Watchung Post

Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

Published by Renna Media, On-line at **RennaMedia.com**

ISSUE 154 • SEPTEMBER 2025

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EXPERIENCE VOLUNTEERISM WITH HANDYMAN PROGRAM

Somerset County

For over 30 years, local volunteers from Somerset County's Handyman Program have dedicated countless hours of manual labor to provide independence for elderly and disabled residents throughout Somerset County.

The volunteer program, which consists of men and women, offers small interior household repairs that focus on keeping people safe in their homes. The program offers many services, including: installing grab bars, replacing smoke detectors, installing or removing air conditioners, small plumbing, electrical repairs, and more. Some Handyman Program volunteers also participate in the Wheelchair Ramp Construction Team to build ramps for people who are permanently wheelchair bound.

"It is reassuring to know that the volunteers through our Somerset County Handyman Program are giving residents their personal freedoms back," said Commissioner Paul Drake. "Losing the ability to go outside your home is not something that any resident should be forced to accept. With every ramp project completed, the burden of excessive labor costs and isolation is lifted off the back of another family. That freedom allows residents to spend time outdoors, visit loved ones, and stay connected to the things they enjoy. The entire Board of Commissioners is so grateful to these dedicated, thoughtful, skilled countywide volunteers."

Although residents are expected to pay for supplies, the cost of volunteer labor is completely free.

"Getting a metal ramp from a private company can cost \$10,000 or more. People can't always afford that," said Somerset County Volunteer Services Director Laurie Roome. "We do ask, if they're able to, to pay for the price of materials that we use. But, if they can't afford that, our program and other donations will cover the cost. Our ramps are built with high - quality materials and by expert



(above) Members of the Handyman Program work to install a large accessibility ramp at a resident's home in Franklin.

craftspersons. Some residents have been trapped in their houses, so they can't get out to visit a doctor or attend a family event. These ramps not only mean safety, but actually represent freedom."

"Some of our volunteers have carpentry backgrounds and some of them were CEO's, IT specialists, or dentists. They come from all walks of life, but they all love giving back," said Roome. "You don't really need to have any experience to be part of our programs."

Bill Bollwage, a resident of Bridgewater and 15-year veteran of the Handyman Program, said that a willingness to help your neighbor is the main requirement for getting involved.

"You don't need to know everything, so no one should hesitate to get involved," said Bollwage. "You can come here and pick up skills as you go along. When you get to see one of the residents come out of their house for the first time in over a year, it makes you feel good. It gets emotional for the homeowner. We've had a couple of people break down in tears. They get to see their neighbors and now they can just come out and enjoy the weather."

To volunteer or to receive assistance from the program: call (908) 541-5715 or email VolunteerSvs@co.somerset.nj.us.



Watchung Post

Renna Media, LLC, Publishers 202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

Watchung Post is published by Renna Media. 2,700 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Watchung, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2025

National Night Out, a national communitybuilding campaign that promotes police-community partnerships, was held on Tuesday, August 5th in the Police Department's parking lot, in conjunction with the Watchung Farmer's Market. The free event was hosted by the Watchung Police Department and the Watchung Hills Municipal Alliance.

National Night Out culminates annually on the first Tuesday in August. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. For more information visit natw.org.



(above) Watchung Hills Regional Municipal Alliance

Courtesy Photo



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FRED'S ROOM HELPS CHILDREN PROCESS GRIEF

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss

and big feelings need a safe place to be five years. To honor their beloved husband, son, expressed. That's why we created the Volcano Room, a dedicated space where children can release their emotions in a healthy way. Recently film series, the room features cushioned walls, soft basketballs, and big pillow piles to jump in where children can process their grief in their own time.



For the DeJesus family of Scotch Plains, At Imagine, we know that grief is complex, Imagine has been a source of comfort for the past and father, they chose to dedicate the Volcano Room as "Fred's Room." The event happened on the fifth anniversary of Fred DeJesus' death at redecorated with characters from the Inside Out just 38 years old. Fred's wife Suzanne, and their daughters led the family in a heartfelt dedication ceremony.

> "We know that Fred is watching over us, front row for every dance recital, Girl Scout event, and school performance," Suzanne shared. "He's still cheering us on, asking, 'How did it go, kiddo? I know you hit it out of the park."

> Spaces like Fred's Room are made possible by families who want to create a lasting tribute to their loved ones. As Imagine continues to grow, we are honored to help families find meaningful ways to celebrate the lives of those they hold dear.

> Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss is a 501c3 that offers grief and loss education and training to the community and free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and caregivers of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. For more information, please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org or visit their website at imagineni.org.

