

# *Life* AT THE WOODS

AUGUST 2019

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE MCCORMICK WOODS COMMUNITY



meet the  
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**AREA DIRECTOR/PUBLISHER** Tristan Manning  
(360) 626-3163  
[tristan.manning@n2pub.com](mailto:tristan.manning@n2pub.com)

**AD DESIGN MANAGER** Tania Lee  
(901) 833-9885  
[Tania.Lee@n2pub.com](mailto:Tania.Lee@n2pub.com)

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from the publisher

# greetings, McCormick Woods!

N2 Publishing, the company behind *Life At The Woods*, was founded in June 2004. That obviously makes this month our milestone 15th anniversary! While N2 Publishing has a lot to celebrate, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate **you**. Each issue of *Life At The Woods* exists because of the stories you share, the photos you submit, and the love you show for your neighborhood. This is a magazine for residents, by residents, and it is my privilege to work alongside you.

As N2 looks toward the future, our goal remains the same: to provide residents a means to a more connected life and to turn neighborhoods into communities. I am so excited to continue on this journey together!

Oh... Don't forget that the McCormick Woods Women's Annual Golf Tournament is Tuesday, 27 August! Sign up before 17 August at the Proshop. Further event details and questions can be emailed to Denise at **dedebrown029@gmail.com**

Cheers,  
Tristan Manning  
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## tour & travel

Written by **Elizabeth McCabe**, N2 Staff Writer

# DON'T BLOW YOUR BUDGET! TIPS TO SAVE ON HOTELS

**Planning a trip? Don't blow your budget on hotels. Here are a few cost-cutting tips to save money when it comes to lodging.**

### Take Advantage of Discounts

Have a AAA card? In addition to helping with roadside assistance, the American Automobile Association can also help you save when it comes to hotels. If booking online, be sure to check for a AAA discount or ask for it when booking over the phone. Expect to save anywhere from 5 to 20%. Some hotels have AAA Hot Deals, which can increase savings, too. A AAA card can pay for itself with the money saved when frequent travelers book discounted hotel rooms. AARP discounts are also offered for hotel rooms.

### Travel During the Off-Season

Who says vacations must be taken in June and July? Consider planning an off-season vacation to maximize savings. Expect to pay more during peak season, which is mid-June through August; save money by traveling from November through March instead. Keep in mind, depending upon your destination, these seasons might change. For instance, the off-season in Vail, Colorado, is summer, with no shortage of activities for the avid adventurer, including hiking, rock climbing, swimming, and fishing.

### Become a Member

Hotels often provide complimentary Wi-Fi to its members. Save dollars (and earn hotel incentives) by signing up for a hotel's loyalty program. Other perks may involve complimentary breakfast, lounge access, extended checkout, and discounted hotel rates. Earn points to book free stays. Become a member to save money.

### Book Early

Avoid last-minute trips and escalating prices by planning ahead. Booking months in advance can save you significant money when it comes to hotel stays. Prices generally increase the closer the date of travel gets. If you're booking late, consider using an online travel app (such as HotelTonight or Booking.com) to save money.

### Shop Around

Consider choosing a budget hotel for your vacation. Select-ser-

vice hotels are less expensive than full-service hotels, which have room service, a restaurant, and other amenities. When choosing a hotel, consider how much time you will spend there and which facilities are truly necessary.

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## precious pets

By the Biscotti family

# meet ARLINGTON

**Owners:** Matt, Ali and Amelia Biscotti

**Age:** 7 years old

**Breed:** Treeing Walker Coonhound

**Where are you from, and do you have a nickname?** Well, I'm a rescue from North Carolina, and I often go by "Arlie." Oh, and before you ask... No, I do **not** do any tricks.

**Do you have any dreams?** Yes, often. It's typically of me running in a huge open field. Apparently, I kick and bark in my sleep when that is happening.

**What do your people do that you like the most?** I like it best when they take me on a hike with them.

**How are you so excited to eat the same food day after day?** I get to eat lots of different things! Ever since my people



brought home a baby girl two years ago, I have taught her that sharing is caring, especially at breakfast, lunch and dinner time!

**If you had a job, what would it be?** I would be a chef! I love food and am always in the kitchen when someone is cooking.

