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Fulton-Montgomery
Community College

Futures Made. Here.



President Swanger with Congressman Gibson and Casey Madsen

FM's 49th Annual Commencement

On Friday, May 16, 530 students graduated from FM. Keynote Speaker was Congressman Chris Gibson and Casey Madsen was the student speaker. Casey graduated with an A.A.S. degree in Radiologic Technology. She plans to enroll at SUNY Albany to study human biology (pre-med).

During the ceremony, SUNY Chancellor Award recipients were recognized. Associate Professor of Media Communications James Hinkle received Excellence in Teaching and Professor and Director of COCAL and Experiential Learning Sharon Poling received Excellence in Professional Service. ▲



Pictured above, left: SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence recipients Luis Martinez and Gregory Ruddy.

Pictured above, right: Emily Spraggs graduated with her two-year degree from FM this May and her high school diploma this June. Emily participated in FM's Early Admission program.

At right: SUNY Chancellor's Award recipient Sharon Poling, left, received Excellence in Professional Service.

Associate Professor of Media Communications James Hinkle, right, received an Excellence in Teaching award. Congratulations to all.





Fulton-Montgomery
Community College
Alumni News
Spring 2014

Writer/Editor:
Amy Radik

Published by:
The Foundation
of FM, Inc. ©2014
Printed by:
Miller Printing

TheTOWER has been created to maintain ties between FM and its alumni, to convey information about current campus events, and to communicate information to alumni about their fellow Raiders.

Please include your name and contact information with an items submitted to TheTOWER. Please send only copies of original articles or newspaper clippings, since items may not be returned. TheTOWER and FM will not be held responsible for items lost in the mail.

All correspondence should be sent to: Amy Radik, Coordinator of Public Relations & Marketing, Fulton-Montgomery Community College 2805 State Highway 67 Johnstown, NY 12095 or eMailed to: amy.radik@fmcc.edu

General information about FM:

(518) 736-FMCC (3622)
www.fmcc.edu

FM PRESENTS Buck Moon Arts Festival

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
JULY 12-13, 2014

Buck Moon ARTS FESTIVAL



- Arts & Crafts Vendors
- Live Music
- Dance Entertainment
- Farmers Market
- Tastings of Regional Wine & Craft Beer
- Diverse Food Artisans
- Juried Photography & Art Exhibitions
- Workshops
- Demonstrations
- Multi-media Photo Show
- Dramatic Presentation
- Family-friendly Fun
- ...and lots of great food!

10 AM — 6 PM
RAIN OR SHINE
FREE ADMISSION



On the Campus of
Fulton-Montgomery Community College
2805 NYS Rt. 67 • Johnstown, NY 12095
www.fmcc.edu Facebook: Buck Moon Arts Festival

Buck Moon ARTS FESTIVAL



CHECK FACEBOOK
for additional scheduled events and entertainment. Workshops and demonstrations will be posted when the schedule is finalized.

WHAT IS A BUCK MOON?
Native Americans gave that name to July's full moon because that is when the new antlers of buck deer push out of their foreheads in coatings of velvety fur.

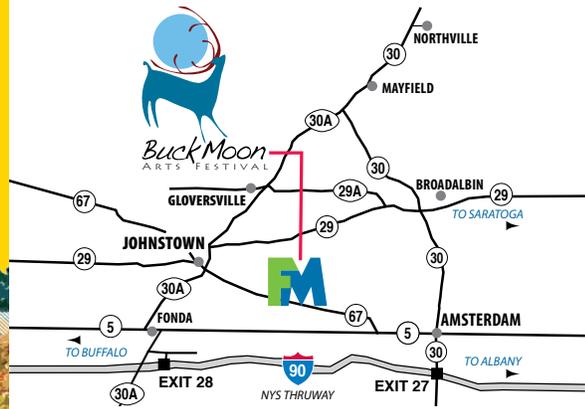
MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT
Alex Torres & His Latin Orchestra
Hey Jude...The Tribute
Flame
The Bentwood Rockers
Penny Jar
Sara Milonovich & Daisycutter
Children's Musical Program

DANCE
Iona Troupe Irish Step Dancers
Ms. Tina's Tribal Belly Dance Co.

