# OCTOBER 2019 AT THE WOODDS

A Social Publication Exclusively for the Residents of the McCormick Woods Community

# MEET THE Wright Family

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We are always looking for residents to follow up on leads, find great stories and send us ideas. Let's celebrate the great things happening in our community! No contribution is too small. Please email tristan.manning@n2pub.com with your pictures, suggestions, or requests.

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REA DIRECTOR/PUBLISHER	Tristan Manning (360) 626-3163 tristan.manning@n2pub.com
AD DESIGN MANAGER	Tania Lee (901) 833-9885 Tania.Lee@n2pub.com
CONTRIBUTORS AT LARGE	Residents of McCormick Woods!
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## resident recipe

# HALLOWEEN Spider Cookies

This Recipe For Halloween Spider Cookies Couldn't Be Easier To Create!



Prep time:Cook time:45 minutes10 minutesTotal time:Makes:

Fotal time:Makes:55 minutes16 cookies

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If you're short on time, buy your cookie dough at the supermarket. Just bake the cookies according to the instructions on the package, then add the candy spider body and icing legs after the fresh baked cookies are removed from the oven.

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

## Cookies

6 Tbsp. unsalted butter, softened 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter 1/4 cup granulated sugar, plus more for coating 1/4 cup light brown sugar 1 large egg, room temperature 1/2 tsp pure vanilla extract 1 cup all-purpose flour 1/2 tsp baking soda 1/4 tsp salt

## Decoration

16 malted milk balls16 chocolate-covered peanuts, or raisins1 tube chocolate cookie icing1 tube red gel icing

Place a rack in center of oven, then preheat to 350 degrees. Meanwhile, line a baking sheet with parchment paper, then set aside.

Blend butter and peanut butter in large bowl or the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment until completely combined. Add granulated sugar and brown sugar, then beat until fluffy. Scrape down the sides of the bowl, add egg and vanilla, then mix until well combined.

Sift flour, baking soda and salt over the peanut butter mixture, then mix until just combined. Scoop dough into 1-inch balls using a medium cookie scoop, and roll in granulated sugar. Place on prepared baking sheet. All 16 should fit on one baking sheet, as they do not spread out too much. Bake 8-10 minutes or until light brown around the edges.

Remove from oven, then press a malted milk ball into the center of each cookie. Place a chocolate-covered peanut (or raisin) right next to the malted milk ball to form the body of the spider, then let the cookies cool completely on a wire rack.

Use chocolate icing to pipe the spiders' legs and a touch of red icing on the back to complete the look of a black widow spider. Enjoy these spooky treats!





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# we invite

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#### Where were you born/where did you grow up? We're both

Army offspring. Wayne was born in Vicenza, Italy, and lived in many places, including Germany, Colorado, California and finally Lakewood in the mid '70s where his dad retired. Kelly was born in Reno and also lived in Germany, California, Texas, Oklahoma, Georgia, Nevada and finally Lakewood in the mid '70s.

Current work? Wayne is an environmental scientist, restoring How many siblings do you have? habitat all over the Western Hemisphere. He just returned from Wayne – four brothers; a large job in northern British Columbia and is starting a large Kelly - two sisters. wetland ecosystem restoration in Chile.

What did your parents do for a living? Wayne's dad was a command sergeant major when he retired, and his mom worked as a teacher's aide in elementary school. His dad then went back to college to get his degree and worked at the local community college. Kelly's dad was a full colonel when he retired. He then worked for the state helping coach and place ex-convicts and displaced workers into new jobs and careers. Kelly's mom was a homemaker, a wonderful seamstress and cook.

How long have you been a Mc-Cormick Woods resident? We moved into our home in January 2018 while still living part time in our Seattle condo. We've been full time in our McCormick Woods home since August 2018. We've lived in Port Orchard close to the Southworth ferry since 1985. Both our kids are products of the SK school district.

Street name you live on in McCormick Woods? We live on Castleton.

How did you come to live in Mc-Cormick Woods? It was a goal of ours to move to McCormick Woods after the kids were grown, and Kelly no longer was commuting to Boeing. The opportunity to have a new home on a golf course, and this community has been a gift!

What do you like most about being a McCormick Woods resident? We love our neighbors on Castleton and the peaceful feel of living in the Woods on the course.

### What has provided you the greatest satisfaction in life? Raising two amazing children who are happy adults and making a difference in the world. Our daughter, Carissa, is married living in

Kirkland and is an executive communications manager at Microsoft. Our son, Adam, is also married living in Puyallup and followed in his father's footsteps becoming an environmental scientist.

He owned his own environmental consulting business called Applied Environmental Services, Inc. in Port Orchard for several years. Both kids at the time were very active helping him and learning business. Kelly is a barista at Starbucks after leaving Boeing as a senior HR manager.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Wow.

