

## UPSTATE UPDATE 39

### *Upstate Forever's Monthly Bulletin On Important Issues And Events*

November, 2002

*Give my regards to Broadway... We're staying in town to see the Divas!!!*

**Please don't miss Upstate Forever's Fundraiser!!!  
Centre Stage is hosting a special performance of**

**"A Diva Holiday",  
a musical stage show featuring  
Big Band, Oldies, Show Tunes & Holiday Music.**

**When: Wednesday, December 11  
Where: Centre Stage Theatre  
(501 River Street, Greenville)  
Time: 7:00 pm reception  
8:00 pm performance  
Tickets: \$35.00/ticket  
(all proceeds benefitting Upstate Forever)  
Reservations: 864 250-0500 or [info@upstateforever.org](mailto:info@upstateforever.org)**

**We will have a live auction at intermission featuring  
original artwork by Ellen Kochansky, Bill Robertson,  
and Tommy Wyche, as well as weekend adventures  
and getaways!**

**Don't miss this show - it promises to be "Divine"!!!**

### **1. *Upstate Election Report.***

Upstate voters made many important decisions on Election Day. There were three important ballot initiatives relating to growth, land use and conservation issues, but only one of them passed. Many County Council seats were at stake, and several new local leaders will be taking office in January. The three referenda are reviewed below, and at the end is an updated list of all the County Council members for the Upstate counties.

**A.           *Laurens County Voters Say No To Zoning.***

We had high hopes for the referendum on zoning in Laurens County. In late 2001, Laurens County Council gave first and second reading approval to a new ordinance that would establish zoning throughout the county and establish strong development standards. Then the Council decided to hold the referendum on November 5 rather than giving third and final reading to the ordinance. Stephanie Monroe, the Director of Planning for Laurens County, spent most of this year arranging and hosting a series of public meetings throughout the county to explain and answer questions about the ordinance. Hundreds of people attended. (For her extraordinary efforts, Stephanie received our *Public Servant of the Year Award*. See item 4 below).

*Upstate Forever* became actively involved in the effort, teaming up with a local citizens group to publish 45,000 booklets explaining the ordinance and why it should be passed. Most of these booklets were inserted in the county's major newspapers during the week before the election.

But the ordinance was overwhelmingly defeated: 5,116 in favor (31.5%) and 11,107 opposed (68.5%). As if this wasn't bad enough, at its last meeting Council rescinded the entire ordinance, and serious consideration is now being given to abolishing the Planning Department!

At some point in the future, there will be zoning in Laurens County. The county is growing and changing so fast that zoning is inevitable. It may take 10 years, but it will happen. Sadly, it will probably happen in a crisis atmosphere after much damage has already been done. The Laurens zoning referendum is a good example of how difficult it is for our citizens to think about the long term consequences of growth and land use change.

**B.           *Penny for Parks Referendum Is Defeated In Greenville County.***

No less disappointing was the defeat of the "penny for parks" referendum in Greenville County. Nearly 60 per cent of the voters said no to adding one cent to the sales tax in the county for no more than one year in order to implement an exciting plan for new and expanded parks, greenways and neighborhood improvements. Had it been approved, the penny would have made it possible to construct 10 new parks throughout the county, improve and expand 16 existing parks, and make several neighborhood improvements. For more information, see Upstate Update No. 38.

The result in Greenville is certainly contrary to the strong national trend in favor of parks and open space initiatives. In the November 5 elections, voters in 79 communities in 22 states passed ballot measures to create approximately \$2.6 billion in new public funding to protect land for parks and open space. Overall, 79 out of 99 local and state measures nationwide were successful—an approval rate of about 80 percent. This is an increase from November, 2001 when 75 percent of the ballot measures passed.

