

Celebrating the people and programs

@MAY

News from May Institute, a national nonprofit provider of behavioral healthcare, education, and rehabilitative services

PEDALING WITH A PURPOSE

Board Member Jory Berkwits Rides for Kids

When long-time board member **Jory Berkwits** first heard about May Institute's participation in the September 2007 Rodman Ride for Kids, he decided that a minor inconvenience like upcoming surgery was not going to stop him from riding.

A First Vice President at Merrill Lynch in Boston, Jory quickly took on a real leadership role for the ride. In addition to riding and making a personal contribution, he has helped secure corporate sponsorship support from Merrill Lynch, and is putting together a corporate team.

An avid outdoorsman and athlete, Jory thought the Ride for Kids sounded like

a great opportunity to have fun while being directly involved with a May Institute fundraising event that would "benefit the organization in a very significant way."

The fact that it is his first bike event, and

that it will come on the heels of rotator cuff surgery this summer, seems to make the challenge even more appealing. "I'll be part-way through rehab from my surgery," he said. "I am hoping I can get some fishing in before the surgery and be ready for skiing in the winter."



Board Member Jory Berkwits in training to "Ride for Kids."

Jory joked that his goals for the ride are "to finish, and not to fall." In truth, his goals are much loftier, and his

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Brain Injury School Celebrates Graduation! Caps Off Years of Progress

In the heart of a town in southeastern Massachusetts, a school has big cause for celebration.

May Institute's Center for Education and Neurorehabilitation, one of only a few schools in the country exclusively serving children and adolescents with brain injury, recently held a very special graduation ceremony.



Erin shares a special moment with her mother on graduation day.

Families, friends, fellow students, and May Center staff packed the gymnasium on a beautiful spring afternoon to celebrate the

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HELPING EDUCATORS HELP STUDENTS

As the number of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) continues to increase, teachers and schools must look for resources that effectively address the needs of students with ASD.

May Institute, in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Education, is helping educators meet this challenge by offering a Special Education Institute entitled "Teaching Strategies for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in the General Education Classroom."

This free, four-part institute will be held at the corporate office in Randolph beginning in July and continuing through November. The institute will provide participants with comprehensive training in evidence-based interventions.

See page 8 for more details. ●

DISSEMINATING BEST PRACTICES IN RTI

Students at Willet Elementary School in Attleborough, Mass., are benefiting from strategies that their teachers and administrators learned at last year's Special Education Institute on Response to Intervention (RTI), sponsored by May Institute and the Massachusetts Department of Education.

RTI is a methodology that emphasizes both individual and school-wide interventions as effective alternatives to traditional special education placement decisions. It has had a significant impact at Willet.

"Willet was not meeting its Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) goals in math and English Language Assessment (ELA) in 2005, nor its ELA goal in 2006," said Principal Gaylene Heppe. This is why she was interested in RTI as a way to quickly and effectively address student academic needs.

"By implementing RTI, we have significantly reduced (by 70%) the number of children referred to special education for initial evaluations," she explained. "We've provided effective learning interventions for students who need the most support. Best of all, we have more successful students."

Heppe and **Adam Feinberg**, Ph.D., BCBA, a Senior Educational Consultant at May Institute, recently presented on their work using RTI techniques at the Massachusetts Title I Conference. ●

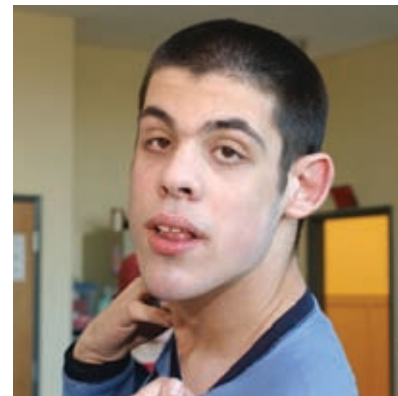
NORTHEAST @ MAY

Boston.com Calls Autism Exhibition "Our Pick"

With its successful debut at the Massachusetts State House and the Prudential Center, the *Faces and Voices of Autism* photo exhibition (FVA) has created quite a buzz on the web pages of **Boston.com**, which has four million unique visitors each month. When online readers of the *Boston Globe* initiate a search for "autism," FVA appears first on the list of more than 2,000 autism-related stories.

