



Ready for an active March?

South Venice Beach Wave

MARCH 2026

The heart of South Venice since 1955



WEDNESDAY, March 4

11:00am-1:00pm

30+ Exhibitors

Complimentary health screenings
COMPLIMENTARY LITE BITES AND LUNCH
Door prizes, raffle tickets, gift bags and more

SATURDAY, March 7 8-1:00pm

**Garden Club Plant
Sale**

ANNUAL PLANT/RUMMAGE SALE



MONDAY, March 16 7:00pm

General Meeting

*Join us to get all the news, visit neighbors
and enjoy coffee and desserts.*

FRIDAY, March 20

MUSIC BINGO



DOORS OPEN 5:30pm

GAMES 6:00pm

**OPTIONAL PIZZA
AND SNACKS**

BINGO \$10 members \$12 other
PRIZES FOR WINNERS - Pre-register please at
website and click on the event.

SATURDAY, March 28 6:00pm

**Slick Willie Revival Band
and Mexican Buffet**

\$30 — Members \$25 CASH BAR

Dance and party with this FIVE MAN BAND

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday, March 9 at 3:30pm

GARDEN CLUB

Monday, March 16 at 12:30pm

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, March 24 at 1:00pm



The rain didn't deter excited buyers who waited patiently for the doors to open at our Annual Yard Sale on January 31. Gail Parker kept her many volunteers hopping and things ran smoothly with two checkout tables busy non-stop.

FROM SVCA PRESIDENT, SANDY TULENKO

***We love our volunteers - they
make it all happen!***



We are an organization of amazing volunteers, and every event takes a village of volunteers to run! Often, that village is made up of SVCA board members, who spend countless hours organizing and working SVCA events, but many times it includes our community members and their friends and spouses.

Every month we have a list of people to thank. Sometimes we miss acknowledging helpers, such as those who remain after an event to break down tables and put away chairs. Know that your help is very much appreciated.

Special thanks this month to these people who went above and beyond:

- **Rick Curwood** and **Gary Parker** for fencing in the trash and recycle area outside the building, and

Continued on page 9

A bit of South Venice history

Kelley Ann Ayers—who has faithfully brought us South Venice real estate news for over a decade—has something special for us this month. On page 10, you'll find a 25-year retrospective on the real estate activity here in our community. The regular listings will be back next month.

South Venice Civic Association

*The heart of South Venice
since 1955*

**720 Alligator Drive
South Venice Beach, FL 34293**

Phone: 941-493-0006

Email: svca@southvenice.org

Office hours:

Tuesday and Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm

Saturday 8:00am to NOON

www.southvenice.org
svca@southvenice.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandy Tulenko	Bobbie Drummond
Susan Juranek	Paul Gilmartin
Kathleen Martin	Gary Parker
Rick Curwood	John Copps

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Jodie Cooper

South Venice Beach WAVE

Editor: Maureen Holland
maureenholland@comcast.net

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

We love to hear from you!

SEND LETTERS TO: maureenholland@comcast.net

Names may be withheld from publication by request.

All letters are subject to review.



**Community Media is the
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this newsletter**

South Venice Beach Wave

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The SVCA, its Board of Directors or its assigns will not be held liable for any services provided, work performed or offers made by any advertiser appearing in *The Wave*.

At the January General meeting, a large crowd came to hear Teresa Good of Shamrock Park, a favorite speaker at the SVCA.



At the meeting, after presiding over Board Elections, Paul Gilmartin, at right, introduced our newest board member, John Copps.

Welcome to our newest members

Denise Litwiller	Nancy Dulz
Sofya Reznik	Andy Geremia
Kevin Lynch	Philip Hammond

MEMBERS! Please check your email for membership renewals. If you are not sure when your SVCA membership renews, please see or call Jodie in the office Tuesday, Friday or Saturday.