We've traveled so much already - photo safari in South Africa was



on the bucket list. We've been to Europe both as teenagers and with our kids. Looking at planning a trip to South America soon, and Australia/New Zealand are on the list as well.

What brings you the most joy? Spending time together.

Favorite family traditions? Christmas Eve - Wayne's mom was Austrian, so we have a smorgasbord of German cold cuts and brotchen with all our family and several friends.

Favorite activities/hobbies? We both golf, a lot, so are members at the golf club. We also enjoy good wine. Wayne's an avid fisherman - he and our son, Adam, have an annual fishing trip for the last 16 years. They have also done several hunting trips together. Kelly has joined the McYarners, meeting some great ladies. Wayne has also been a Rotarian since the late 1990s. One of his favorite projects is the roundabout on Bay Street and Mile Hill Drive. We have been members of First Lutheran Church since we came to Port Orchard in 1985. Both of us have served on the church council, and Wayne was youth leader way back when... We also love our MW property and truly enjoy our landscape. We spend as many days and evenings enjoying the park-like setting at our home.

Beach or mountains? Mmm - beach for snorkeling and mountains for snowshoeing. Tough call. Probably the site with the closest golf course.

What is something no one knows about you? Pretty open, so not sure I can say.

Please give us two funny stories about your family. Wayne and I dated in high school. We broke up after a short time, and then he went off to UW. We started dating again after I graduated but I spent my first year at PLU. The separation wasn't fun, so I transferred up to UW and continued to be together. When I was in surgery for my knees after a stupid bike accident, he had to tell them he was my fiancé. My mom and gramma heard him, but I knew nothing about that until he proposed two weeks later. We got married before our senior year of college.

We have a large extended family of very dear friends from my first job as a medical technologist at Swedish Hospital. We all had our children at about the same time, and the husbands liked each other as well. We did multiple camping trips over the years, and Wayne would tell fireside stories to the kids. One story involved "battleground bats" and them coming into the cabins. The only way to protect yourself was to put moss on your pillow. Well - the next morning, all the kids came to breakfast with moss stuck in their hair. To this day, it's good for a laugh with these folks. When we all get together, the kids (all are now over 30 years old) still want Wayne to tell them a story.











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"I got tired of the commute and decided one day I wasn't going to drive anymore," John shared. "It just so happened that the next day Paul Davis had an ad running in Tacoma so I went in and talked to them and started as a carpenter, then worked my way to a project manager and on to a partnership with a franchise in the Auburn area."

In 2006 John joined the franchise as an owner and launched Paul Davis Restoration of Olympic Peninsula. In 2010 he moved his company to their current location near the Bremerton National Airport off WA-3. From there John and his team serve all of Kitsap County, Mason County, and Pierce County. They specialize in emergency services like water and flood damage cleanup, fire and smoke restoration, mold remediation, trauma and biohazard cleanup, and reconstruction and remodeling.

"We're full-service and do a lot of rebuilding - where our competitors only handle emergency services," John Shared. "Homeowners like a "one-stop shop" a lot better than having to deal with a lot of separate contractors."

Paul Davis Restoration of Olympic Peninsula boasts ten employees, including four full-time field technicians that concentrate on water mitigation and emergency services, one full-time carpenter, and



John and Viola Elliott

Headquart

5538

When not rescuing homeowners and restoring property, John enjoys trips with Viola to their property in Ocean Shores and camping and motorcycle riding together. In 2017 the couple spent 30 days touring the US in their motorhome. Prior to his work in the construction and restoration trades, John served in the United States Army, retiring after 20 years as a Staff Sergeant. It was John's military career that first brought him to the Northwest. "I only commute 30 minutes now and my drive to work and drive home is so peaceful, it's just great," John said. "I'm looking at Mount Rainier both ways, it's beautiful." John and his team encourage their neighbors on the Olympic and Kitsap peninsulas to reach out to them anytime they find themselves faced with property damage or a home emergency. They pride themselves in their ability to respond quickly to homeowners in need with skill and professionalism.

three project managers. John also offers services from trusted subcontractors and employs a fleet of rapid 24/7 response vehicles that are ready to hit the road when disaster strikes. "We're on site within four hours of receiving an emergency call, and that's 24/7," John said. Paul Davis Restoration of Olympic Peninsula is the preferred local vendor for 22 insurance companies and John has sage advice for anyone dealing with a water emergency - like a broken pipe in a kitchen, bathroom, or laundry room - something he and his team see frequently. "First, turn your water off at the source, call a plumber, then call your insurance company or agent," John advised. "Ninety percent of the time it's best to just call the 1-800 number so they can provide you with the preferred restoration vendors that work directly through them."