Among the many successful local measures were the following:

- In Charleston County, South Carolina, voters approved a half-cent local sales tax that will generate \$221.5 million for parks and open space during the next 25 years.
- In Douglas County, Georgia, part of the Atlanta metropolitan area, the voters approved a bond that will provide \$51 million for parks and open space.
- In Collier County, Florida, a 10-year property tax increase was approved that will provide \$75 million to preserve open space.
- In Northampton, Pennsylvania, 65 per cent of the voters approved a \$37 million bond for preserving watersheds, wetlands and farmlands.
- In Fort Collins, Colorado, a 25-year, one-fourth cent sales tax was approved by two thirds of the voters. This will generate \$120 million for open space, wildlife habitat and recreation projects.

At the state level, California's Proposition 50, generating \$1.5 billion for land acquisition, passed by 55-45 percent. Virginia's ballot measure, raising \$36.5 million for land protection, passed by 69-31 percent. Nevada's initiative, creating \$89.5 million, passed by 59-41 percent.

Since 1998, voters have approved more than \$20 billion in local and state measures for land protection. For up-to-date information on the 2002 land protection ballot measures, visit the Trust for Public Lands website:

[http://www.tpl.org/tier2\\_rp2.cfm?folder\\_id=1666](http://www.tpl.org/tier2_rp2.cfm?folder_id=1666)

Many of the measures that have been approved around the country were not successful the first time. So there's still hope! In fact, placing the question on the ballot in Greenville County was not authorized until August of this year, giving proponents little time to organize and to raise the money needed to conduct an effective campaign. As a result, we think thousands of voters did not fully understand the referendum, particularly the requirement under state law that the tax could not last for more than one year. Even if the voters did fully understand, the result can hardly be interpreted as blanket opposition to parks and open space in Greenville County. It simply means that the majority does not support increasing the sales tax to pay for them.

But just as there are many ways to skin the proverbial cat, there are many ways to renovate and build parks. One way is to use the same approach of the recently enacted South Carolina Conservation Bank Act, which dedicates a portion of the state's share of the deed-recording fee for conservation projects. This fee is collected in every transaction involving the sale of land in South Carolina: For every \$500 of the purchase price, a fee of \$1.85 is collected. (The seller customarily pays it). Of that \$1.85, the state collects \$1.30, and the remainder (\$0.55) goes to the county where the land is located. It is an eminently sensible and widely used source of funding for parks and open space programs throughout the country because the fee is collected when land is sold, often for development. Why not use some or all of the fee to conserve land?

Greenville County collects more than \$2 million each year in deed recording fees. Those funds would probably support a revenue bond of over \$20 million, which would make it possible to implement almost half of the projects in the parks plan. Moreover, County Council could approve such a bond without having to hold another referendum. (The state deed recording fee statute, however, would probably have to be amended in order to authorize using the county portion of the fee in this manner).

We hope that the Greenville County Council will seriously and promptly consider this (and other) alternatives for keeping the "Green in Greenville." Let's don't give up!

### ***C. Voters Approve Change Of Government In Oconee County.***

Oconee County voters narrowly approved changing its form of government from its current council-supervisor to council-administrator.

Under the existing form of government, the voters elect the supervisor, and the only criterion is a high school education. Current Supervisor Ann Hughes strongly supported the change and emphasized that a skilled professional with management experience should direct the county's business. Under the new form of government, the county administrator will be hired directly by the county council, which will develop criteria for the position.

Oconee County was one of only five South Carolina counties under the supervisor form of government and will join 32 other counties with an administrator. Ms. Hughes, who was elected in 2001, will complete her four-year term before the new system takes effect.

*Upstate Forever* Board Member Neal Workman served on a non-partisan task force that researched and compared the two forms of government and recommended that the administrator form be approved. Mr. Workman said, "It's reaffirming to know that the Supervisor, the County Council and the voters all agree that the council-administrator form of government is the best one for Oconee County. This is especially true considering our county's \$32 million annual budget is among the ten highest in the state." Mr. Workman provided us with a copy of the task force report that we will be glad to share with anyone who is interested.

## ***2. Upstate Leaders Pledge Support For "Cleaner Air Sooner"***

At the Upstate Air Quality Summit in Greenville on November 21, leaders of Greenville, Spartanburg and Anderson Counties signed a joint resolution pledging to work together to bring the Upstate into compliance with the federal 8-hour ozone standard three years ahead of schedule. In exchange for this commitment, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will defer making any official "non-attainment" designation of the Upstate. Such a designation, which could have come as early as April of 2004, would make it much more difficult to receive approval for industrial growth and road-building projects in the region—a terrifying scenario to Upstate business leaders.