HOW TO CONTACT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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stulenko@gmail.com 973-809-7143

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Gary Parker
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Rick Curwood
ricksreddog2@comcast.net 941-493-5613

John Copps
johncopps@yahoo.com 760-240-1843

Board Matters

FROM PAUL GILMARTIN



The SVCA Board is looking for more members - especially pickleball players - to serve on the board. Additionally, we are seeking volunteers to work with the board in the following areas:

1. Someone with marketing and branding experience- help promote events. Can be a remote worker.
1. Someone to run and expand our social media presence. Can be a young person 18 or older (got one in your household?). This job would look great on a young person's resume. Can work remotely.
2. Event organizer – love putting on parties? We'll give you a budget and a hall and you can get creative!
3. Government liaison. If your passion is politics and rubbing shoulders with local officials, we need you!

Please note that board meetings are open to all members to attend. Dates and times on the website and on page 8 in this issue.

Financial Summary as of January 31, 2026

• Current Assets	\$32,317
• Fixed Assets	\$55,977
• Total Assets	\$88,294
• Total Liabilities	\$ 1,730
• Total Income/gross profit	\$ 7,300
• Total Expenses	\$ 3,711
• Net income	\$ 3,626

Members can get a copy of Financials from the office during business hours.

Note on fixed assets: As a non-profit organization the county assesses the building and land at zero (0) dollars so they do not fully show up in the Total Assets tabulation. From an accounting perspective, the building has been depreciating since 1958 so most of the "value" has been written off. The true market value of the building and the land is also a misleading indicator since we could only donate the building and land to another non-profit or the county if the SVCA ever had to dissolve.

Board Meeting Summary

The SVCA board met on February 9 for regular and executive session and voted on 2026 board officers. They are:

President: **Sandy Tulenko**

Vice President: **Bobbie Drummond**

Secretary: **Paul Gilmartin**

Treasurer: **Susan Juranek**

Also discussed:

- Replacement of parking lot lights with LED lighting
- Discussed landscaping plan
- Discussed building maintenance requirements, approved various repairs.
- Discussed membership drive and plans
- Discussed Yard Sale results
- Reviewed and planned 2026 events
- Approved new signs for advertising
- Discussed contracts
- Reviewed and approved 2026 Ethics and conflict of interest guidelines and held board member training.



Free Wi-Fi at SVCA

NETWORK NAME SVCA guest

LOGIN 9414930006

Let's get moving! TAKE A CLASS AT SVCA

Monday and Friday 8:30am to 9:15am



With Tricia Petrinovich. First class is free, then either a punch card (where classes are \$5 each) or \$10 drop-ins.

More info at tpetrinovich@icloud.com

YOGA with JODIE Wednesdays

9:00 to 10:00am \$10/class

Note: No class on March 4



LINE DANCING with John Rude

MONDAYS (except third Monday) at 7:00pm

Relax, Unwind and Relax

The cost is \$10/class. Please bring your own water and come on out to have a good time.

NEW! Tai Chi/Qi Gong

TUESDAYS 10:00 to 11:00am

Improve your physical health, reduce pain and help with weight management, while promoting balance and muscular strength.

With JOHN COPPS - \$10.00 per class



SOUTH VENICE GARDEN CLUB

Clippings

FROM DEBBIE SULLIVAN

Yes, Even You Can Grow Orchids! Some gardeners avoid orchids, fearing they're just too complicated. But Mickey Carnell, co-owner of Blue Pagoda & Evolution Orchids in Englewood, told South Venice Garden Club members that it's easy to grow the flowers if they acquire "the nuts and bolts" for success.

A few guidelines include:

- Keep orchids pot bound. Don't drill holes in the sides of pots. Put pot with holes into a decorative pot, then pull out when watering.
- Orchids grow well on rock surfaces or trees with rough surfaces.
- Follow watering guidelines: root hairs shrivel if dry, rot if too wet. Measure wetness by sticking a finger into the pot.
- Know the basics for attaching orchids to rocks and on trees with rough surfaces. Open up the root ball.
- Roots will be green when hydrated.