The story was prominently displayed on the site's homepage as well as in multiple other locations.

The exhibit, presented by May Institute and the National Autism Center, in collaboration with Andrew Child Photography, brings together the "faces" of children



Eddie, of the Randolph May Center, is profiled in the photo exhibition.

living with autism and "voices" of people in their lives.

These photographs and stories provide a unique opportunity to educate individuals about autism.

May Institute's website will list information about future exhibition venues as it becomes available. ●

Saluting South Shore Leaders

May Institute and the Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation's (DMR) South Coastal Area Citizen Advisory Board recently honored legislators and community



Chief Clinical Officer Dennis C. Russo, Ph.D., ABPP, addresses the event's more than 100 attendees.

leaders who help improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. An award ceremony and recognition breakfast was held at the Institute's corporate headquarters in Randolph.

Among the honorees was Massachusetts State Senator Michael W. Morrissey, a key legis-

lator on matters concerning DMR. May Institute was also honored by DMR with an award of recognition.

"On behalf of families across the South Shore, I salute the tire-

less work of these remarkable individuals and of May Institute," said Laurie Ingersoll, Chairperson of the Advisory Board. "Through their commitment and dedication to advocating and serving individuals with mental retardation, families have been able to access services for loved ones." ●

Get Into “GEAR”

Support May Institute Through the 2007 Rodman Ride for Kids

Since its inception in 1991, the Rodman Ride for Kids has hosted thousands of cyclists, and hundreds of volunteers and corporate sponsors, in one of the country's largest single-day bike events benefiting children and families. This increasingly successful charity has raised over \$25 million for a wide variety of children's social service agencies in Massachusetts.

May Institute is one of only two new organizations accepted as participating beneficiaries for the 2007 Ride for Kids. Our selection was due in large measure to the breadth and depth of our organization, which is unique in its ability to effectively serve children with a broad range of diagnoses.

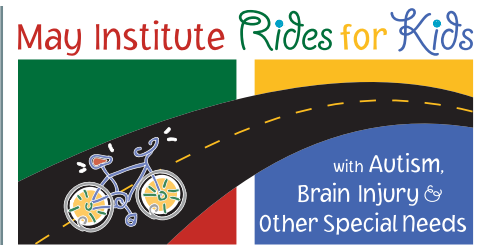
On Saturday, September 29, 2007, over a thousand riders will participate in 25-, 50- or 100-mile non-competitive cycling tours

throughout southeastern Massachusetts. A festival atmosphere will permeate the day and all riders will be rewarded with a banquet of food, drink, music, and fun after their trek is completed!

Many of our staff are building teams and recruiting riders. Their commitment to ride the distance is a testament to their dedication to the children we serve.

We are seeking an enthusiastic community of riders, support teams, donors, and corporate sponsors to participate and contribute on behalf of May Institute. The ride is a tremendous opportunity to raise vital funds for our programs.

This is a unique event for corporate sponsorship involvement, and we welcome friends in the business community to join us. Together we can make great strides in creating a brighter future for our children.



Please support our participation in the Ride for Kids. Register as a May Institute rider, create a team with family and friends, donate to an existing team, or join us as a corporate sponsor!

One hundred percent of all funds raised through May Institute's participation will go towards our programs and services. Once we reach our financial goal, the Ride for Kids will provide us with a 15% match for every dollar we raise!

For more information, contact Janet Bosworth at 781-437-1251 or jbosworth@mayinstitute.org. ●

A Trio of Sorts Saddling Up for the Ride for Kids

They are like three girlfriends who have known each other forever. They marvel at each other's ideas, have side-splitting "debates," and laugh incessantly. Kelli Leahy-Iorlano and Samantha (Sam) Parce of May Institute's School and Home-based Consultation division, and Jerri-Ann Smith of our Office of Professional Development, are preparing to meet a challenge—pedaling 25 miles in the Rodman Ride for Kids, with proceeds going to May Institute. It is a challenge that will test their stamina, but not their will!