**What is the naughtiest thing you have ever done?** I once ate a whole Tupperware of chocolate chip cookies... Yummy!

**It's Friday night! What are your plans?** I enjoy a nice Yappy hour followed by a nap.

**Who is your favorite celebrity?** Ch(Arlie)s Bark-ley of course.

**If you were a dessert, what would you be?** I'd choose banana pudding because it is simply Southern just like me!

**Squeaky or bouncy — what do you look for in a toy?** A good squeak!

**What's your favorite day of the year?** May 1; it's my birthday... but really it's the day I was rescued by my family.

**What's your favorite season?** Fall and spring – whenever it's not too hot to lay outside in the sunshine.

**Favorite kind of music?** All I hear is Disney princess songs.

**What would constitute a perfect day for you?** Big breakfast, long hike, long nap, evening walk, big dinner.

**What's your favorite color?** I have three favorite colors: tan, white, and black! (Tricolor like me.)

**Beach or mountains?** I love them both.

**Favorite movie genre?** I'd rather take a nap.

**Car ride or long walk?** I enjoy a nice, long walk.

**How did your name get chosen for you?** I was named after the town where my human parents met: Arlington, VA. I was adopted when they were living in North Carolina from an animal shelter in Jacksonville. After North Carolina, we actually moved back to Arlington, so I lived in Arlington for a couple of years.



Do you have a pet and would like to share its story? Email [LATW@n2pub.com](mailto:LATW@n2pub.com) to get them featured in an upcoming issue. All types of pets are welcome!



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**family spotlight** · by **Miranda Long**

## meet the **BOBROWSKI FAMILY**

This month we are happy to feature the Bobrowski family! Joseph (dad), Jennifer (mom), Michael (12) and Catherine (11) have lived on Wexford Avenue in McCormick Woods for a year and a half. As many families in our neighborhood, the Navy brought them to the area. However, Joseph, a self-proclaimed Army brat, primarily grew up in Northern Virginia, and Jennifer grew up in St. Louis, MO. Joseph and Jennifer met through mutual friends and have been married 13 and a half years. Their children were both born in Honolulu, HI, but they have learned that home is where the Navy sends you.

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The family has lived in Virginia, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Japan. However, this isn't the first time the Bobrowskis have been Washington residents. They have also been stationed in Everett and Whitney Island. They have covered all the Navy bases in Washington state. Joseph started his Naval career 19 years ago as a submarine officer stationed at Bangor before laterally transferring to Naval Intelligence. Joseph began his career as a graduate of the Naval Academy class of 2000. He went submarines and served aboard the *USS Michigan*. He laterally transferred to Naval Intelligence and has served with aviation, surface, and joint commands. Jennifer graduated from Trinity University and has taught fourth grade in several different states and abroad in Japan. When the kids were little, Jennifer stayed home with them.

Joseph and Jennifer chose McCormick Woods as their home because they wanted a quiet refuge from their busy daily lives and a safe neighborhood for their kids. Once residents, like most of us, they instantly fell in love with the great outdoor amenities, tree-lined streets, parks, and the trail systems. Jennifer commented, "The parks have provided fun for the kids to get their energy out on the playground equipment, but also has open spaces where we can help with the kids' soccer and baseball skills. The streets have ample room for biking, walking, and running safely. If solitude is what we're after, we hit the trails tucked off the main roads." Their family loves being outside whenever possible. They are often playing family games on the driveway, such as basketball, badminton, kickball, or soccer and baseball drills. You might also see them biking and walking around the neighborhood!

The Bobrowski family has traveled extensively. They especially love visiting U.S. National Parks. However, have also had the opportunity to explore most of Asia and parts of the Middle East. When asked where they'd like to go next, Joseph and Jennifer said they'd like to explore Europe and hike the Camino de Santiago. The girls in the family love the beach, while the boys prefer the mountains. Thankfully, Washington offers both!

Michael and Catherine bring Joseph and Jennifer the most joy. They work hard in school and are active in sports. They love watching the kids' hard work turn into success. Catherine is a great soccer player. She plays for the local South Kitsap team. Michael is an avid baseball player, preferring to play pitcher or first base. He plays on a local Little League team. The two kids are only a year and four days apart in age, causing many to confuse them as twins.