On a recent outing, club members visited the Lemon Bay Conservancy in Englewood.

- Anything with bare roots needs to be watered constantly.
- Orchids love bright, indirect light.
- Use urea-free fertilizer.
- Inside – don't get leaves wet.

CLUB UPDATES

- Next monthly meeting – Monday March 16 at 1:00pm. All welcome.
- April 20 – monthly meeting at 1:00pm.

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Members and guests saw many orchid varieties up close.

- May 18 - Potluck dinner and last gathering until September 21, all welcome.

We meet every third Monday at 1:00pm from September through May with programs as well as projects and field trips. Follow us on Facebook—search for South Venice Garden Club Public Group.



Sandy Tulenko and Judith McIlwham were lucky

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



South Venice Garden Club

**ANNUAL PLANT SALE
and other cool stuff**

Come learn from experts and choose from a wide variety of plants that have been lovingly tended by garden club members. PLUS, we'll have rummage — with household items, clothes, and books, and who knows what else!

PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Spring Training '26

Presented By Visit Tampa Bay

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

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From Heather's Kitchen

Heather Villalba has long volunteered in our kitchen. Here she shares her secrets!

Springtime Sweetness: Lemon Blueberry Loaf Cake

Spring is in the air. The days are longer, the flowers are blooming, and our kitchens seem to call for something a little lighter, brighter, and full of fresh flavor. What better way to celebrate the season than with a homemade Lemon Blueberry Loaf Cake?

We recently celebrated my daughter's 16th birthday with her choice of birthday cake - a lemon blueberry cheesecake. I thought the flavors would be perfect in a loaf cake that would be simpler to make and the perfect treat for



sharing with a neighbor, serving at Easter or Mother's Day brunch, or enjoying at the beach.

This cheerful loaf is sunshine in dessert form — bursting with juicy blueberries and fresh lemon zest, topped with a simple glaze that adds the right touch of sweetness. Together they create a bright, happy flavor that is just right for this time of year.

Baking together creates more than dessert — it creates memories. I hope this Lemon Blueberry Loaf Cake brings a little extra joy to your kitchen and laughter to your table. After all, the best ingredient in any recipe is time spent together.

Ingredients for the loaf:

- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon zest (from about 2 lemons)
- ¼ cup fresh lemon juice
- ½ cup neutral oil (avocado or canola)
- 2 large eggs
- ½ cup plain whole Greek yogurt or sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour (for coating blueberries)
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup blueberries

For the lemon glaze:

- ¾ cup powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- ½ tsp vanilla extract

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a 9×5-inch loaf pan or line it with parchment paper.
2. Combine the sugar and lemon zest. Rub together with your fingers until fragrant.
3. Whisk in the lemon juice, oil, eggs, Greek yogurt, and vanilla until smooth.
4. Stir in 1 ¾ cups flour, baking powder, and salt. Mix gently until just combined. Do not overmix (a few lumps are fine).
5. In a small bowl, toss the blueberries with the remaining 1 tablespoon flour. Shake off any excess flour.

Layer the batter.

- Pour ⅓ of the batter into the prepared pan.
- Add half of the blueberries.
- Add another ⅓ of the batter.
- Add remaining blueberries.
- Top with remaining batter and smooth the surface.

1. Bake for 45–55 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean (a few moist crumbs are okay) or the internal temperature reaches 205–210°F.
2. Let the loaf cool in the pan for 10 minutes. Remove and transfer to a wire rack to cool for another 10 minutes.
3. Make the glaze. In a small bowl, whisk powdered sugar and lemon juice until smooth.

Drizzle glaze over the loaf, letting it drip down the sides. Cool completely before slicing. Enjoy!

FROM TERESA GOOD, SHAMROCK PARK

What's up at the Park

The Park is looking for new volunteers!

