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AUGUST 2020

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



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

**PUBLISHING ASSISTANT** Tania Lee  
(901) 833-9885  
[Tania.Lee@n2pub.com](mailto:Tania.Lee@n2pub.com)

**RESIDENT CONTENT COORDINATOR** Piper Willson  
[piperk03@gmail.com](mailto:piperk03@gmail.com)

**CONTRIBUTORS AT LARGE** Residents of McCormick Woods!

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**resident recipe**  
 By Mary Selden.

# Best Banana BREAD

**An essential recipe!**

## INGREDIENTS

- Nonstick vegetable oil spray
- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1¼ teaspoons baking soda
- ¾ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup (packed) dark brown sugar
- ¼ cup mascarpone, plain whole-milk Greek yogurt, or sour cream
- ¼ cup (½ stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 2 large eggs
- 4 large very ripe bananas, mashed (about 1½ cups)
- ½ cup chopped bittersweet or semisweet chocolate (optional)
- ½ cup chopped walnuts (optional)



## RECIPE PREPARATION

- Preheat oven to 350°. Lightly coat 8½x4½" loaf pan with nonstick spray and line with parchment paper, leaving a generous overhang on long sides. Whisk flour, baking soda, and salt in a medium bowl.
- Using an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat brown sugar, mascarpone, and butter in a large bowl until light and fluffy, about 4 minutes. Add eggs one at a time, beating to blend after each addition and scraping down sides and bottom of bowl as needed.
- Reduce speed to low, add flour mixture, and mix until just combined. Add bananas and mix just until combined. Fold in chocolate and/or walnuts, if using. Scrape batter into prepared pan; smooth top.
- Bake bread until a tester inserted into the center comes out clean, 60–65 minutes. Transfer pan to a wire rack and let bread cool in pan 1 hour. Turn out bread and let cool completely (if you can resist) before slicing.



Do you have a family recipe that is worth sharing? Email [LATW@N2Pub.com](mailto:LATW@N2Pub.com).

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## featured family

By Piper Willson.



## MEET THE

# Wotzka Family!

**McCormick Woods, meet the Wotzka family! Kris, Ginger, Nate, and Ryleigh have lived on Troon Ave since June of 2019. Though they have only lived in McCormick Woods for a short time, they have spent their time during our recent quarantine enjoying walks in McCormick Woods with their two cocker spaniels, Katie (8) and Kirby (4 months), enjoying bonfires in their backyard, and having family movie nights.**

Ginger, a clinical operations manager for health and wellness, and Kris, a logistical specialist U.S. Navy Department of Defense met in at a local comedy club in Silverdale. The couple dated for almost two years before they got married in 1998 at the Bangor Chapel in Silverdale, Washington. The couple then moved in 1999 to Ventura, California where we were stationed for four years. They enjoyed their time living in Vicenza, Italy for a year-and-a-half and San Diego, California before moving to WA in 2014

where Kris retired from the U.S. Navy after 24 years of service.

Since the family moved back to Washington in 2014, they have enjoyed the beautiful landscape that the PNW provides. The Wotzkas love hiking around the Olympics or Mt. Rainier and snowshoeing at Hurricane Ridge. The active family of four also loves football, softball, kayaking and running. Whether Nate and Ryleigh are playing themselves, or they are just observing their favorite teams play, the Wotzkas are sports fanatics. As a military family, they support teams from all around the United States. Some of their favorites include the Seahawks, Vikings, Steelers, Red Sox, Twins, and Mariners.



Do you know a family that would like to be featured? Email [LATW@N2Pub.com](mailto:LATW@N2Pub.com) and let us know!

Though the Wotzka family has spent much time traveling, Port Orchard is the hometown of Ginger. Ginger grew up in Port Orchard, where she went to Orchard Heights, Marcus Whitman, and SKHS. After graduating from high school, Ginger then moved across the water to Seattle, where she attended the University of Washington for an undergrad degree in sociology and criminal justice. Later, Ginger moved to California Lutheran University for a graduate degree of Master of Science in Counseling Psychology, focused on marriage and family therapy. Kris, on the other hand, is from Minnesota, a small town called Long Prairie, and moved to Port Orchard because of the Navy in 1996. Kris attended Coastline Community College for his AA. Nate and Ryleigh were both born in California, and Nate currently attends California Lutheran University studying broadcast journalism.

The family moved back to Washington in 2014 and since then have been enjoying the community that Ginger grew up in. They enjoy local restaurants such as Mana Sushi and the new La Carbons steak house, but also the quick trip to Seattle to visit the DoughZone or the Met. The family also enjoys traveling, particularly in Europe or Cobo. They look forward to someday crossing Ireland and Tahiti off of their bucket list.