(above) The DeJesus family gathers in Imagine's "Volcano Room" recently dedicated in memory of Scotch Plains resident Fred DeJesus.

Courtesy Photo



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WATCHUNG LIBRARY SEPTEMBER EVENTS

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BIRTH TO 3 YEARS

(with caregiver) **Baby/Toddler Storytime**

September 8, 10:30 - 11a.m.

Introduce your child to the beginnings of storytime in this interactive program.

BIRTH TO 5 YEARS

(with caregiver)

Music with Miss Donna

September 22, 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Take time to bond with your children while making music in this interactive session. Enjoy music, fingerplays, and playing instruments. Hosted at WIlson Memorial Church.

AGES 4 AND UP

Bingo with Miss June

September 24, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m Share your love of Bingo with other players as you compete to win prizes.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Family Painting Afternoon: City Skyline

September 2, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m

Family Storytime: Move and Groove

September 15, 10:30 -11 a.m.

Discover songs, stories, and movement in this active storytime.

GRADES K AND UP

Drop-In STEAM: Straw Maze Engineering

September 27, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m

GRADES K - 4

Hands-on Chemistry and Art Workshop

September 9, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m

Read to a Therapy Dog

September 16, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m

Practice your reading skills by reading a story to a certified therapy dog.

GRADES K - 5

Giant Connect 4

September 10, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m Play a fun classic game that is giant.

LEGO® Fun

September 17, 4:30 - 5:00 p.m

Join the fun if you like building with LEGO® bricks. Bring your creativity and prepare for a challenge.

GRADES 6-12

Teen Volunteer Afternoon

September 18, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m

Attendees will earn one hour of service time.

ADULT

Public Emergency Preparedness Outreach at Farm Market

September 2, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m

Why Emergency Preparedness is important, how to create your Emergency Kit, Emergency Communication Plans and Important local resources and contacts.

Watchung Library Writers Group

September 3, 10, 17 & 24,

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m

The Watchung Library Writers Group welcomes experienced writers interested in providing and receiving direct, constructive feedback. Hosted at Wilson Memorial Church.

Passport Services

September 10, 2:00 - 5:30 p.m

SCLSNJ is an officially-designated passport application acceptance facility with passport processing hours set for your convenience. By appointment only.

Birdhouse Painting

September 11 & 20, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m

Adult Book Discussion

"The Keeper of Lost Causes"

September 11, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m

Making a Difference:

Becoming a Foster or Adoptive Parent

September 24, 2:00 - 2:40 p.m.

Qigong and Meditation

September 11, 18 & 25, 11:00 a.m. - noon

Patty Barron will lead gentle sitting and standing Qigong exercises/meditation focusing on body/mind connection.

Creating a Dynamic Portfolio

September 25, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This workshop examines the value of presenting yourself as a complete package by using a resume with a portfolio.





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DINE & DISCOVER: 20 WAYS TO ENJOY RESTAURANT MONTH IN BERKELEY HEIGHTS

September is a very special time for food, friends and family in Berkeley Heights: It's Restaurant Month, which runs from September 1 - 30, 2025. Now is the time to make your plans to take advantage of special offers from 20 establishments. Options range from fine quick-serve to casual and dining restaurants. This event attracts diners of all ages for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It's your chance

- Try new dishes and special meals at your favorite eateries
- Make family dinnertime easy and delicious on busy weekdays
- Venture out to new places (some new restaurants have opened this year!)
- Encourage fun get-togethers with friends or co-workers as the summer ends
- Urge teens to head downtown after school and enjoy something new

"Berkeley Heights boasts a vibrant dining scene that draws visitors from near and far," said Julie Lloyd of the Downtown Beautification Committee. "From special nights out to BYOB deals, there's something delicious for everyone. We're grateful to our local restaurants for making this ninth annual Restaurant Month easy, affordable, and enjoyable."

Find the information you need to ensure you get the most value and fun out of Restaurant Month at www.experiencebh.com, including menus and specials. Follow the fun on social media at @ExperienceBerkeleyHeights on Facebook and experience berkeley heights on Instagram.

Please share your photos with the tag #experiencebh.



