime Grammy Achievement awardee, Johnny Mathis, became a household name with many impersonators imitating his Certain Smile. I was one lucky fan who made it to his sold out concert at the Araneta Coliseum in Manila, Philippines in 1960.

“Suddenly you know why your heart sings — when a certain face leads an unsuspecting heart on a merry chase.” Six years later, the lyrics resonated in my nostalgic mind when I met the boy in college whom I eventually married.

Icon singer Nat King Cole, of over a hundred songs, popular for his song, “Smile:” “that even through fear and sorrow when you smile, you’ll find that life is still worthwhile.”

I, too, was one of hundreds of fans who would not miss Nat King Cole for the world when he performed live at the same venue in Manila in 1961.

A smile can be attractive, infectious...or non infectious to one’s health. Studies show a smile can lower one’s blood pressure, lessen pain, strengthen one’s immune system, and relieve stress. Even the dentist uses images of healthy teeth through a smile to advertise a dental product.

With apologies to those who have lost their teeth for one reason or another, my best friend, Victoria from Virginia battling with cancer, had lost her tooth from chemo treatment; nonetheless, she smiles and

bears it. She says, “My smile has generated virtues of love and compassion from others who attend to me during my 48-hour infusion and more.”

Myself, while pregnant with my youngest child, partially dislodged my front tooth from a fall on the driveway after the rain. Pushing back the displaced tooth, I managed smiling with it for several years until the doctor prescribed a root canal to save it. To this date, I can smile with it, unconscious of its history.

My mom smiled through 11 years of confinement in a rehabilitation hospital at Laguna Honda in San Francisco from 1987 to 1999. Her massive stroke resulted in aphasia, but smiles and laughter became her signature form of communication.

I would drive or fly from LA to visit Mom. In one of those visits, unaware that I had a smile on my face as I walked eagerly through rows of beds in Mom’s ward, a voice from one of the patients, called out: “Your smile erases a multitude of sins!” I was

astounded and puzzled by the remark but it was like finding a treasure in a smile.

What children would do at school to earn a smiley sticker as a reward. The yellow emoticon in the 80’s has evolved into a myriad of emojis displaying reactions on FB, in texting, posting positivity or negativity.

Smiles have existed through generations way back in the time of King David. In Psalm 39:13, “Turn Your gaze away from me, that I may smile again Before I depart and am no more.” David asks God to look away from his sin and forgive him, for strength that he may be prepared for the next life.

Mindful of King David’s pearls of wisdom, I too plead for God’s mercy that I may have miles of smiles before I sleep.

Maria L. Garcia is a member of the writing class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. It is held off-campus at the Norwalk Senior Center.



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School Sirens

By Gail Earl Contributor

I have vivid memories of my kindergarten class in Detroit, Michigan. Most were wonderful memories of a time of excitement, adventure and stimulation.

One memory that was none of the above was being rushed into a dark basement, guided by teachers. Every student was walking as fast as possible while keeping our ears covered tightly with our hands.

We were positioned along the floorboards and instructed to cover our heads. The siren screamed louder than anything

we had ever heard, and all the children were quite frightened. I remember several children crying and teachers trying to calm them.

We stayed in that position awaiting an all clear. This was something very difficult for 5-year-olds to understand.

While thinking back on that memory, I wanted to know more about that siren so I did a little research.

During World War II, Bell Telephone Laboratories invented a Cold War model air raid siren, manufactured between 1942–1957. This siren was used for test-only purposes during the

50s and 60s.

It was a three-ton, 12 ft by 6 ft., 300,000-watt machine that warned of incoming enemy missiles. This unit was so loud that it could produce fires from just the sound vibrations it made. It had an advertised effective range of four miles in every direction.

These drills came to be known as the “duck and cover” drills. Because of the extreme sound power emitted and the desire to cover as much area as possible, the units were mounted on high steel towers with metal grating around them so they were always heard but rarely seen. They were the size of an automobile and contained the same Hemi Fire Power engine that Chrysler used in its first V8 engine in 1951.

Newer versions of this siren used to warn of enemy attacks are still used today. They led to the development of our warning systems that warn of tsunami, tornado, and nuclear attack.

When I stop to think about all of this, I wonder who was more frightened, that 5-year-old girl covering her ears and waiting for a bomb to drop by the communists or the 69-year-old woman she became, knowing how the world has evolved since then.

I think the five-year-olds’ fear was only what she might imagine, whereas the 69-year-old actually knows she should be scared.

Gail Earl is a member of the writing class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. It is held off-campus at the Norwalk Senior Center.

Memories of Little League

By Sharon Benson Smith Contributor

It now seems like a lifetime ago but as soon as our children were eligible (two sons and one daughter), my husband and I signed them up in North Whittier’s Keenan-Avocado Heights Little League.

The most memorable season to me was when Ray managed the Pirates, the team that our son, Steve, was on. Two of the players were somewhat physically challenged in that one wore an appliance on his foot and the other wore a brace on his calf. Each of the two always struck out or walked to first base and then couldn’t run fast enough to make it to second base.

But Ray wasn’t in-it to win-it. He was in it so that every boy who signed up could play ball. This taught them the sportsmanship aspect of the game, camaraderie, loyalty, timeliness, and the importance

of getting to practice. And, just as important, so that parents who paid and showed up for the games could see their sons in action.

The bases could be loaded with a possible homerun in sight, but under no circumstances did Ray ever change the lineup. If you were on deck, you were next, and that was that. There was no “warming the bench” or substituting a batter for a “pinch hitter” at a crucial time in the game, and that’s the way the “ball bounced.” And that, in my opinion, should be the very premise or foundation of all youth sports leagues.

Of course, there was the usual gossip and murmurs from the disgruntled, super competitive parents to whom winning meant everything. On the other hand, there were those grateful parents whose sons played the entire game... win or lose.

This is not meant to

diminish the joy, thrill, or sense of pride in winning... there is that; however, I feel that the qualities Ray tried to instill in his team far outweighed always being on the winning team.

And at season’s end what a surprise we had in store! Ray and his team, The Pirates, were the real winners when he was awarded the much-deserved Manager of the Year plaque presented by the league! Our entire family, the team members and their families were so proud of him on that

unforgettable, most pleasant Little League day.

The following, to me, is the most befitting quote from a famous sports figure, manager or coach and it is further proof that, (and I’m paraphrasing now) “It’s not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game.”

Sharon Benson Smith is a member of the writing class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. It is held off-campus at the Norwalk Senior Center.

End of frizzy hair

By Dora Silvers Contributor

My mother listened to all the soap operas on the radio. This was in the 1940s. I used to always hear “Rinso white” and ivory soap “100 percent pure.”

Every night my mother gave me a bath and washed my hair with ivory soap. Mama said ivory soap was 100 percent pure. Well, I had frizzy hair.

When I was 10, my neighbor Dorothy was going to the 5 and 10-cent store. Mama said I could go with her. She gave me 10 cents to spend.

When we got to the store, a lady was showing how to wash your hair with shampoo. I asked her how much. She said, “I have a sample size for 10 cents.”

I gave her my 10 cents. She said, “Here is one for dry hair.”

Dorothy bought a bag of popcorn and we shared it on the way home.

I showed Mama my shampoo. “No more ivory soap in my,” I said. “I will use shampoo.”

When my older sister came home from work, I told Gert about the shampoo. Gert said, “I have shampoo, it’s in my room. When you finish your bottle, you can use mine.”

That was my turning point from ivory soap to shampoo and no more frizzy hair.

Dora Silvers is a member of the writing class offered through the Cerritos College Adult Education Program. It is held off-campus at the Norwalk Senior Center.

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