John and his team have served dozens of homeowners in McCormick Woods and, thanks to their efforts locally, Paul Davis Res-"We have live people available 24/7 and we take calls after hours toration of Olympic Peninsula was voted Port Orchard's "Small and respond after hours," John said. "When you call, you'll always Business of the Year" in 2015. get someone from our office - one of my employees or myself."

"We communicate with homeowners and show we care," John Contact: Phone: (360) 377-1647 shared. "We are on time and work with them directly." Address: 5538 Cruiser Loop S W, Bremerton, WA 98312 John was born and raised in Ohio, just south of Columbus, but Fax: 360-377-2013 has lived locally off and on since 1976. He and his wife Viola Email: opwa@pauldavis.com now live in Tacoma where two of their three children also reside. Web: https://the-olympic-peninsula.pauldavis.com



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**Ict's** Talk about BARBERRIES beyond "Rosy Glow"

awn and garden

The barberry is part of a large genus of deciduous and evergreen shrubs known by their botanical name as Berberis. The most common species of this genus is the **Berberis** thumbergii found in almost all our nurseries, including the box stores. They come in various shades of red, maroon, orange, yellow and all sizes. All Berberis like well-drained soil and are drought-tolerant when well established, a plus in our changing climate. They like sun to part shade. I find the leaf color can be muted with too much shade. Some of the yellow species can burn with too much hot sun as well. Their fall color is vivid to say the least, although comes and goes quickly. The deer usually leave them alone. I can't guarantee they won't touch them as I found some nibbles on the more tender new leaves on the smaller plants in the spring, but not enough to spray or keep me from planting them in my garden.

The **"Rosy Glow"** planted in many common areas of McCormick Woods and perhaps your own yard can reach 6 to 8 feet high and wide. The variegated pink and burgundy color and abundance in our nurseries attract many to buy this plant. The **Berber***is* × *ottawensis* "Royal Cloak" is another large shrub maturing at 8-by-8 feet. Its deep wine leaves and yellow spring flowers easily make this a three-season plant. For smaller species of this color range, look for the B. *thunbergii* "Concorde," a deep red-purple shrub 3-by-3 feet. The oranges are a color that con-

in our gardens. Thunbergu "Orange Rocket" is popular and readily available. Although it is labeled as a pillar shape with a 5-by-20-inch size, I find I do need to do a bit of pruning to keep the shape more defined. "Tangelo" has orange new growth with narrow yellow margins reaching 4-by-4 feet. Even smaller are "Golden Ruby" and "Admiration" maturing at 1 to 2 feet, both with orange leaves and narrow yellow margins.

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Orange Rocket



Darwin's Berry



## The oranges are a color that contrasts with the evergreen shrubs in our gardens. Thunbergii "Or-

If yellow is your passion barberries will not disappoint. There's a pillar-shaped "Golden Rocket" reaching 5-by-2 feet wide. Smaller 2-by-2-foot golden species are "Golden Devine" and "Tiny Gold." Even smaller for the border front is the 1-by-1-foot "Golden Nugget." The larger 4-by-4-foot "Limoncello" has gold leaves with a bit of orange blush thrown in.

One more interesting barberry is the Berberis darwinii **"Darwin's Barberry."** This "little gem is a gift" from Chile. Its dark shiny green leaves are evergreen and smothered in clusters of red burnished tangerine buds that open to vibrant orange flowers in March. It will need room to grow at a mature 8-by-4 feet wide. You may have spotted it in one of the common area plantings last spring along McCormick Woods Drive.

This is only a sample of what's out there. There are new introductions every year; many by Monrovia. If you want to do some research, Greatplantpicks.com is a great site. Monrovia.com is worth checking out as well.

# ANNUAL FAMILY Summer BBQ



## around the neighborhood

A very special **"thank you"** to our event sponsors, the McCormick Woods HOA Community Life Committee (CLC) and the resident volunteers! These sponsors and team of volunteers made this event a huge success!









































































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By Pat Williams





My favorite season is spring when the birds, bunnies and squir-I was born in Hawaii, and my kitty mom was feral, and we were rels, and occasionally deer, are running/flying through the yard. I rescued and were then sent to Bremerton Human Society where run around to all the windows and doors where I can keep an eye my mom, Pat, adopted me. She said I caught her eye because I on them. I'm even hoping to eventually see some bears! had my front paws outside the bars, and I was vigorously batting around the paperwork that was in a plastic sleeve clipped to the **Favorite Music:** cage. She said it was sooooo cute - little did she realize that was "Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat," of course! a "clue" to my normal behavior. I went through the "terrible ones, twos and threes" but have become calmer as I've aged; by 10 I Perfect day to me is when Mom is "vegging," and we marashould be good and calm. thon-watch programs, and I can sleep uninterrupted, or when my buddy Kate, Mom's neighbor, comes over, and we play hide-and-Tricks, hummm - I have so many, but I really like chasing a feathseek. She's a hoot and runs much faster than Mom!

er on a very long stick, and I jump very very high to get it.