VISUAL ART PRESENTATIONS
Photographer Carl Heilman II—
"I Am The Adirondacks"
John Van Alstine, Sculptor

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION
The Exonerated

WORKSHOPS & DEMONSTRATIONS
Scheduled throughout the festival



SARATOGA ARTS ARTS CENTER | ARTS COUNCIL

This program received support from Saratoga Arts through its Fulton-Montgomery Arts Grants Program, which is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Additional funding to support this program came from the Fulton County Tourism Department.

The Buck Moon Arts Festival is made possible with funds from the Montgomery County Occupancy Tax administered by the Montgomery County Legislature.

Buck Moon Arts Festival is a free festival that will showcase diverse, family-friendly visual and performance art from across NYS and beyond with vendors, workshops, demonstrations, and multi-venue live music and dance performances. American sculptor John Van Alstine officially opens the festival with an evening talk July 11 in the FM Theater. And, in the Perrella Gallery, the juried exhibition opens July 12 for a Regional Showcase of Art and Photography.

Come and enjoy nature photographer Carl Heilman II presenting *I Am The Adirondacks* and performances of the riveting play, *The Exonerated*, directed by FM's Jason Radalin with local actors. The card printed above lists the weekend's featured dance and musical groups and the festival's grant sponsors.

Additionally, local bands will perform in 30-minute rotating sets on July 12 for a Musician's Showcase in Raiders Cove.

An array of vendors will cover the campus with tented booths on Saturday and Sunday, displaying juried arts & crafts, food artisan delights, and a Farmers Market with summer fruits, vegetables and garden plants. Wineries and craft beer makers will offer tastings of their regionally grown specialties; art workshops and panel discussions will be held; and numerous food vendors will please the palate all weekend long.

Join us for this celebration of the arts in the Mohawk Valley and Adirondack region of New York. Contact festival coordinator Debra Kolsrud with any questions at Debra.Kolsrud@fmcc.suny.edu. ▲

TheTOWER FACULTY FOCUS • Jim Gyldenvand

Jim Gyldenvand, the youngest of four siblings, spent the first eight years of his life on a farm in North Dakota before his parents moved the family to a small town where he finished high school. “I have fond memories of the farm even though my parents were just able to ‘scrape by,’

“FM has been a great place to work. It has evolved and progressed over the 22 years that I’ve been here. Consider that in 1992 faculty didn’t have a telephone in their own office; we had to share one at the secretary’s desk!” recalls Jim.

especially after my father was involved in a couple of serious farm accidents,” says Jim. “In fact, people are amazed to hear that the farm didn’t even have running water! I remember my mother heating up bath water that would need to be shared by all the siblings. When we did move to town, the house had running water, of course, and it was a big deal for us kids to be able to turn faucets on and off! I am quite sure that my rather humble beginnings, along with being the only son in a household of four females, helped shape my interest in topics that would resonate later in my sociology classes.”

After high school, Jim ‘tried’ college, but after one year, decided he wasn’t ready and enlisted in the Army. “My three years in the Army were spent in Italy as a military

policeman. That time was very valuable for me personally as it forced me to mature and grow up,” he says. After his enlistment was up, Jim re-enrolled at Moorhead State University, Minnesota, to pursue a dual major in Sociology and Criminal Justice. There, he met his wife Gwenn in the fall of 1981. “We’ve been married 31 years and have a daughter Devon (23) and two sons, Grant (18) and Max (11).”

In 1984, Jim graduated from MSU and received a full scholarship to graduate school at the University of Washington, Seattle. He says, “After earning my M.A. in 1986, I was admitted into the Ph.D. program. Early on, I decided that pursuing the research side of the discipline wasn’t for me. I was offered a teaching position at Prestonsburg Community College in Kentucky, so my wife, daughter, and I moved to a major coal mining region in eastern Kentucky. Talk about a culture shock after Seattle! I decided to keep looking and, the next year, I was offered the sociology position at FM.”

Jim has served on many committees throughout his 22 years at FM. He spearheaded the Barto Memorial Lecture Series named after his friend and colleague, Bill Barto, who was killed in a car accident in 1999. More recently, he helped spearhead an initiative that instituted an assessment process. Currently, he is a member of an ad hoc discussion group interested in developing a Memorial Garden for the College.