Are you outgoing, love nature and looking for a fun way to spend just three hours a week volunteering at the Park? Being a volunteer at the Nature Center provides you with a great opportunity to help our own community and visitors learn about our native habitats and animals. If you are interested in joining the Shamrock Park family of volunteers, just email me directly at tjgood@scgov.net. I would love to hear from you!

Demonstration Garden Tour: First Friday of each month. Meet in the Demonstration Garden. Master Gardener volunteers will be in the garden to answer your questions, provide free tours and give expert advice on Florida-friendly landscaping. No registration necessary.

Plant Clinic – Second Saturday of every month. 10:00am to Noon. Florida Master Gardeners will be in the Nature Center, ready to answer your plant questions. Whether it's an identification question or you are having trouble with your grass, skilled volunteers will be ready to help! No registration necessary, just stop by.

Natural Florida

The Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society events are free and open to all. For more information contact mangrovechapter@fnps.org.

NATURE WALK: Friday, March 6, 9:00-11:00am. Join Dr. Mary Davis for a walk at the **Curry Creek Preserve in Venice**. This preserve has an amazing array of plant species that we will explore and look for early spring blooms.

NATURE WALK: Monday, March 23, 9:00-11:00am. Join UF/IFAS Sarasota Extension Service member Dr. Mary Davis for a walk at the **Manasota Scrub Preserve in Englewood**. Learn more about our amazing and unique Florida ecosystems as we explore the mosaic of plant communities that are typical of the SW Florida Flatwoods Ecoregion. Meet at the preserve kiosk.

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, March 10, 1:00pm. Florida
Continued on Page 11

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28
6:00 PM TO 9:30 PM**

\$25 MEMBER - \$30 NON-MEMBER - TICKETS AT SOUTHVENICE.ORG

**Slick Willy
Revival**



Enjoy MEXICAN FIESTA BUFFET and CASH BAR

Dinner 6:00 to 7:30pm Music 6:30 to 9:30pm



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MARCH 2026

1	2 ZUMBA 8:30—9:15am LINE DANCE 7:00pm	3 TAI CHI 10:00am	4 SENIOR HEALTH EXPO 11:am to 1:00pm	5	6 ZUMBA 8:30—9:15am	7 GARDEN CLUB PLANT AND RUMMAGE SALE 11:00am
8	9 ZUMBA 8:30—9:15am BOARD MEETING 3:30pm public 4:00pm executive LINE DANCE 7:00pm	10 TAI CHI 10:00am	11 YOGA 9:00am	12	13 ZUMBA 8:30—9:15am	14
15	16 ZUMBA 8:30-9:15am GARDEN CLUB 12:30pm GENERAL MEETING 7:00pm	17 TAI CHI 10:00am	18 YOGA 9:00am	19	20 ZUMBA 8:30—9:15am MUSIC BINGO 5:30-8:30pm	21
22	23 ZUMBA 8:30—9:15am LINE DANCING CLASS 7:00pm	24 TAI CHI 10:00am BOOK CLUB 1:00pm	25 YOGA 9:00am	26	27 ZUMBA 8:30—9:15am	28 SLICK WILLIE BAND AND MEXICAN BUFFET 6:00pm

APRIL 3 • **Fish Fry Dinner**APRIL 17 • **Music Bingo**

South Venice Civic Association

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VOLUNTEERS *continued*

- **Bobbie and Jim Drummond**, who donated the fencing,
- Our fabulous Community **Yard Sale crew**, again led by the very competent **Gail Parker**,
- **Bobbie Drummond** and ALL her helpers for another wonderful breakfast,
- **Mario and Stacy Fiorentino** for events and general meeting set-up and for Stacy's fabulous treats,
- **Mike Klancnik**, who donates his time and equipment for Music Bingo every month, and for **Jodie Cooper**, who organizes and runs this event—and her husband, **Jerry Cooper**, always there to lend a helping hand, and
- **Dwight Sullivan**, who is forever fixing our tech issues.