The Wotzka family, though busy and fast-paced, enjoys the quiet of the neighborhood and the positive energy that it has brought to their life. Whether you see them out for a jog in the trails, riding their bikes or walking their dogs, be sure to say "hello"! We can't wait to see what is next for them in their *Life at the Woods!*



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sponsor spotlight

# Highlighter CONSTRUCTION

Andrew and Sheyanne Ricicar

## Where did you grow up?

While Sheyanne was born and raised here in Port Orchard, Andrew grew up in Southern Texas.

## How long have you lived in the area?

Andrew came to Kitsap County with his parents at 8 years old.

## Tell us about your family.

We are 29 years old with three beautiful children: two boys, Matthew and Eugene, and a 2-year-old angel, Syrenity. We met at the age of 16 on 7-7-07, bought a home at the age of 20, and married on our four-year anniversary with our second child on the

way. We now care for two of our cancer-surviving parents, Andrew's "old man" and Sheyanne's "mama." Sheyanne's mom cares for the kiddos, so we can work. In our good fortune, we have helped family and friends however we can over the years, whether it was a place to stay while they got on their feet or bringing someone along as an extra hand, so they can pay a bill or two.

## Tell us about the events that led up to where you are now.

Sheyanne was practically born into sales with her parents' careers and understood the value of a dollar. She started working young. But she did not want to waste

her education from Olympic High School, and before graduating, she was operating a small wood business.

After having our first child, we both started working for the local and beloved Stedman Bee Supply in Silverdale. Andrew was an independent contractor and would seasonally help with building and manufacturing supplies. But you may recognize Sheyanne as the "bee girl" or "honey lady." She was the go-to girl for seven years. Not only in charge of sales and local honey, but she became a true vessel of knowledge to help hundreds of local beekeepers, becoming passionate and certified in beekeeping herself, even referenced in a local author's mystery novel involving bees and honey. Over her time, Sheyanne gained experience in media, accounting, bookkeeping, business management, teaching, and customer care. But that does not mean she doesn't know how to swing a hammer.

## Why/How did you start your business?

Andrew, born on a farm, was raised to work with his hands. He worked in various fields of construction and carpentry since he was young with his dad and brother since the move north. Andrew worked as an independent contractor for several years under other companies, most of them special trades. In 2016, we knew we had more to offer residents. We then decided to put all of our tools, skills, and experiences to work and go into business for ourselves, offering a two-man solution to all home remodel and repair needs.

## Why did you get into the business you're in?

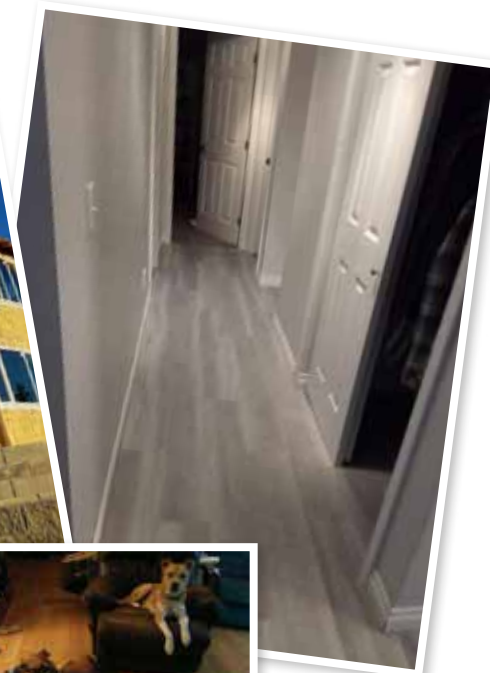
Over the last several years, contractors have been tied up with commercial or new residential developments, and there has been very little available to existing residents for their home needs and desires.

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## Given your business expertise and the nature of what you do, what advice can you offer to the residents?

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## What else we should know about you, your family, and your business?

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## Business contact information:

360-525-5852. Based in Gorst. Find us on Facebook @Highlighter Construction

## Why did you choose to partner with our great neighborhood and the publication?

At the beginning of 2019, we made a goal to get into the Woods. Not only for the high-end clientele itself, but the residents and community expectations are high. References and the respect that can come from McCormick Woods, to us, are better than Angie's List. When Tristan reached out to us, it was almost unbelievable. It was just the break we were looking for. So far, the neighborhood has been very welcoming and we look forward to meeting more of you.