Get to know your neighbors better by having your family featured in an upcoming issue!  
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Kids: Like to write and looking for something fun to do this summer? We are looking to hear kids' perspectives on events and interesting happenings in the neighborhood. We are also looking for creative short articles on

things that interest you! (Parental approval is required.)

Everyone Else Who Enjoys Writing: Are you looking for a creative outlet occasionally? Or maybe you have an idea or article you would like to submit and earn a little extra spending money in the process? We would love to talk with you, as well!

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## *skillet* Potato, CHICKEN & corn Toss



### resident recipe

by Carol Glenn

This easy and fun recipe offers a quick stir-and-serve main or side dish. The golden-brown potatoes and onions are visually appealing and a satisfying meal.

#### Fresh herbs and bell peppers add color.

**1.** Cut about 1 ½ lbs. of boneless, skinless chicken breasts or tenderloins into small pieces. Heat oil in a large skillet on high heat; cook for about 2 to 3 minutes, then remove.

**2.** In the same skillet over medium-high heat, cook onions (bell peppers if you like) for 7 to 8 minutes or until beginning to brown on edges, stirring occasionally.

**3.** Stir in potatoes and corn, cook 20-25 minutes or until heated through. Remove from heat, cover, and let stand 3 minutes to absorb flavors. Stir before serving. Season to taste with salt and pepper, if desired, and/or add your choice of seasonings.

**4.** Enjoy!



Would you like to have your favorite family recipe featured in the next issue? We looking for tasty recipes to share! Email [LATW@n2pub.com](mailto:LATW@n2pub.com).

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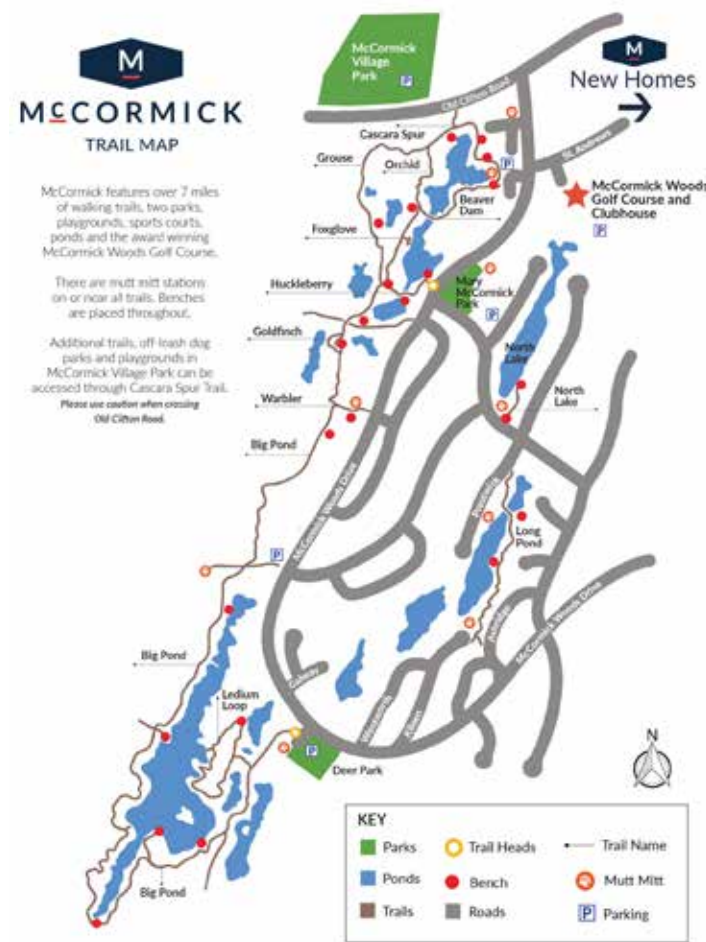
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Thank you for making this community special. This summer we hope you can get out and enjoy our trail network, with over seven miles to explore. Pups will especially appreciate the walk! We've included a trail map in this article, feel free to take it with you when you venture out. Happy trails to you!