The Upstate is only the second region in the country to pursue this so-called "early action plan" for coming into compliance with the ozone standard. Several critical deadlines must be met:

Dec. 31, 2002: The “Early Action Compact” must be signed.

June 16, 2003: The Upstate must describe the control measures that are being considered to achieve compliance.

March 31, 2004: The Upstate must submit its final plan containing measures that are “specific, quantified and permanent” and demonstrating how these measures will achieve compliance with the ozone standard by December 31, 2007.

Sept. 30, 2005: EPA must take final action on the local plan.

Dec. 31, 2005: The Upstate must implement the measures described in the approved plan.

Dec. 31, 2007: The Upstate must be in compliance with the ozone standard. If so, EPA will withdraw the deferred non-attainment designation and replace it with an attainment designation. If the area is not in compliance, the non-attainment designation will become effective on April 15, 2008.

If any of these key milestones is missed, EPA has the authority to withdraw the deferred designation and put the Upstate back on the traditional track for achieving compliance.

Ground-level ozone is a major public health concern. Even at low concentrations, it can cause respiratory problems and aggravated asthma in children, people with respiratory diseases, and even healthy adults who are working or exercising outside. These effects are substantially reduced when the 8-hour standard is not exceeded.

Cars and trucks are responsible for almost 60 per cent of nitrogen oxide emissions—an essential ingredient of ground level ozone. (These emissions combine with sunlight and volatile organic compounds to form ozone). Thus, no plan will have any chance of success unless these sources are addressed. That will be particularly challenging in the Upstate, where both the number of vehicles and the amount of driving continue to increase dramatically. In just the last 10 years, our 144,000 new residents have brought 100,000 more cars to our region’s roads and highways.

But it's certainly worth the effort—not only to have “cleaner air sooner” but also to show how Upstate counties can work together to solve regional problems. We hope that the effort will not be confined to ozone. There are many other important problems—economic development, infrastructure, transportation, housing, and conservation—that must be addressed on a regional basis.

**3. *Mark Your Calendar! Conference On Growth To Be Held In Spartanburg.***

*Upstate Forever* is a proud co-sponsor of “Partnering for Prosperity,” a one-day conference in Spartanburg that will explore connections between economic development, environmental sustainability, and livable communities. The conference will feature nationally recognized speakers as well as a panel of local elected officials and business and community leaders. The Palmetto Conservation Foundation will present the event on December 4, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Cleveland Park in Spartanburg.

The agenda includes a discussion about land use as a public health issue by Dr. Katherine Staunton of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and an examination of the economic costs of growth by Dr. Robert Burchell of Rutgers University. *Upstate Forever* Executive Director Brad Wyche will participate in a Community Leaders Roundtable to discuss growth issues specific to our region.

The registration fee is \$25.00 per person and includes lunch. For more information, call the Palmetto Conservation Foundation at (864) 948-9615. To download a registration form, visit the following website:

<http://www.palmettoconservation.org/pfp.html>

**4. *Upstate Forever Announces Winners Of Its 2002 Annual Awards.***

At its Annual Meeting earlier this month, Upstate Forever announced the following winners of its 2002 Annual Awards:

***Innovator of the Year:*** Scott Johnston with the Johnston Design Group in Greenville.

***Public Servant of the Year:*** Stephanie Monroe, Director of the Laurens County Planning Department.

***Environmental Advocate of the Year:*** Awarded jointly to Mary Lou Jones and Linda Sisson of Greenville.

***Upstate Forever Volunteer of the Year:*** Jean Graves of Greenville.

***Upstate Forever*** also presented an ***Extraordinary Achievement Award*** to Wes Cooler of Pickens.

***Upstate Forever*** Board Chairman Dave Hargett said, “These awards represent our effort to recognize individuals who are making a real difference in improving the quality of life in the Upstate. It’s our small way of saying thank you to some very special people.”