“FM has been a great place to work. It has evolved and progressed over the 22 years that I’ve been here. Consider that in 1992 faculty didn’t have a telephone in their own office; we had to share one at the secretary’s desk!”

In his free time, Jim enjoys riding his restored 1978 Honda and Triumph custom



Professor Jim Gyldenvand with his Café Racer.

café racer motorcycles. A few years ago, he took a solo camping/motorcycle road trip to Alaska and back. He also loves listening to vinyl records on his upgraded vintage turntable, growing fruit trees, veggie gardening, making maple syrup, and hiking through the forest.

“As a North Dakota country boy, I never could have imagined the twists and turns my life has taken so far; a first generation college student, military service in Italy, graduate school in Washington State, and now a Sociology Professor teaching at a gem of an institution. Sociologically, it wasn’t likely that I would find myself at this intersection of place and time today, but I’ll take it! It certainly makes me wonder about the next chapter of my life...”. ▲



Rich Prestopnik and Shirl Doherty

TheTOWER RETIREES HONORED

FM’s Professor of Electrical Technology Rich Prestopnik and TRiO Learning Center Coordinator Shirl Doherty have retired after a combined 55 years with the College. Rich joined FM in 1980 and Shirl in 1993. The faculty union, F.A.C.E. (Fulmont Association of College Educators), celebrated their retirement with a cake at the final union meeting of the semester, followed by a retirement party at Lanzi’s on the Lake in Mayfield. ▲

TheTOWER PERSPECTIVE • Daniela Cifuentes

"Almost" is Sometimes Enough



Daniela Cifuentes

As a girl in my early 20s, I often feel as if I am stumbling through the world, not truly knowing what to do and waiting for a gentle soul to help me take the reins of my life. Ultimately, I always achieve all of my goals, but in my own peculiar way that involves

more mistakes than it should. Even though I've never felt ready to set foot in "the real world," I'm already in it and there's no way out. I'm clumsy, forgetful, and clueless. I sincerely have no idea how I've been living on my own for so long. At the age of 18, I was desperately seeking adventure. I moved out of my parents' home. As a matter of fact, I moved out of their continent. I didn't know how to cook, nor did I know how to clean. My mother had to drive me everywhere because the thought of taking Peruvian public transportation gave me ghastly nightmares. Everyone agreed I had completely lost my mind...everyone except me. I was determined to prove them wrong.

A series of atrocities and chaotic adventures overtook my life during my first month in Vienna. One humdrum Sunday, I decided it was time to clean my apartment. The kitchen floor was covered with unidentified cooking substances, there were insects under my bed, and the bathroom's odor was exasperating. Never in my life had I tried to sweep the floor; therefore I thought using the vacuum cleaner would be much more effective. I had seen my maid use it, so it never occurred to me that I could have trouble with it; I was clearly mistaken. All of a sudden I felt like I was losing a battle against a serpent. The hose was larger than I, so I got all tangled up, fell down, and left the floor covered in more debris than before. Had my mom been there, she would have yelled at me for being careless and incompetent, but then she would've reluctantly helped me. I was, sadly, all by myself. I even had to check out Google to avoid frying my eggs with vinegar.

The following weekend I had to take care of some important paperwork, but the office was more than an hour away. Nevertheless, I grabbed my coat and phone and embarked. Five buses and two subways later, I finally got to the right town. I was beyond tired and my feet were hurting dreadfully. It didn't matter how carefully I was following the directions, I was still lost. I walked and

walked, restlessly, from north to south, west to east, but it was a hopeless case. It was four in the afternoon, and I found myself sitting on an old bench, on the verge of tears. I almost wanted to be done with everything, call my mom, and give up.