AS OF THIS WRITING, THESE ARE THE 20 PARTICIPATING ESTABLISHMENTS:

- Amerigo Cucina ItaloAmericana
 Ami Sushi
- Bubbakoo's Burrito's Cafe Vincotto Cousins Deli
- Clemente's Pizzeria Delicious Heights Domino's
- Gabagool Deli Goodman's Deli and Restaurant
- Grain and Cane Hop Hing La Rosa Chicken & Grill
 - Lupa Ristorante Neelam Fine Indian Cuisine • Patria Station Cafe • Proud Thai Cookery
- Two Fields Bakery Trap Rock Restaurant & Brewery
- Vine Republic

SOMERSET COUNTY 4-H OPEN HOUSE - SEPT. 25

Families are invited to the Somerset County 4-H Open House on Thursday, September 25, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Ted Blum 4-H Center of Somerset County, 310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater. Learn about the variety of clubs and programs for youth grades K-13 (one year out of high school) as well as both short- and long-term volunteer opportunities for adults.

4-H offers Prep clubs for grades K-3, and 4-H project area clubs for grades 4-13. Projects include everything from archery to computer science, food & nutrition to rabbits, robotics to





poultry, and model trains to Seeing Eye puppies. Representatives of the more than 60 clubs offered in Somerset County will be on hand to answer questions.

In New Jersey, 4-H is offered in all 21 through Rutgers counties Cooperative Extension.

4-H provides youth with the skills that they need to succeed by offering hands-on learning opportunities in agriculture, STEM, health, civic engagement and the arts. For a list of 4-H clubs and to learn more, visit 4HisTOPS.org.



(above) Somerset County 4-H has a wide variety of more than 60 clubs. You don't need to own an animal to join a 4-H animal club.

Courtesy photo

SENIORS CLUB OPEN HOUSE - SEP 10

others to its September 10, 2025 open house meeting from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. to meet our members, attend a meeting, and hear from a special guest speaker from the Somerset County Sheriff's Department, and watch a K9 officer and his/her dog in action.

The Watchung Senior's Club is a social club comprised of members, aged fifty-five or older,

Watchung Seniors Club invites residents and from Watchung and other towns. The Club provides varied opportunities to foster social interaction, create positive learning experiences, and encourage fun for all members and their guests.

Meeting take place at 31 Mountain Avenue, Watchung (bottom level). Building is between the Town Hall and the Fire Department. Please come join us!! Refreshments will be served.





Attention Men & Women Over 40 HOW TO LOSE 10-30 LBS. IN 6 WEEKS... AND KEEP IT OFF!

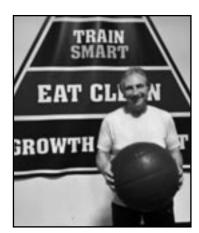
Give a little Berkeley Heights Personal Training Gym 6 weeks to help you feel stronger, leaner, healthier and filled with energy!

"I NEVER LIKED GOING TO THE GYM... BUT NOW I'M HOOKED!"



TRISH - I never liked going to the gym...until I joined Gabriele Fitness! The very knowledgeable and professional trainers make sure that every person receives personalized attention and feedback in class. I never expected to achieve such great results and it's all due to Gabriele Fitness. But now I'm hooked! They are the best!

"I WAS WORRIED ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO KEEP UP"



ing and motivating! It's such a welcoming space. I was worried about not being able to keep up. But that's never been an issue at all. I've never felt rushed even if my pace was slower than those around me. I really love this aspect of the experience. I'm so glad to be part of this community.

"LIFE CHANGING FOR ME."



and entertaining trainers. Can't say enough positive things about GFP. Even now, in 2024, the experience at GFP continues to get better. The trainers do a great job helping each and everyone achieve their goals and consistently improve. The gym members support each other. I look forward to every session.

"I'M NOT SCARED TO WEAR SHORTS ANYMORE."



JEN - I felt completely disconnected from the strong person I used to be. From the very first interaction, I could tell Gabriele Fitness was different. I'm not exaggerating when I say I owe my life to this gym and these people. My clothes fit again. I'm not scared to wear shorts anymore. I smile in photos. I know how to take care of myself. My blood work is amazing. I'm not hiding anymore. I'm happy again.

GET BACK TO A FITNESS ROUTINE STARTING OCT 6TH! (ONLY 20 SPOTS AVAILABLE)

Here is what you get in this Challenge:

- **Personal Training:** 20 small group personal training sessions so you can work out with a coach to guide you every step of the way, which means you're essentially guaranteed to feel fit, strong and healthy.
- Extreme Accountability: Get helicopter-like attention from your GFP Coaches so you can never fall off track, which means you'll finally get the energy and health you've been missing.
- **Personalized and Simple Nutrition Help:** Our coaches are going to sit down with you to map out everything so you know exactly what to eat and when to eat it, which means you'll start making progress immediately.
- **Unlimited Cardio Sessions:** You'll get Unlimited Access to our 'Fat Blast" Sessions that will help get your body buzzing and your blood flowing to help shed those calories and fat!
- Free Goal and Nutrition Seminar: We will kick off the challenge with a seminar on setting proper goals as well as helping you create exactly what your nutrition should realistically look including what to eat to get lean, how much, and how to fit in foods you love along the way!