May staffers/riders Kelli, Sam, and Jerri-Ann are in this together. Each will pedal 25 miles to support the Institute in the Ride for Kids.

Jerri-Ann, a former fitness instructor, has appointed herself the group's trainer. "She'll be like the trainer in *Rocky* (movie)," said an enthusiastic Sam. Kelli joked that on the day of the ride they can play the movie's theme song, "The Eye of the Tiger." Then, almost in unison, the three blurted, "We can be the Rockettes."

Jerri-Ann admits that she has not been on a bike in over two years. For Kelli, an avid runner, it has even been longer—since junior high. Sam, who works out at the gym, thinks her riding the stationary bike counts—for something. In spite of their limited training, their hearts are in the right place.

"This ride really hits close to home," said Kelli. "It's for our programs. It's for our kids. What better cause?"

Sam believes the most difficult part of the race is in the preparation—staying the course, staying focused and motivated. The three plan to start walking a few times a week and take dry runs with their bikes. "The training will not be glamorous," Kelli said, smiling. "Ride day will be the most fun. It will make the hours of training all worth it."

So, join them, sponsor them, or motivate them. We can be sure they will be celebrating on September 29 when they cross the finish line. ●



MID-ATLANTIC @MAY

Trenton Collaboration Yields Positive Results

The Trenton Public School district is wrapping up its fifth year of collaboration with May Institute on its Positive Schools/PBS Initiative (*@May*, Winter 2006 issue).

The district continues to see accomplishments in the areas of behavior and academic performance. These accomplishments have been particularly significant in schools that have implemented their positive behavior support (PBS) practices consistently and with high fidelity. Research shows a strong correlation between schools with high degrees of implementation and schools that are well-organized, safe, and that promote positive, academically-related student behaviors (such as being on time and on-task).

The Trenton/May Institute teams conduct periodic assessments of the school environments to examine the degree to which schools are implementing their

behavior support plans. Each year, schools work towards meeting the 80% goal of implementation of their plans. Participating Trenton schools have had impressive results this year.

One example is Stokes Elementary School, which met its 80% goal early in the year. Stokes has seen a 56% reduction in the number of office discipline referrals over a period of three years. Hundreds fewer referrals translate into significant increases in teaching time, and more students in the classroom with opportunities for learning.

Most importantly, students and staff are all working together to make their school better. "Improving school climate is definitely a team effort," said Stokes Principal Harriet Murray. "When the entire school is working toward the same goal, you will reach it! School-wide PBS facilitates that." ●

SOUTHEAST @MAY

SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS RECEIVE AUTISM TRAINING

School districts across the country are serving more and more students with autism in their public schools. In South Carolina, May South, May Institute's Southeast division, has contracted with the York and Sumter school districts to provide critical training to educators.

This training will help administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals throughout the elementary, middle, and high schools in both districts to develop classes for students with autism.

May South staff **Jocelyn Priester**, BCBA,

and **Amy Wooley**, BCABA, conducted the first training at Bates Middle School in Sumter this past spring for teachers and paraprofessionals. It focused on developing effective behavior plans that will support students in the school.

"Our trainings are focused on using the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA) to teach children with autism," says **Brad Bezilla**, Vice President, School and Home-based Behavioral Services. "We look forward to continuing our work in the Sumter and York schools next year." ●

notable grants

\$7 MILLION MASSDEVELOPMENT BOND SUPPORTS MAY INSTITUTE

May Institute has received a \$7 million tax-exempt bond from MassDevelopment. The Institute will use bond proceeds to purchase, renovate, and equip a community residential building in Randolph, Mass., for children and adolescents with autism. Proceeds will also finance additional renovations to one of our state-of-the-art special education schools, housed at our corporate headquarters. This brings May Institute's total amount of bond financing in the past decade to \$23.5 million.