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**young** achiever

## Meet Elizabeth Williams!

*McCormick Woods has been very lucky to call itself home to so many hardworking, talented, and intentional students. Meet Elizabeth Williams, one of South Kitsap Class of 2020's valedictorians!*

Elizabeth Williams represents more than just South Kitsap High School. From her beginnings at South Colby Elementary and John Sedgwick Junior High, Elizabeth has brought her drive for excellence to everything she has done. Not only has she excelled in academics, remaining top of her class even through difficult IB and AP classes, but she has also participated in cross-country, track, and choir at South Kitsap High School. During her sophomore year, Elizabeth achieved her personal record at Hole in the Wall Invitational and brought her talent and drive to her team in postseason competition.

Unfortunately, Elizabeth's year of lasts at South Kitsap was cut short due to COVID-19. Elizabeth is sad that she won't get to walk at graduation with her classmates or say "goodbye" to her friends and peers she has known for so many years. Elizabeth advises underclassmen and future students to get involved and take advantage of every opportunity that they can in high school. Whether it's a sport, club, or simply attending school functions, do what you can to stay involved!

We know the future is bright for Elizabeth. She plans to attend the University of Washington and major in biochemistry. As Elizabeth looks to her future, she is eager to transition and try new things independently in college. She is ready to tackle more challenges and grow beyond high school. She thanks her family, friends, teachers, and administrators who have helped her reach her goals and her highest potential. And we thank Elizabeth for making McCormick Woods proud and showing us what *Life in the Woods* is really all about!

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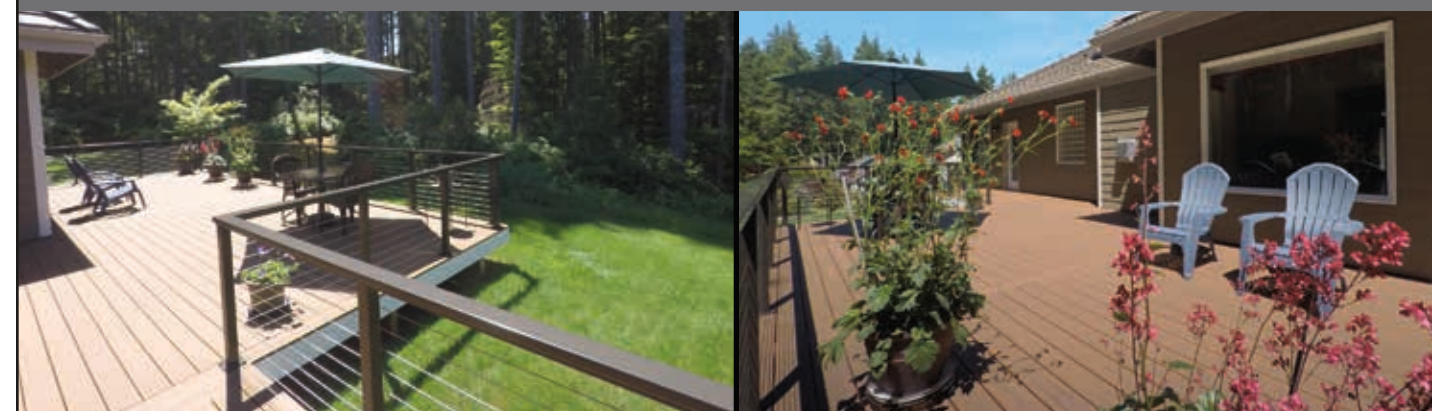
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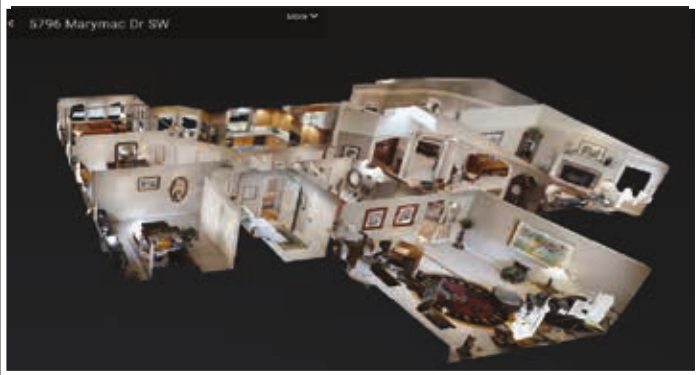



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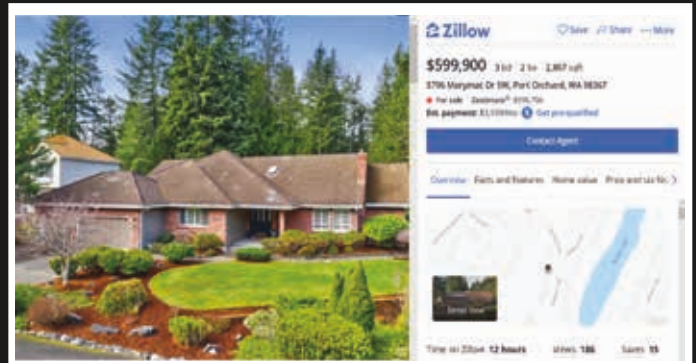
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precious pets