For more information on our model homes and available homesites, visit our website, [www.liveatmccormick.com](http://www.liveatmccormick.com). #McCormickPets

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## sponsor spotlight

Article by **Matt Haver**  
Photos courtesy of **Marie Longo**



# Marie LONGO

## DOGGIE DARLINGS CORP.

Doggie Darlings is a family business if ever there was one. Marie Longo launched her in-home pet-sitting business in September 2018 with her daughter Ashley who, as a trained accountant, also handles all the bookkeeping. Marie's husband, Aaron, a computer engineer, built and runs their website, and photos of the family's pets grace their homepage. Doggie Darlings is run from their home near Jackson Park in Port Orchard where Marie prides herself as a homemaker and soon-to-be homeschool mom to her 11-year-old son Logan.

And don't forget Pepper, their 7-year-old basset-beagle; Piper, a 3-year-old chihuahua; and the newest addition to the family, Bootsie, a feisty kitten.

Marie's love for her own four-legged family members was the incentive behind forming her business.

"I always found it difficult to find someone to watch our animals while we were on vacation, and I don't like to take them to the kennels if I don't have to," Marie shared.

Doggie Darlings serves clients in the greater Kitsap County and Gig Harbor area and provides dog walking and in-home pet sitting services, whether for a day, a week, or for extended periods like vacations.

"We'll come to your house and watch your animal while you're gone, come by for morning and evening feedings, watch them overnight, or just stop by for a check-in," Marie said. "For dogs, most people want someone to come in and keep them company and walk them."

Marie and Ashley prefer to work with dogs and cats (no rodents, reptiles, or exotic animals, please!) and always come by for a meet-and-greet with the pets they care for beforehand, to make sure the animal is comfortable with them and to ensure a good fit.

"It allows us to meet the clients and for them and their pet to get to know us," Marie shared. "We also provide a form for owners to fill out that tells us about any special health or diet needs the pet has."

**CONTACT INFO:** Doggie Darlings, Corp.

**phone:** (360) 550-6744 | **email:** [doggiedarlingscorp@gmail.com](mailto:doggiedarlingscorp@gmail.com)

**web:** <https://doggiedarlings.com>



Doggie Darlings is a labor of love for Marie and that allows her to keep her pricing competitive. She offers multi-pet pricing for walking and sitting, and affordable add-on services like waste cleanup and administering medicine. Marie will even provide daily photo updates for clients who like to see their pets from a distance, like Canterwood resident Maggie Arnold.

"I loved how they sent me picture texts for updates so I could see my fur baby while I was away!" Maggie shared. "I thought Doggie Darlings did a great job, both Marie and Ashley were very pleasant and professional. My home was spotless when we returned from our trip, and, most importantly, our dog Radar didn't miss a beat and seemed well-adjusted when we came home."

Maggie is just one of many happy customers in the Canterwood and McCormick Woods neighborhoods, where the Doggie Darlings duo focus much of their attention.

"Marie has taken care of our cat several times," McCormick resident Linda Broun shared. "She is responsive to me and alerts me to anything that may be unusual while caring for Bella. Most of all, she loves Bella, and Bella loves her and being able to stay home while we travel!"



Marie and Ashley happily provide references to all prospective clients, an essential element in selecting a reputable sitter.

"Always contact a prospective sitters references, make sure they get along with your dog, make sure they're insured, and talk about their past experience," Ashley shared.

Mother and daughter obviously enjoy working together, and Marie describes Ashley as her best friend. When they're not looking after the four-legged set, they enjoy shopping and antiquing together and gaming at the Suquamish Casino. Ashley recently graduated from UW (Marie's alma mater) at age 20, and a trip to Las Vegas for her 21st birthday is already in the works. Locally, they take frequent trips to Fort Warden and Olympic Game Farm with Dad and little brother in tow.

Marie's parents and two siblings are long-time Kitsap residents, and she has lived locally for 41 years. She celebrates the fact that working with pets has led to so many new human friendships in the local community.

"The people in McCormick and Canterwood are so nice!" she said. "The best part of this job is the people I get to meet."