"We are proud to have the opportunity to financially back an organization that has given so much to others in need," said Robert L. Culver, MassDevelopment President/CEO. "This bond will further enable May Institute to continue its mission of providing quality educational, behavioral, and rehabilitative programs to children and adults."

"This financing will be used to enhance our current infrastructure, realize our goal of supporting more families through the expansion of our Randolph special education school, and hire 35 new staff members," said **Michael Milczarek**, Chief Financial Officer at May Institute.

MassDevelopment, the state's finance and development authority, works with businesses, financial institutions, and local officials to stimulate economic growth across the Commonwealth. ●

Bringing Life Experience to the Job

Meet Cassie Wells, M.Ed.

Cassie Wells, M.Ed., a new member of May Institute's Midwest region in Illinois, is not only a professional dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, but sister of Courtney, a 24-year-old young woman with Rett's Disorder.

"When I work with the family members of students with special needs," Cassie shared, "I draw from my personal experience to help them develop strategies that ensure their loved ones can reach their maximum potential."

An experienced applied behavior analysis (ABA) practitioner, Cassie focuses on social skills and

communication training, successful inclusion, and choosing appropriate interventions.

She came to May Institute from the Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders at Vanderbilt University where she was an autism consultant. In Illinois, Cassie is part of the team that is helping families and schools in the Peoria, Springfield, Bloomington, and Decatur areas.

"We are hoping to expand our services to the Chicago area in the upcoming year," she said.

"We anticipate offering a variety of parent and professional training series this fall." 🌟

May Institute's Midwest region provides home-based services and parent training groups to families, as well as consultation services to local school districts. Midwest services have been developed in partnership with May South, the Institute's Southeast division.

Spring Fling!

Bubbles, music, and smiling faces filled the deck at The Bay School (TBS) as students and their families enjoyed the sunshine and danced at the school's Spring Fling. In keeping with the Hawaiian Luau theme, there were plenty of leis, flowers, and Hawaiian shirts as Bay School staff welcomed their guests.

While younger students played with bubbles, colored pictures of the Hawaiian Islands, and had their faces painted, older students and their family members danced to the music of a local DJ.

"The event provided an opportunity for students and their families to enjoy a fun-filled event that encouraged social interaction," said **Casslynnne Carroll**, TBS instructor. 🌟



Johnny, a student at The Bay School, celebrates spring with instructor Brianna Gardner.



Bay School student Saahiti gathers with her family to enjoy the festivities.

WEST COAST@MAY

\$10,000 Grant Helps Put Teens to Work

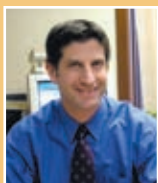
The Bay School, a May Center for Child Development, has received a \$10,000 grant from the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation to develop and implement a prevocational/vocational program. Serving students ages 14-21, the program will prepare them for gainful employment and the transition to adulthood.

"Young people with autism are less likely to be employed than youth with other disabilities," says **Ethan Long**, Ph.D., BCBA, Executive Director of The Bay School. "This funding will help us provide our older students with information, skills, and basic vocational

experiences to assist them in finding and maintaining employment. It is our hope that this program will also give our students a sense of confidence and self-esteem."

When a student turns 14, staff and parents at our May Centers work together to develop specific prevocational and vocational goals for that student, focusing on job-related skills such as following directions, and completing tasks on time and in a thorough manner. These goals and objectives are then incorporated into the student's Individualized Education Plan. 🌟

HARCHIK NAMED CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

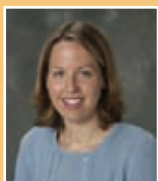


Congratulations to **Alan Harchik**, Ph.D., BCBA, who was recently promoted to Chief Operating Officer of May Institute.

Dr. Harchik has been employed by the Institute for over 23 years, most recently as Senior Vice President of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Services. His new responsibilities include supervision of the organization's educational, mental retardation, and behavioral health services, as well as school and home-based consultation and human resources. Additionally, Dr. Harchik works closely with President and CEO **Walter P. Christian**, Ph.D., ABPP, in the management of the Institute's out-of-state operations.