Lastly, we thank **you**, our members, for your endless support. Without you, we could not survive.

We're looking at doing another Arts & Crafts Fair in December

Our February 27 Arts & Crafts Fair was a success! There was a lot of interest in doing it again in December for Christmas. Look for details in September. This will be a great time to do some Christmas shopping, while supporting local artists and the SVCA!

SVCA's office hours have changed

Please make a note that we have changed the office hours at SVCA. The new hours are Tuesday and Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm and Saturday from 8:00am to noon.

720 Pickleball Club joined in the big Yard Sale this year

For the first time, SVCA's Pickleball Club did some fundraising for the courts at the Yard Sale. Albert Frick reports that even though they were located outside—and on a rainy day! - they raised over \$900. He said they sold most of the donated items—and relied heavily on Julie McLaren and her experience from previous years and that she did an outstanding job!

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PRIDE!**

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	Members	Non-members
Sizes S to XL	\$10	\$12
Sizes 2X to 5X	\$12	\$15

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Best of Venice 2025



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I want to say thank you to everyone who voted for us in the Best of Venice awards from Venice Gondolier. This year we were honored with two Best of Venice awards for Hearing Aids.

I appreciate all the support and everyone who took their time to vote for us. Your support and continued encouragement resulted in us being awarded Best of Venice, multiple titles, multiple years, Reader's Choice multiple years, and Small Business of the Year.

I am proud to have consistently offered service that is recognized by you and honored to receive so many awards over the years that our wall of awards has expanded onto another wall. This year Karen will be re-designing the wall again, this is a wonderful problem to have, thank you.

Every day I hear stories about how hearing problems have interfered with enjoying life. I've always had one mission, to help everyone who comes to me to hear their best and engage in life.

Nineteen years ago, I opened my own office and chose to treat all my clients as if they are family. Twenty-five years ago, when I chose this profession, I was inspired by my mother MaryEllen. She was already wearing hearing aids due to ear surgery. As my ability grew, I noticed that the aids my mother wore were not the best for her needs. She was very social and would benefit from better technology. I was able to help her hear her best for her level of activities so she could have her best life.

If she was still with us today, I know she would be celebrating with us and all the people who have been able to engage in their own life with more ease and better understanding.

Thank you for entrusting me with your hearing, I am glad I earned your respect.

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A Quarter Century of Change:

How your home values have grown nearly 300%

BY KELLEY ANN AYERS

My sister Katheren and I recently compiled an historical data study of real estate here in South Venice Beach. It shows that median home prices in this community have increased nearly 300% since 2000.

According to this 25-year market analysis of residential home sales from 2000 through 2025, the median sale price rose from \$82,500 to \$325,000 — representing an impressive compounded annual growth rate of approximately 5.6% and a 293.9% increase in values over the first quarter of this century.



South Venice Beach, the largest subdivision in Sarasota County with more than 8,000 homes, has quietly built one of the region's most compelling long-term real estate stories.

This growth reflects not a single boom, but a sustained pattern of resilience across multiple market cycles. In the early 2000s, South Venice Beach offered attainable coastal living, with steady appreciation already evident by 2003, when median prices had risen more than 40% in just three years.

Like many Florida communities, it experienced a correction following the 2004–2005 housing boom. However, the market stabilized and recovered steadily throughout the mid-2010s, reinforcing the area's appeal as a long-term residential neighborhood rather than a speculative market.

The most dramatic period of activity occurred during the post-pandemic housing surge. In 2021, South Venice Beach recorded its highest annual sales volume in 25 years, with 479 homes sold. The following year brought the largest single-year increase in median price, rising by \$69,750 in 2022 alone.