Funny dreams, I don't remember; I'm asleep you know.

What do your people do that you like most? Feed me

The job I would be **best** suited for would be gravity engineer.

I test everything that's not nailed down!

Naughtiest thing I've ever done ... Hummm, there are many, but opening the cupboards and then seeing how many things I can push out would be among my favorites. My mom sometimes foils my efforts by putting bungie cords around the handles. I also thoroughly enjoy swatting Mom's legs when she's walking by; you know, kind of like what big cats do when they are hunting their prey.

My mom says her funniest memory would have to be during the first few nights after she brought me home. About midnight, she heard a noise and turned the light on only to find me swinging from a lamp shade. I continue to attempt this, but she has placed some deterrents in order to discourage me from this activity. I also really like climbing screens, like windows or the fireplace. Wooden blinds make the perfect chin-up bar and seeing how many high places I can get up on are also be among my favorites! Once there was a very tall table lamp that I "took down" - the lamp shade made a perfect hiding place and very suitable for a good **nap**! Mom says there is **never** a dull moment with me around.

Friday-night plans are usually sleeping on Mom's lap or my very soft blankets while she catches up on DVR stuff or watches HGTV.

My favorite celebrity, of course, is Garfield! My favorite toy is the little white "tooth flossers" that I steal out of the bathroom that slide across the floor fast when I bat at them. They often disappear underneath things. Once when Mom remolded the kitchen, the contractor found 32 of them under the refrigerator. He looked curiously at Mom, and she explained they were mine. He asked if I flossed, and she explained that as far as she knew I only batted them around.

,	Christmas is my favorite day of the year. I get $\boldsymbol{all}$ the boxes and
	tissue paper.

My favorite colors are those found in Tabby cats.

## **Beach or mountains?**

I like to climb, so mountains.

## Favorite movie/TV shows?

Duh, Big Cat Diaries.





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# FALL ORGANIZATION TASKS FOR THE HOME

Fall is upon us, and with it, this season brings change: changes in leaves, changes in temperatures, and changes in our schedules, declutter your pantry. routines, and activities. We're busily (and, for some of us, reluctantly) trading our sun-soaked summer days for sweater weather, hot cocoa, and football games. As we make the transition to this coziest of seasons, and with the holidays just around the corner, let's take a look at **five fall organization tasks** that will prep your home for the chilly days ahead!

## **1. Swap Out Your Closet**

It's time to trade those strappy sandals and tank tops for boots, cozy sweaters, and scarves! Use this occasion to physically put your hands on each piece you own (accessories included!); ask yourself whether you've worn it in the last year and whether it still brings you joy. Donate items you're finished with to your favorite charity or consignment shop, or, as I sometimes do, get a group of friends together to socialize and swap pieces, giving them new life. As you unpack winter clothing, take time to fold and organize by style or color, so you have a clear idea of what you have and what you might need to replace or purchase as the weeks grow colder.

## 2. Pack Up the Patio/Backyard

Pack away all outdoor kids' toys (wipe them down first!), outdoor cushions and pillows, umbrellas, and hammocks. Cover your outdoor furniture with waterproof, heavy-duty material to protect it from the cold-weather elements. Give your grill a final scrub while reminiscing about the wonderful meals and fun get-togethers of the past few months, and tuck your grilling utensils away.

#### 3. Prep Your Lawn

Between apple picking and cool nights around the firepit, use your outdoor time this season to reseed any bare spots in your lawn, as well as mulch and fertilize your grass, trees, and shrubs. Don't neglect those fallen leaves, as they can do damage to your lawn if left to their own devices.

#### 4. Organize the Garage or Shed

Resist the urge to procrastinate on this one! Start by pulling everything out into the driveway and giving the floor a good cleaning. Next, get rid of anything you haven't used in two years, or you no longer want, or is broken. Then, organize what's left by use, such as tools and sporting equipment. Storage is key here. Use hooks, pegboards, and wall shelves to lay everything out in a way that makes sense for your family.

#### 5. Prime Your Kitchen for Holiday Cooking

For many of us, the kitchen is the heart of the home, and many of our fondest holiday memories revolve around time spent cooking and eating with family and friends. Now is the time to organize and swap out seasonal appliances (bye-bye, ice cream maker; hello, slow cooker!) and linens to prep your kitchen for holiday cooking and entertaining. Move the cookware you'll be using most, such as mugs, roasting pans, and casserole dishes, to convenient locations while relocating warm-weather items to higher shelves or the garage or basement. Take the time, too, to replace any expired essential spices (like pumpkin pie spice!) and

While these tasks may seem overwhelming at first, remember, the sooner you get them done, the more time there will be left over to sit back with some apple cider or a hot toddy and enjoy the upcoming season with those you love.





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