Johnston won the ***Innovator of the Year Award*** for his outstanding leadership in demonstrating different and environmentally sensitive methods of construction and development in the Upstate. Johnston left a successful practice at a large architectural firm about two years ago to start his own firm devoted entirely to the emerging field of green design. He was retained by the Greenville County School District to draft “green standards” for its massive school construction project. One of Johnston’s projects, the Rosewood House of Recovery, recently won EPA’s National Energy Star Award. The new facility features several environmentally friendly and energy efficient systems, including super insulated windows, a radiant heat barrier beneath the roof, a highly efficient air conditioning system, and the use of an 8,000-gallon cistern to collect runoff from the roof for an irrigation system.

The ***Public Servant of the Year Award*** recognizes a government official or employee whose efforts to protect and improve the quality of life in the Upstate are truly “beyond the call of duty.” Stephanie Monroe received the award for her herculean efforts in connection with the referendum on countywide zoning in the county. The first director of planning in the history of Laurens County, Monroe drafted the proposed zoning ordinance and zoning map and then single handedly arranged and hosted a series of community meetings throughout the county to explain and answer questions about the ordinance. Although the referendum was defeated, the process was an extremely beneficial one, marking the first time that citizens in the county have ever had an extended discussion and debate about growth and land use.

The ***Environmental Advocate of the Year Award*** recognizes a citizen for persuasive and effective advocacy in protecting the environment, natural resources

and beauty of the Upstate. Jones and Sisson shared the award for their tireless efforts in promoting passage of the parking lot landscaping ordinance in Greenville County. Jones is a former biology teacher who shares her love of nature with students at the Roper Mountain Science Center in Greenville. She currently serves as President of both the South Carolina Environmental Education Association and Friends of Paris Mountain State Park.

Sisson serves as President of the Mountainside Garden Club and as chair of the Greenville Council of Garden Club's Urban Forestry committee. She has worked diligently to promote the preservation of trees in urban landscapes and coordinates an urban forestry program for Greenville County third graders that is in its third successful year.

Graves earned the *Volunteer of the Year Award* for her many hours of work in Upstate Forever's office in Greenville. For the past three years, she has worked in the office at least one day a week and assists the organization on a variety of tasks, including keeping the membership records up to date and preparing all of the acknowledgment forms for contributions.

The *Extraordinary Achievement Award* was presented to Cooler for his dedicated work and accomplishments on a number of conservation and land use issues in the Upstate. In 1996, Cooler returned home to Pickens County after serving in the United States Army for 23 years, retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He served as the Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Pickens County Planning Commission and was primarily responsible for drafting the much needed revisions to the County's Development Standards Ordinance. Cooler is the co-founder and chairman of the Foothills Resource Conservation & Development Council and spearheaded the successful "Partners for Trout" program that is protecting and restoring trout habitat in the Upstate. He stood up and fought against a plan to close a public highway in the county and make it part of a private gated community. Cooler has also served on the *Upstate Forever* Board of Directors since the organization was founded in 1998.

##### **5. *Upstate Forever Members Elect Board Members.***

Also at the Annual Meeting, the members elected the following persons to serve on *Upstate Forever's* Board of Directors:

Amanda Bauknight of Pickens County  
Wes Cooler of Pickens County  
Dave Hargett of Greenville County  
Russell Harris of Anderson County  
John Lane of Spartanburg County  
Keith Marrero of Greenville County  
Carlton Owen of Greenville County  
Leon Patterson of Laurens County  
Mark Taylor of Greenville County  
Neal Workman of Oconee County  
Kris Yon of Anderson County

We are honored and humbled to have such an outstanding group of people serving on our Board of Directors. With Mr. Workman joining the Board, we have now achieved our goal of having at least one representative from each of the six Upstate counties!

#### **6. *Lots O' Links.***

**Greensboro Revitalization Project Wins National Award** – The American Planning Association has awarded the Southside project with its 2003 National Planning Award for Implementation. The historic neighborhood on the edge of downtown, which in recent years had been overrun by crime and drugs, is coming back to life as a neo-traditional mix of old and new.