ABOUT GABRIELE FITNESS: Gabriele Fitness is a personal training gym that helps people lose weight, gain energy, and live a more active life without the use of fad diets or workouts that beat up their body. They've helped thousands of men and women in the Berkeley Heights Area to transform their health and life for the past 17 years. As leaders in the fitness industry they present their methods to trainers and gyms around the world.



HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

The Somerset County Hazardous Waste Collection Program gives residents and farmers a legal and cost-free way to dispose of unwanted household items that cannot be disposed of in the regular trash. This drop-off opportunity is for residents only.

Proof of Somerset County residency is required; (current driver's license, valid lease, tax bill or any other bill with a Somerset County address). Pre-registration is not required. No businesses allowed.

Adherence to social distancing guidelines is required. Occupants should remain in their vehicles at all times. Materials should be stored in residents' trunks, cargo areas, or truck beds and items must be accessible to the staff so they can easily remove items from vehicles.

Five events are held annually at various locations around the county from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to enable residents to take advantage of the program.

County residents are also asked to take advantage of the RxMission Drive-In/Drop-Off medicine-collection program, which is held in conjunction with scheduled Hazardous Waste drop-off events, rain or shine. Residents can drop off medications at as many of the Hazardous Waste drop-off events as they wish to safely dispose of unwanted or outdated prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications from their homes. Sheriff's officers are on hand to accept the medications.

Please note that materials accepted at Hazardous Waste Days are NOT the same as those accepted at First Saturday of the Month Days.

An additional hazardous waste disposal option is available to residents who wish to dispose of hazardous waste between county-sponsored collection days. The Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority's permanent household hazardous waste facility will accept materials from Somerset County residents on a fee basis. For information, visit www.mcmua.com. Morris County will not accept explosives or radioactive materials.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE 2025 SCHEDULE:
September 13

Branchburg Township Public Works Garage

34 Kenbury Road, Branchburg 08876

October 18

South County Public Works Garage

410 Roycefield Road, Hillsborough 08844



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WARRENBROOK SENIOR CENTER SEPTEMBER EVENTS

500 Warrenville Road. All the programs are FREE for the registered members. Call (908) 753-9440 for more information.

Chair Yoga with Kartika

Mondays, 10 a.m.

This class is open to all levels of skill. Hatha yoga poses can be practiced while either sitting or standing. No fee for this ongoing class. Open to Warren Brook Senior Center clients only.

Mahjong for Intermediate Players

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For intermediate mahjong players

Take control with Exercise

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

This is an ongoing exercise program, in video form, for all skill levels that can be practiced while either standing or sitting.

Bridge Group with Ronnie

Tuesdays, 1 - 4 p.m.

Welcome new members and beginners (lessons available).

Geri-Fit

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.

Geri-Fit is a unique and evidence-based seated (standing optional) exercise program that requires a set of light dumbbell weights (2 lbs. to begin), a sturdy chair, a stretch band, and water to drink during the workout.

Project Healthy Bones

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

This peer-led, 24-week exercise and education program is for individuals who are at risk of osteoporosis or have it.

Craft Activities

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m.

Opportunity for artists & crafters to meet new people while creating an art piece or craft. This quarter, we are creating cards for our Meals on Wheels clients. All supplies will be provided.

Line Dancing with Linda Hyland

Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

You don't need a partner; and dancing is an easy way to stay healthy, both mentally and physically. It's suitable for participants with limited mobility.

Card/Table Games

Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.

Join in and play some of your favorite games such as Mahjong, Bridge, Dominoes, Left-Right-Center, Rummikub, Canasta, and more.

Tai Chi with Roger Hsu

Fridays, 10 a.m.

Tai Chi participants will focus on shifting body weight through controlled movements that flow rhythmically into one long gesture, practiced while either standing or sitting.

Bridge

Fridays, 1-4 p.m.

Bridge is a mentally challenging card game that offers intellectual and social stimulation.

Senior Center Closed – Labor Day

September 1

Creative Movements

September 2, 11 a.m.

Moving, grooving and laughing your way to the dance floor with Tom McKie.

Bingo

September 3, 11 a.m.

Promotes socialization, hand-eye coordination, and improves listening and memory skills.

Drawing for Relaxation and Joy

September 4, 11 a.m.