"Alan offers us a unique blend of professional training and experience with an in-depth understanding of and commitment to the Institute's service operations, standards, mission, and values," said Dr. Christian. "He will be a strong addition to our executive leadership team." 🍷

CLINICAL DIRECTOR JOINS ATLANTA TEAM



April Worsdell, Ph.D., BCBA, has been named the new Clinical Director of School and Home-based Behavioral Services at May South. Dr. Worsdell came to the Atlanta office from Southern

Illinois University where she was an Assistant Professor in the Behavior Analysis and Therapy program. She received her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Florida, and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. 🍷

NATIONAL EXPERT VISITS MAY INSTITUTE



John Lutzker, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Marcus Institute based in Atlanta, Georgia, recently delivered a presentation on evidence-based practice in child maltreatment and partner

violence. Nearly 100 May Institute staff attended the seminar at our corporate headquarters. Dr. Lutzker was awarded a certificate of appreciation by May Institute for his contributions to the field of applied behavior analysis (ABA) and in recognition of the significant impact his work has made in the lives of countless children and families. 🍷

INSIDE @MAY

May Institute Receives 2007 National Behavior Analysis Award

Representing May Institute at a recent international convention, Chief Clinical Officer **Dennis C. Russo**, Ph.D., ABPP, accepted the 2007 Award for Enduring Programmatic Contributions in Behavior Analysis from the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis (SABA).



*Chief Clinical Officer **Dennis C. Russo**, Ph.D., ABPP, with SABA Award.*

In 2005, May Institute received the Outstanding Training Program Award from the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. The Institute is the first nonprofit human services organization in the country to receive these two national awards. 🍷

Communications Efforts Result in Six Awards

The Institute's Office of Communications was recently honored with five awards from the New England Society of Healthcare Communications (NESHCo). The Institute has also earned a prestigious award of merit from the Publicity Club of New England.

According to **Brian L. Wallin**, APR, president of NESHCo, the organization's Lamplighter award competition received 355 entries from more than 80 healthcare organizations in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. 🍷

Institute Named 2007 Employer of the Year

Bridgewater State College (BSC) recently honored May Institute as the Career Services 2007 Employer of the Year. **Deloris Tuggle**, M.A., PHR, Senior Vice President of Human Resources, received the award on the behalf of the Institute at the BSC Employer and Alumni Appreciation Luncheon. Bridgewater State College recognized the strong collaboration with May Institute as well as Tuggle's outstanding efforts and willingness to respond to the college's needs.



***Deloris Tuggle** (center) with **Tracey Gray** (left) of BSC, and **Erin Connors** (right) of May Institute.*

"Career Services is proud to work with you (**Deloris Tuggle**) and May Institute to provide quality career development programs... for BSC students. We look forward to continued success and partnership," said **Colleen Oliva**, Associate Director of BSC Career Services. 🍷

NAC OFFERS REDUCED FEE AUTISM SCREENINGS

Families came to the National Autism Center's Assessment Clinic to take advantage of its reduced fee autism screenings during the month of June. The 30-minute screenings were offered for children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years suspected of having an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and were provided at a cost of \$10.

"According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in every 150 children in the U.S. has an ASD,"

said **Laura Fisher**, Psy.D., Director of the ASD Diagnostic Clinic. "As the number of children with autism continues to rise, it is absolutely critical that we find more ways of reaching families. These children deserve a speedy and comprehensive diagnosis as well as access to crucial early intervention services."

The National Autism Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting effective, evidence-based treatment approaches for autism. For more information, call 877-313-3833 or visit www.nationalautismcenter.org. ●

NAC IN THE NEWS

- *Parenting Magazine* (April 2007), "Understanding Autism"
- *Boston.com*, "Showing the Human Face of Autism"
- WBZ-AM Radio 1030 (Boston), The Paul Sullivan Show
- Recognized by the New England Society of Healthcare Communications with an award of excellence for its new website design

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

...PEDALING

participation is indicative of the commitment he has made to May Institute over the past five years.