<http://www.news-record.com/news/opinions/ed1tues12.htm>

**Gas Mileage on 2003 Models Headed in the Wrong Direction** – Only a tiny 3.5 per cent of the 2003 models now rolling into showrooms can drive 30 or more miles on 1 gallon of gas, compared to 5.5 per cent of 2002's models.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2002/10/30/MN172978.DTL>

**Trash That Melts – Just Add Water** - It could be the biggest thing since sliced bread was wrapped in cellophane: biodegradable food packaging that's cheap enough to compete with conventional plastic. Once used, it can be thrown

onto the compost heap or even eaten. This year, startup Plantic Technologies will roll out a cornstarch-based bioplastic that can be molded into everything from Twinkie wrappers to cracker trays.

<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/10.07/start.html?pg=8>

**“What Would Jesus Drive?”** – That’s the question being asked by the Rev. Jim Ball of the Evangelical Environmental Network of millions of church-going Americans. Ball is urging consumers and automakers to start thinking of gas mileage as an ethical statement, noting that auto emissions are significantly contributing to climate change.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A25595-2002Nov7.html>

**Need a Car for an Hour? It’s Yours!** – New York’s Zipcar company offers members the use of an automobile for as little as an hour. This new “car-sharing” concept is catching on across the United States.

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/4478663.htm>

**Planetizen’s Top 50 Planning Websites -**  
<http://www.planetizen.com/sites/2002sites.pdf>

## 7. *Quote of the Month.*

“Sustainable architecture is a potent new movement that could revolutionize the way our buildings and cities are designed and constructed. This movement emerges from an increasing respect for the environment, combined with a continuing demand for new construction to meet the needs of urban and regional growth. And it recognizes—now more than ever—that energy must be used wisely and conserved.”

Douglas Durst  
President, The Durst Organization  
Press Release on “Big and Green”  
Architecture Exhibit at National  
Building Museum  
Nov. 4, 2002

Upstate Update will be taking a holiday break next month—Look for your next issue in January!

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR UPSTATE COUNTIES**  
**Effective January 2003**

**ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL**

**District 1**

G. Fred Tolly, Jr.  
1203 Wendover Way  
Anderson, SC 29621  
225-5311

**District 2**

Gracie S. Floyd  
1201 Ramona Drive  
Belton, SC 29627  
226-3491

**District 3**

Larry E. Greer, Chairman  
1300 Hwy. 185  
Anderson, SC 29621  
296-9176

**District 4**

Clint Wright  
215 Woodhaven Drive  
Pendleton, SC 29670  
646-5154

**District 5**

Mike Holden  
106 Regency Circle  
Anderson, SC 29625  
231-8616

**District 6**

Bill Dees  
206 Wren School Road  
Piedmont, SC 29673  
845-7995

**District 7**

M. Cindy Wilson  
129 Steeplechase  
Belton, SC 29627  
261-3980

**CHEROKEE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**District 1**

Rufus H. Foster Jr.  
P.O. Box 621  
Gaffney, SC 29342-0621  
489-2422

**District 2**

Ronald Ramsey  
908 Green River Rd.  
Gaffney, SC 29341-4009  
489-8052

**District 3**

Barry G. Medley  
230 Worth's Trail  
Gaffney, SC 29340  
489-1714

**District 4**

Billy O. Wallace  
219 Bonner Lake Road  
Gaffney, SC 29340  
487-3424

**District 5**

Charles T. Mathis Jr.  
945 Goucher School Road  
Gaffney, SC 29340-6055  
489-1108