Calming and creative art workshop designed especially for seniors! I No prior art experience is needed. All materials are provided.

Identity Theft, Scams and How to Protect Yourself Digitally

September 5, 11 a.m.

How sophisticated some of these scams are and what to do to avoid being a victim. Jaaide will provide a handout of resources and detailed explanations of other topics.

All About Millets, a Nutrition Program September 8, 11 a.m.

Learn about millets, a lesser-known grain that is packed with nutrients and flavor. Presentation will showcase easy recipes that fit every meal.

The Somerset County Traveling Library

September 8, 1 p.m.

Get help troubleshooting technology, check out a book, or just share a favorite book you are currently reading.

Physical Therapy Screenings

September 9, 11 a.m.

Dr. Tinnirella will be joining us to provide screenings to determine if physical therapy could benefit you. Appointments required, 1 client every 15 minutes Limited space.

Monthly Book Club

Meets Every Second Tuesday of the month. (Hybrid) September 9, 1:30 PM

Join the Warrenbrook Seniors Book Club members to discuss the book of the month and select the next book to read. New members are always welcome! **Only for Warrenbrook Senior Center Participants**

Misconceptions of Healthcare

September 10, 11 a.m.

Eye-opening conversation that challenges common beliefs and brings clarity to some of the most misunderstood aspects of care.

Breathing Techniques for Mental Wellness September 11, 11 a.m.

Practices that can be used to distract the mind and induce calm during an anxiety episode. A few techniques can be practiced on a regular basis to develop an ongoing awareness of trigger situations and to calm and regulate the nervous system consistently.

Thrill'n & Grill'n Picnic at Colonial Park September 12, 11 a.m.

Picnic in the Park Celebration at Knob Hill Pavilion - Colonial Park – Knob Hill Pavilion: 156 Mettlers Road, Somerset, NJ 08873. Lorri Woodward will provide familiar musical entertainment. Registration required.

Senior Medicare Patrol

September 15, 11 a.m.

Join Joel as he provides education regarding strategies and techniques regarding how to protect our personal information from being stolen by cyber criminals.

Trivia with Parul

September 15 & 29, 1 p.m.

Socialize, laugh, and keep the mind sharp. With questions spanning history, music, movies, and general knowledge, No pressure, just plenty of fun and friendly competition!

Wheel of Fortune with Warrenbrook Staff

September 16, 11 a.m.

Whether you're a seasoned player or a first-timer, this classic game offers plenty of laughter, friendly competition, and a chance to test your memory and word skills.

Fall Mixer with Jersey Girls

September 17, 11:00 a.m.

Event brings together unforgettable performances by Jersey Girls that will delight us to dance and tap our feet and create memorable experiences for us to cherish.

Bingo with Bob Mazet

September 18, 10:30 a.m.

Promotes socialization, strengthens hand-eye coordination, and improves listening and short-term memory skills.

Warrenbrook Senior Center Closed

September 19

We will meet at Senior Wellness Center at Basking Ridge.

Movie Magic with Nancy Petrucelli

September 22, 11 a.m.

Nancy will explore some of the most memorable movie music of all time.

Studio 60+

September 22, 1 p.m.

Warrenbrook seniors will meet to plan the events they are interested in. Some examples include brainstorming the quarterly Community Service projects, craft work, musical entertainment, jeopardy. They will also practice for their quarterly musical entertainments & drama. All senior center members are invited to participate in this planning club.

Wordle with Warrenbrook Staff

September 23, 11 a.m.

Wordle is a word-based brain game where participants have six chances to guess a five-letter word. So, dig deep into your vocabulary repertoire and identify some words.

A Journey Through Time: Historic Sites of Basking Ridge and Warren NJ

September 24, 11 a.m.

Kristina will focus on exploring the heritage of Somerset County.

Frida Kahlo Paper Doll Craft with Parul

September 25, 11 a.m.

Celebrate a well-known Mexican Artist Frida Kahlo. We will be crafting a paper doll using muffin liners. All materials will be provided. Pre-registration is required.

Brains n Games and Hand Bells

September 26, 11 a.m.

Join Adrienne for some mind-tingling, brainstumping word games and a fun-filled musical workout using handbells.

Emergency Preparedness & Register Ready

September 29, 11 a.m.

Emergency preparedness tips that both agency staff and consumers can use, as well as an overview of the Register Ready program.

Jeopardy with Center Client

September 30, 11 a.m.

An interactive game of Jeopardy to keep the mind engaged while enjoying some friendly competition.



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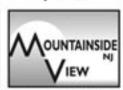
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6 Units 6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400
9 HALF PAGE 6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800
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