Despite broader economic fluctuations, the data reflects an average annual compounded growth rate of approximately 5.6% over 25 years — underscoring consistent demand for the community's coastal proximity, large-scale neighborhood layout, and distinctive character.

South Venice Beach remains unique in both size and composition, with a mix of long-established homes, newer construction, and remaining vacant parcels — a rarity for a subdivision of this scale in Sarasota County.

To understand the first boom here, one must look back to 1955 when two brothers from New Jersey purchased the "Woods" from Sarasota County along with two sections of Gulf beach — later accessed by wooden footbridges con-

structed by residents. And even later — after the Intra-coastal Waterway necessitated demolition of the foot bridges — the two were consolidated into a single beach, now with access by ferry.

Originally, lots were platted at just 40 feet wide with the expectation of creating a mobile home community. The vision eventually shifted to single-family homes, requiring a minimum of two lots per residence — a requirement that still exists today. All 8,000+ homesites were sold within two years, marking the neighborhood's first major boom.

Fast forward to the first quarter of the 21st century — seven fast-paced cycles reflecting every phase of real estate: historic booms, sharp corrections, opportunity, and renewed strength. Yet one thing remains constant: people fall in love with living in South Venice Beach.

The 25-year cycles break down as follows:

- 2000–2003: Quiet growth and affordability
- 2004–2006: The explosive boom — 40% appreciation
- 2007–2011: Correction and resilience
- 2012–2016: Recovery and renewed confidence
- 2017–2019: Steady growth and renovation boom
- 2020–2022: The Great Shift — COVID surge
- 2023–2025: Stabilization and strength

For longtime residents and newcomers alike, the data confirms what many have witnessed firsthand — South Venice Beach has evolved into one of Sarasota County's most established and enduring residential communities, demonstrating stability, resilience, and lasting value across generations.

South Venice Beach – 25-Year Snapshot

- Median Price 2000: \$82,500
- Median Price 2025: \$325,000
- Total Growth: +293.9%
- Highest Sales Volume: 2021 (479 homes)
- Largest Median Jump: 2022 (+\$69,750)

My sister and I are fourth-generation real estate professionals and co-owners of Ayers & Associates Real Estate in Nokomis. Our family legacy began on Casey Key and to date, the family has closed 173 sales on Casey Key alone.

I purchased my first home right here in South Venice Beach in the 1990s and have maintained a close connection to the neighborhood ever since as a long time SVCA member, and once serving as Board President. From the start, Katheren and I have been exhibitors at every SVCA Business Expo. In 2012, I began doing the real estate sales listing for the WAVE, and in 2014 added a column.

ABOUT US: At Ayers & Associates Real Estate, we are proud to continue serving the South Venice Beach community. Over the years, we have helped countless families buy and sell within the neighborhood, and we remain enthusiastic about assisting both longtime residents and new

buyers discovering South Venice for the first time.

Remember we're always here for a complimentary Comparative Market Analysis or to discuss current market conditions, and please feel free to reach out. We are always happy to provide insight and guidance tailored specifically to your home and goals. Our office is on Albee Farm Rd. in Nokomis and you can reach us at 941-837-2778.

Here's to the continued strength and vibrancy of South Venice Beach — where community, coastal living, and long-term value go hand in hand.

Natural Florida *continued*

Native Plant Society invites you to join us for our monthly program at Lemon Bay Park and Environmental Center, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood. Sherm Stratton and Dr. Linda Lovallo will discuss their work to save the giant air plant that was threatened due to habitat loss and the Mexican bromeliad weevil.

Come early for social time and bring your packed lunch (12:15pm).

GOT AN EVENT? You can rent the hall!

We're also a great facility for regular classes and meetings

Contact Jodie in the office for rates and availability

NOTE: SVCA members get discounted rates

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ONE MISSION *for our community*

As we head into our 70th year, we'll continue working to bring South Venice together to promote our civic, and recreational interests.

South Venice Civic Association

The heart of South Venice since 1955



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