**District 6**

L. Hoke Parris, Chairman  
100 Parris Trail  
Gaffney, SC 29340-6736  
489-4616

**District 7**

James D. Batchler  
360 Batchelor Drive  
Blacksburg, SC 29702-9647  
839-4680

**GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**District 17**

Joe Dill  
228 Highway 101  
Landrum, SC 29356  
895-7387

**District 18**

Stephen C. Selby  
904 Lamp Light Drive  
Drive Greer, SC 29650  
877-0835

**District 19**

Mark C. Kingsbury  
12 Blanche Drive  
Greenville, SC 29617  
294-6586

**District 20**

Scott Case  
430 Beckenham Lane  
Greenville, SC 29609  
233-3893

**District 21**

Phyllis Henderson  
110 Silver Creek Ct.  
Greer, SC 29650  
244-0107

**District 22**

Bob Taylor  
107 Karen Drive  
Greenville, SC 29607  
242-5100

**District 23**

Xanthe S. Norris  
209 Ackley Road  
Greenville, SC 29607  
271-6798

**District 24**

Cort Flint  
7 W. Seven Oaks Drive  
Greenville, SC 29605  
232-4261

**GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL  
(CONTINUED)**

**District 25**

Lottie Gibson  
104 Gettysburg Street  
Greenville, SC 29605  
277-1796

**District 26**

Judy Gilstrap  
6 Janice Court  
Greenville, SC 29611  
444-1415

**District 27**

Dozier Brooks – Chairman  
109 Inn Circle  
Fountain Inn, SC 29644  
862-3661

**District 28**

Eric Beddingfield  
945 Cooley Bridge Road  
Belton, SC 29627  
230-7044

**LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**District 1**

Ted Nash  
977 Stewart Rd.  
Fountain Inn, SC 29644  
862-3208

**District 2**

\*To be decided in special election in April

**District 3**

Edward A. McDaniel  
P.O. Box 27  
Laurens, SC 29360-0027  
682-2450

**District 4**

James A. Coleman  
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**LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL  
(CONTINUED)**

**District 5**

Ernest Trammell  
580 Compton Road  
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833-4789

**District 6**

Diane B. Anderson  
254 Grove Road  
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**District 7**

Joe V. Edwards, Chairman  
105 Mississippi Drive  
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**OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Ann H. Hughes, Supervisor  
117 Jolin Drive  
Westminster, SC 29693-3416  
638-4244

**District 1**

Steven Moore  
647 Academy Road  
Long Creek, SC 29658  
647-5112

**District 2**

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126 White Oak Street  
Walhalla, SC 29691  
638-5478

**District 3**

Bill Rinehart  
300 Sourwood Drive  
Seneca, SC 29678  
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**District 4**

Marion E. Lyles  
250 Lyles Farm Lane  
Westminster, SC 29693  
882-2959

**OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL  
(CONTINUED)**

**District 5**

H. Frank Ables Jr.  
368 Smith Dairy Road  
Westminster, SC 29693  
972-4794

**PICKENS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**District 1**

Dr. James B. London  
135 Wigington Street  
Clemson, S. C. 29631  
654-9548

**District 2**

Roy Collins  
228 Lawton Rd.  
Central, SC 29630  
639-2618

**District 3**

James H. Patten III  
113 Spring Creek Road  
Pickens, S. C. 29671  
878-3948

**District 4**

Norman D. Langston  
303 Anderson Drive  
Liberty, S. C. 29657  
843-6916

**District 5**

G. Dial DuBose  
P.O. Box 1929  
Easley, S. C. 29641  
855-4733

**District 6**

Ron Harrison  
1331 Thomas Mill Road  
Easley, S. C. 29640  
855-1208

**SPARTANBURG COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Council Chairman**

Jeffrey A. Horton  
255 Mountain Range Rd.  
Boiling Springs, SC 29316  
583-0963

**District 1**

Johnnye Code Stewart  
PO Box 567  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
583-1766

**District 2**

Steve Parker  
330 Farm Lake Rd.  
Spartanburg, SC 29316  
578-6298

**District 3**

David Britt  
320 Mills Avenue  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
595-3314 ext. 264

**District 4**

Rock Adams  
308 Blackstock Road  
Pauline, SC 29374  
574-2185

**District 5**

Ken Huckaby  
PO Box 232  
Wellford, SC 29385  
439-2886

**District 6**

Frank Nutt  
5506 Reidville Road  
Moore, SC 29369  
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