Being a young adult has discouraging obstacles along the way, and sometimes we might feel as if we still need to be told what to do and how to do it. We seek independence, but we're so accustomed to being treated like children, even when we're teenagers, that the transition into adulthood ends up being unimaginably challenging. However, it's bound to happen sooner or later. Mistakes will be made, frustrations will appear, and arduous work will have to be done, but that's how we're supposed to learn. We might not see the value in failure in the moment, but perfection is just as unappealing. Notwithstanding my misadventures, I succeeded...on my own terms. ▲

Dani is from Santiago, Chile, and moved to Lima, Peru, at the age of 5. She is currently studying Business Administration at FM and English 103 with Dr. Stephen Astmann. Dani will graduate next year with hopes of transferring to FIT to study Fashion Merchandising Management.

TheTOWER ALUMNA FEATURE • Julia Caro Class of 2011

Julia Caro grew up in Brooklyn and transferred to Amsterdam High School when she was 14 years old. She decided to enroll in FM because it was accessible and didn't feel intimidating. She appreciated the

Julia Caro



small campus and the sense of belonging to something larger than herself.

Prior to coming to FM, Julia worked with Centro Civico, Inc. and continued to grow within the agency. She served the community for 17 years in a variety of roles. "It was my work at Centro Civico that increased my awareness of the importance of an education. Hence, I became a student myself," she says.

Today, Julia is employed by the New York State Senate as the Director of District Operations within the Office of Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk, 46th district. "Management, along with community and public relations, have always been my strong suit," states Julia.

"In terms of career goals, I strive to someday become a business owner. However, the nature of the business and role it will play within society is still unfolding."

Julia, a mother of three, lives in Amsterdam. All of her children participated in the Early Admissions program at FM. "Now that they are grown and continuing their education, I can revisit my education. I'm looking to pursue a Bachelor's degree in business," she says.

Asked about her opinion on community colleges and their importance, Julia had this to say, "Many people regard community colleges as irrelevant and small. I am convinced of the contrary. We rely on community colleges, specifically FM, to be our gateway, our conduit, our stepping stone, and our bridge to higher education, the workforce, and economic development—all integral pieces of the fabric we put together to make our society.

How can anyone think of that as small or irrelevant? FM serves our needs, FM builds our lives, and FM expands our horizons. That is why FM is important." ▲

TheTOWER FROM FM TO WEST POINT • Nicholas Petricca 2013–2014

Nicholas Petricca graduated from Mayfield High School in 2012 and continued on to Northwestern Preparatory School in Crestline, California. He went through intensive, seven days a week training of 18-hour days, not only to train physically, but also mentally. His studies focused on higher mathematics, sciences, and English, earning an overall grade of A.

He came to FM in the fall of 2013 to keep himself sharp while waiting for his acceptance to West Point. Employed throughout his college experience, Nick was named to the Dean's list and received the Aviation Leadership Award in recognition of academic achievement for students desiring to pursue a career in aviation. He received an appointment to both The United States Air Force Academy, Colorado, and The United States Military Academy at West Point.

"Starting July 2, I will become a part of West Point's class of 2018 where I intend to major in Systems Engineering (that is not yet a definite)," Nick says. "I have my eyes set on either Army Aviation (Helicopters) or Combat Infantry Officer."

Needless to say, Nick's parents Tom and Tracy, are extremely proud of their son. "Nick

has been so committed toward his education and life goals; to earn acceptance offers to two premier educational institutions in the United States makes us beyond proud," says Tom. "From research at Mayfield High School, it's been approximately 30 years since the last Mayfield High School graduate received an appointment to USAFA and it's reaching over 40 years since the only other Mayfield High School student attended West Point and graduated."

Nick and his parents agree that without the cooperation and educational opportunities made available to Nick through FM, they are not sure his goal in earning these appointments would have been realized, and for that they are thankful. "Of course we are somewhat nervous sending our son off to missions assigned to West Point graduates, but he has 100% of our support. He certainly has earned this," says Tom.

"I feel as if FM has done a great job in laying the foundation for the rest of my educational experience," says Nick. "My biggest piece of advice to prospective students would be to embrace the experience in any aspect you can find. There will never be an experience we cannot learn something from; to achieve your dreams, you have to go after them." ▲



Nick and his dad at West Point. "Once accepted, we made the trip back to pick up his tactical boots that need to be broken in before July and to pick up our families' Army Football Season tickets. Football games are going to be one of the few ways we'll be able to see him for some time, so becoming a season ticket holder was an easy decision," said Nick's dad Tom.