"My involvement with May Institute is something that is good for my soul. I immediately connected with the Institute and its senior management, and am happy to get involved in another aspect of the organization that will bring fulfillment and joy to my life."

It is certainly a mutually rewarding relationship, and we will be there in full force in September, cheering Jory on through every mile.

For more information about our participation in the Ride for Kids, see page 3. ●

...GRADUATION

eight students donning caps and gowns that day. For each of these high school graduates, the event was the culmination of a very personal journey—as much a physical and emotional achievement as an academic one.

"Over the years, each one of these young men and women has been rigorously preparing to reintegrate into his or her community," said **Gary Pace**, Ph.D., BCBA, Senior Vice President of Neurorehabilitation Services. "This achievement brings them much closer to their goal. Each one has done exceptionally well in his or her own way."

Dozens of May Center teachers supported the graduates throughout their journeys, finding creative methods to meet their unique needs with tremendous care, patience, and dedication.

The graduating class of 2007 has defied the odds. Their stories are ones of hope, triumph, and celebration. ●



Charlie (left) and Jonathan (right) are all smiles on graduation day.



UPCOMING @MAY

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

Special Education Institute—Autism in the General Education Classroom

May Institute, in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Education, presents a free institute that provides participants with training in evidence-based interventions to effectively serve students with autism spectrum disorders in general education classrooms.

This four-part institute will be held at May Institute's corporate headquarters in Randolph, Mass., on the following dates:

- July 30–August 3
- September 26
- October 31
- November 7

For additional information or to register, call 781-437-1328 or email kiorlano@mayinstitute.org. Space is limited!

The Evidence of Complementary and Alternative Medical Interventions for Autism

With so many theories about what causes autism, and the proliferation of treatments

being promoted for autism, it is hard for caregivers to determine which treatment approaches are supported by research.

On September 27, 2007, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Dr. Linda Copeland, a developmental pediatrician, will review the current research on the many complementary and alternative medical interventions being promoted for autism.

This free seminar will take place at the Student Union building on the San Jose State University campus in San Jose, Calif.

For more information or to register, please contact 831-462-9620 or visit www.thebayschool.org.

CONFERENCES

PBS: Catalyst for Behavioral and Academic Success

On November 16, 2007, at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood, Mass., May Institute and the National Technical Assistance Center on PBIS will sponsor the 3rd Annual Forum on

Positive Behavior Support.

This conference will give participants the tools they need to build capacity to adopt or expand PBS in their schools, districts, or states.

For more information or to register, please call 800-778-7601, or email pbs@mayinstitute.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

May Institute's "Summer Scramble" Golf Tournament

Summer Scramble, May Institute's summer golf tournament, helps support the May Center for Adult Services in Revere, Mass.

The tournament will be held on Monday, July 23, rain or shine, at the Colonial Golf Tournament in Lynnfield, Mass.

For more information or to register, please contact Shawn Parker at 781-286-0200, ext. 312, or visit www.mayinstitute.org/media_center.

ABOUT MAY INSTITUTE

Founded in 1955, May Institute has its roots in a family's vision of enabling children with disabilities to lead the fullest lives possible.

Today, May Institute provides educational, rehabilitative, and behavioral healthcare services to individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities, brain injury, mental illness, and behavioral healthcare needs. The Institute also provides training and consultation services to professionals, organizations, and public school systems.

Our programs touch the lives of more than 25,000 individuals and their families each year at nearly 200 service locations in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, Southeast, and on the West Coast.

Together with the National Autism Centersm, whose initial development has been sponsored by May Institute, we are committed to identifying and applying universal standards for the treatment of autism and to providing care and hope to families throughout the country.

MayInstitute
Shaping Futures. Changing Lives.

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EDITORIAL STAFF: Julia Burgess, Editor | Eileen Pollack and Patricia Ladew, Editorial Associates | Juanita Class, Designer | Allison Holmes, Photographer

tel| 781.437.1348 **fax|** 781.437.1350 **e-mail|** jburgess@mayinstitute.org **web|** www.mayinstitute.org

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41 Pacella Park Drive, Randolph, MA 02368

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