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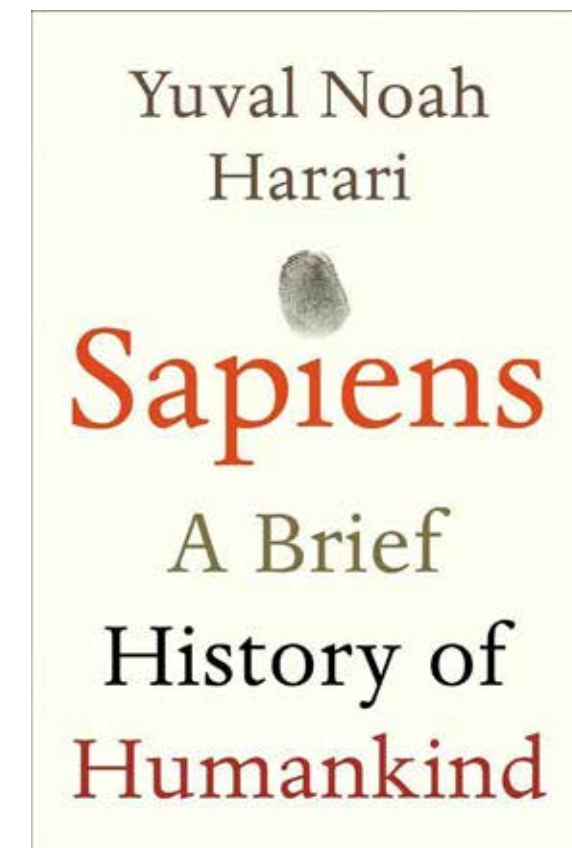
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# Sapiens:

## A Brief History of Humankind

written by  
Yuval Noah Harari



## resident book review

Reviewed by **Helen Punches**

Here is the question: How did Homo Sapiens evolve from an unexceptional savannah-dwelling primate to become the dominant force on the planet? And, by the way, how did we outlast the other humans that developed along with us? And how, in evolutionary terms, did we advance so quickly to where we are now? Dr. Harari has some answers, which he frames in terms of three major revolutions: the Cognitive, the Agricultural and the Scientific.

The Cognitive Revolution took place between 70,000 and 50,000 years ago with the appearance of new ways of thinking and communicating. This may have been caused by genetic mutations that made changes to the wiring of our brains, allowing us to think and use language in radical new ways, enabling us to share precisely detailed information about the world around us and, better yet, to gossip, speculate and imagine things that don't exist in the physical world. Legends, myths, religions and gods appeared for the first time with the Cognitive Revolution. This new ability also allowed us to form bigger groups than the maximum 150 or so individuals that had been the norm for millennia. If you can talk about ideas and concepts, and come to a broad agreement on them, you can establish churches, corporations and even international partnerships.

For about 2.5 million years, humans lived on whatever nature provided. Then about 70,000 years ago, we began raising crops and selectively breeding the animals we domesticated. We usually consider this a good thing – a step in the right direction. But Dr. Harari posits that it also changed our diets for the worse, going from the varied plants and animals that we could hunt and gather to the one or two crops we could raise on our allotted lands. And as time went on, those allotted lands often belonged to one lord while everyone else worked for him and eked out a living on the portion he allowed them, perhaps living in villages and towns separate from the lands they worked. This appears to be the beginning of the restructuring of an egalitarian situation to a society where an elite few rule and accrue riches while most labor for a very small share of the rewards. Living in villages and towns made the peasants more susceptible to communicable diseases. And the domestication of animals has not generally been to the benefit of the lives of those animals. Think of today's industrial farming – a topic no one likes to think about very deeply.

Then there's the Scientific Revolution, which led to the Industrial Revolution, which led to the Technology Revolution, and the beat goes on. The last segment of this book, called "Happily Ever After," is a meditation on what we might become, or invent. Think DNA manipulation, cloning and bionic body parts. This segment is chilling. If you think of cloning as making replacement parts for defective organs, that's just the beginning. There's a wealthy polo player in Argentina (he was on *60 Minutes* a couple of months ago) who has 14 polo ponies, all cloned from his favorite mare. He calls them by their numbers. As we all know, in spite of the ethical arguments and the general resistance to extreme uses of scientific knowledge, if it can be done, it will be done. And some of the things that can be done now are, depending on your point of view, either amazing or horrifying.