An FM Alumni Art Show is scheduled for November, 2014.

For details on entering your work, please contact **Fine Arts Professor and Perrella Gallery Director Joel Chapin** at (518) 736-FMCC (3622), ext. 8977, or eMail joel.chapin@fmcc.edu.

TheTOWER VADNEY SCHOLARSHIP • Michael Rhodes Class of 2014

Michael Rhodes was named the recipient of the John D. Vadney Mathematics Scholarship Award at FM. This \$2,500 scholarship, the largest offered to an FM student, is awarded to a student who appreciates Mathematics as a field of study in its own right and has demonstrated interest, commitment, understanding, and high academic ability in upper level FM Mathematics courses. The recipient must also plan to continue his or her studies at a higher level institution in Mathematics, Physics, or Engineering.

Michael graduated from FM this May with an Engineering Science degree and plans to further his education at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. His goal is to one day work for Boeing to design airplanes. "I really respect the accomplishments of Alan Mulally, President and CEO of the Ford Motor Company," he says. "He began his career with Boeing; he's an inspiration."

Michael is a graduate of Wells High School and is a resident of Piseco, New York. ▲

Michael Rhodes with FM President Swanger who presented him with the John D. Vadney Mathematics Scholarship award provided by donor Lisa Queeeney-Vadney, a financial advisor at Wells Fargo Advisors, an organization which strongly supports FM scholarships.



TheTOWER NURSING SCHOLARSHIP • Macey Gasner Class of 2014



Professor and Director of Nursing Bob Warner with scholarship recipient Macey Gasner.

FM's Nursing Program celebrated its 40th anniversary with a reunion of nursing alums, current students, faculty, and staff. During the reunion in April of 2009, Assistant Professor of Nursing Sherry Warner announced the From Nurses for Nurses scholarship fund; a new scholarship to be offered to an FM nursing student fulfilling specific criteria.

This year's recipient is Macey Gasner. The Broadalbin resident received \$500 from the nursing fund. Macey is currently in the process of interviewing for an R.N. position. She earned an Associate's degree in science from FM, went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in psychology and biology from University at Albany. She graduated from FM this year with her nursing degree.

If you would like to donate to the From Nurses for Nurses fund or need further information, contact FM's Foundation Office at (518) 736-3622, ext. 8020. ▲

TheTOWER CELEBRATING CIVILITY



FM staff and students came together on April 29 to celebrate Civility with an afternoon of activities including the unveiling of the Civility Quilt, and One Day Without Shoes bake sale.

The Civility Quilt was an ongoing effort of staff and students during the spring semester. Anyone interested was encouraged to create a civility square; the square could be sewn, painted, or even drawn on with what civility means to you. The squares were collected and pieced together to create the Civility Quilt now on display in the Classroom Building.

One Day Without Shoes is a global project aimed at raising awareness of children's healthcare issues across the world. The students in the Essentials of Entrepreneurship class were inspired to join the effort

after reading about a social entrepreneur who started the shoe company, TOMS.

"Last year, 1,000 One Day Without Shoes events across 50 countries were celebrated on the same day. This year, we are hoping to make it at least 1,001," said Accounting and Business Instructor Mark Swain. Many on campus were inspired to go without shoes for the day. Funds were raised through a bake sale/popcorn sale, managed by the Entrepreneurship class, with all proceeds to benefit the two local YMCA charities that support children in need.

"Afternoons such as this are a terrific way to instill a sense of civility and respect for one another. It's nice to see students and staff come together for such important causes," said FM President Swanger. ▲



Below:

- Students from the Essentials of Entrepreneurship class sell their baked goods and popcorn to faculty, students, and staff

- Left:
- The Civility Quilt
 - President Swanger unveils the Civility Quilt

- Above:
- One Day Without Shoes student and staff participants



TheTOWER 50th Anniversary GOLF CLASSIC

FM celebrated its 50th Anniversary Golf Classic with a Hole-in-One Winner!

FM hosted its 21st Annual Golf Classic Wednesday, May 21, at Fox Run Golf Club in Johnstown. The tournament raised over \$30,000 to support scholarships and capital projects through the Foundation of FM.