Dr. Harari's final question: "Has all this progress, and the recent trend toward less violence and more prosperity, made homo sapiens any happier?" There's a lot to think about in this book. You may or may not agree with his conclusions, but I think you'd enjoy reading this story of the biological and societal evolution of our race.





community life committee corner  
By Liz Dean

# RAVE

## reviews



**His Touch Carpet Care ★★★★★**  
“This is my third time using His Touch. Shane does a fantastic job and always takes great care and pride in his work, which I very much appreciate and have not found his level of finished work with any other company. As I have five dogs ... I’m beyond appreciative of the finished look of my carpet each time he’s come! No small task for him!” – Sheri E.

**Gig Harbor Law – Nathan Sukhia ★★★★★**  
“Attorney Nathan Sukhia is knowledgeable, professional, and does a brilliant job. He was very responsive, had ready answers to our questions, and made us feel as though we were valued clients even though our case was small. We would highly recommend Nathan to anyone. In addition, his team in the office were professional, courteous, and kind.” – Derek W.

**Rick Biehl Law ★★★★★**  
“Rick helped me execute a will in a matter of hours. His ability to understand the time-sensitive nature, ask the right questions, and provide outstanding counsel is top-notch. Definitely my attorney and top recommendation when it comes to estate planning and elder law.” – Tyler S.

**Victor Thompson – Thompson Agency Farmers Insurance ★★★★★**  
“Victor Thompson and his team are top-notch. They are a great diverse group of individuals that will come together and take care of all your insurance needs.” – Ian V.

**Air Masters, Inc. ★★★★★**  
“These guys are the best. They did a great job installing my new ductless AC and heat! They showed up on time, worked hard to get everything done fast, and did an excellent job cleaning up after themselves. Then they even did the rebate paperwork. Thanks, Air Masters!” – Matt M.

**Olympic Meadows Landscaping ★★★★★**  
“These guys are great; they will take the time to review what you need, and make sure everything is well taken care of before they leave. Great guy to get into a contract with for yard maintenance. Ask him for a quote; it’s worth it!” – Victor T.

**Kitsap Kitchen and Bath Co. ★★★★★**  
“Kitsap Kitchen and Bath just finished my new bathroom, and pleased doesn’t even begin to describe our experience! From the design to the finished room, everyone was just wonderful. Even though everyone was so professional, they were still warm and friendly; it was like having some favorite family members helping us out with our remodel. I had a minor emergency trip to the ER one morning that totally threw the schedule off, and they were so understanding and accommodating. We now have three more projects lined up!” – Mary H.

**Jennifer Carter – Caliber Home Loans ★★★★★**  
“Jennifer Carter and her team were outstanding. Great communication with the underwriters. Smooth process.”

**Northwest Decks ★★★★★**  
“Quality work. Fair price. Excellent interaction. Beautiful deck! We found Pacific Northwest Deck with a web search. They got high marks, and I can see why.” – Kenneth R.

**Kitsap Mobile Grooming ★★★★★**  
“So glad we finally tried them out! My dog was getting overly stressed by going to the groomer for four hours at a time (I think from all the other barking dogs). So easy and convenient. Not overpriced. The groomer was efficient. He took about an hour. My dog came out happy, soft, clean and nicely trimmed up. We’ll be definitely doing this in the future.” – Nickolett U.

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# introducing the new community LIFE COMMITTEE

The new leaders of the Community Life Committee (CLC) are Liz Dean, Chris Stewart and Kelly Wright. They are all residents of Eldon Trails and are excited about the opportunity to contribute to the strong community of McCormick Woods.

The CLC contributes to the social and cultural environment for the McCormick Woods residents through organized events year round. The CLC provides opportunities for residents to get together and build strong relationships.

The CLC works closely with the McCormick Woods Clubhouse events coordinator and restaurant manager planning year-round activities such as the popular Summer Family Fun BBQ, Trivia Nights, Oktoberfest Oompah, Summer Concerts on the Green, Family Movie Night and Holiday Parties.

Anyone who is interested in getting involved and helping the committee make these events successful should contact the CLC directly, via the email link: [communitylifemw@gmail.com](mailto:communitylifemw@gmail.com).

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