“This was an extremely special year for our Golf Classic as it was not only part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration but it was also the first time FM had a winner of our hole-in-one for a vehicle!” said Lesley Lanzi, Foundation Executive Director.

“EJ Harkins of Saratoga Eagle Sales and Services won a 2014 Chevrolet Impala sponsored by Mangino Chevrolet of Amsterdam. It was an exciting moment for FM, EJ, and Dave Groesbeck, General Manager of Mangino Chevrolet, who participated in our tournament and generously supports the Golf Classic each year with a Mangino sponsored hole-in-one.” ▲



EJ Harkins of Saratoga Eagle Sales and Service sits in the driver's seat of his brand new 2014 Chevy Impala. Harkins made a hole-in-one at hole #2 on Fox Run's Golf Course to win the new car provided by sponsor Mangino Chevrolet. In the rest of the photo, left to right: FM Foundation Executive Director Lesley Lanzi, Fox Run Golf Pro Rich Scott, FM Golf Committee Co-Chair Gregg Roth, Mangino Chevrolet General Manager Dave Groesbeck, FM President Dr. Dustin Swanger, FM Board of Trustees Chair Jim Landrio, and Golf Volunteers Dr. Anya Biel (FM History Instructor) and Gilbert Ayuk (FM Physics Instructor). Biel and Ayuk were the hole spotters who watched Harkins sink the shot.

TheTOWER STUDENT ATHLETES RECOGNIZED

This year's athletic awards went to: **Women's Basketball:** MVP: Monae Abrams, Coach's Award: Cassandra Flowers, Coach's Award: Sherice Gayle

Softball: Coach's Award: Cori Manson, Coach's Award: Alyssa Palmateer, Most Improved: Kathryn Oeser

Women's Soccer: MVP: Hanna Cromie, Most Improved: Maris Plank, Coach's Award: Cari Cestone

Volleyball: MVP: Caitlyn Heyward, Most Improved: Sarah Wyzomirski, Coach's Award: Emily Robinson

Men's Basketball: MVP: Kadeem Stanislas, Coach's Award: Khaleeq Baum, Most Improved: Kenny Barr; **Baseball:** MVP: Greg Ruddy, Coach's Award: Cullen Beauregard, Most Improved: James Holmes

Men's Soccer: MVP: Austin Lee, Most Improved: Hassballah Yaya, and Coach's Award: Andrew Beckham

Lady Raiders Basketball: Player Monae Abrams was presented with Female Athlete of the Year and **Raiders Baseball:** Player Greg Ruddy was presented with Male Athlete of the Year.

Lady Raiders Volleyball: Player Emily Robinson was presented with Female Academic Athlete of the Year and **Men's Baseball:** Player Cullen Beauregard was presented with Male Academic Athlete of the Year.

Monae Abrams was named to the 3rd team NJCAA All-American Women's Basketball, the 1st Team All-Region III Women's Basketball, and the Player of the Year Mountain Valley Conference and 1st team Women's Basketball; Cassandra Flowers was named to the 1st team A-Region III Women's Basketball and the 1st team All Mountain Valley Conference Women's Basketball; Whitney Ostrander was named to the 1st team All Mountain Valley Conference Volleyball; and Stephanie Rice was named to the 2nd Team All Mountain Valley Conference Women's Basketball.

Head Coach of the Lady Raiders basketball team and the College's Athletic Director Kevin Jones was named Conference Coach of the Year. The Lady Raiders had an outstanding season, finishing with a 21-5 record. “I commend and congratulate all of our players, our coaches, and our supportive administration for another outstanding athletic year,” stated Kevin Jones. ▲



Athletes of the Year Monae Abrams and Greg Ruddy with Athletic Director/Coach Kevin Jones.



Coordinator for Student Athlete Academic Success Chris Rogers, Academic Athletes of the Year Emily Robinson and Cullen Beauregard, and Athletic Director/Coach Kevin Jones.

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Yes, I want to make a tax deductible gift to **FM Foundation**. Enclosed is a check made payable to the **Foundation of FM** in the amount of:

_____ \$500 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ other

Please charge my MasterCard or VISA in the amount of: \$ _____

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Expiration Date ____ / ____ Signature _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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