# meet **Zeke!** **THE SINCLAIR FAMILY’S RESCUE PUP!**

McCormick Woods, meet Zeke! Zeke is the Sinclair family’s rescue pup! He may look familiar as he was featured in July’s “Congrats, Class of 2020” photos with Mackenzie. Though Zeke is an unknown breed, the Sinclairs have guessed that he is a chihuahua, basenji, rat terrier mix. There are many mysteries about Zeke, but one thing we know for sure is that he is a sweet and friendly pet and neighbor for McCormick Woods to adore!

The Sinclairs, a very active family, were seeking a furry friend to walk and play with when they found Zeke five years ago! They had been looking for a new pet after losing their other dog to old age. The Sinclairs said they couldn’t resist Zeke’s sweet puppy dog eyes. Just like that, he was a Sinclair! Daughter, Mack, hoped to name their new pet Timmy and even made him a “welcome home” poster with his new name on it. However, when they met the sweet pup, they knew Zeke was the only name for him.

Since Zeke was rescued five years ago, he has shown McCormick Woods what a special and talented dog he is. If you ever think you hear yodeling, it’s probably Zeke letting his family know that there are visitors coming by!

Though Zeke is very nervous, when he warms up to you, he is a unique and funny dog. The Sinclairs remember when they arrived home from a trip to the store, and Zeke was sitting on the toilet, just like a human might! His human traits don’t end there! Zeke enjoys a nutritious diet filled with a hard-boiled egg each morning and yogurt from time to time. It’s hard for his owners to resist those puppy eyes! He will also join the Sinclair family in watching TV, making sure to say “hello” to any animal that might appear on the screen.

Zeke has brought so much joy to his family and neighbors. He unconditionally loves each and every member of his family and is a loyal and sweet companion. He shows love like humans do and makes sure that his family knows they are loved by him. Thank you, Zeke, for bringing more joy to *Life at the Woods*!

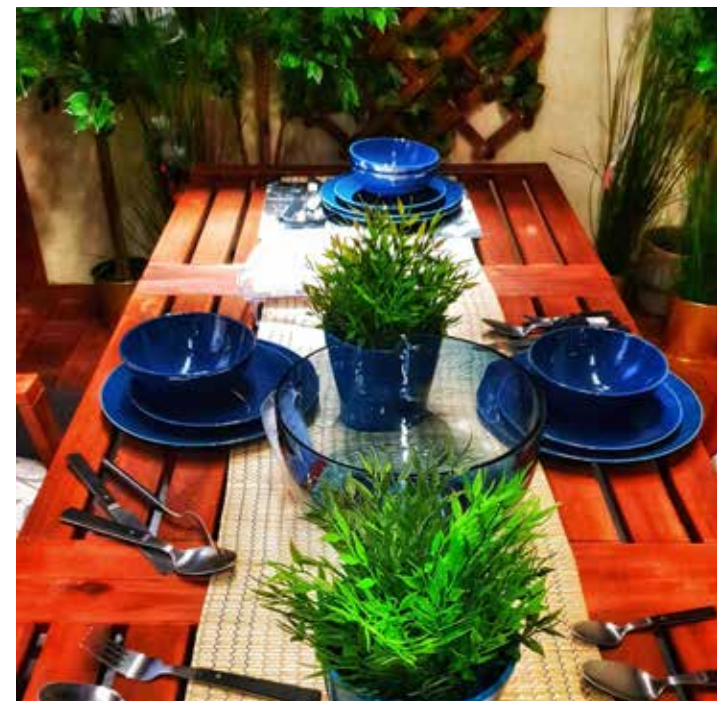

**Do you have a precious pet that deserves some extra love? Email [LATW@N2Pub.com](mailto:LATW@N2Pub.com).**





# living spaces **Outdoor** Creating an *Retreat*

by Mary Buzas



We all need a retreat from being cooped up indoors lately, but driving to the mountains or hopping on a plane isn't always an option. The good news is creating a place to sneak away for a few hours in your own backyard is possible on any budget with a few simple updates, using your personal lifestyle and preferences as a guide.

I love spending time on my back deck with a glass of wine listening to the birds chirp, but that's not for everybody. What do you love doing?

- Do you love to entertain friends and family?
- Are you a home chef?
- Do you like to sit under the stars?
- Are you looking for a little peace and quiet?

Answering these questions will help you focus on where to spend your energy, time, and money.

## Getting Started

Let's start with patio furniture. It should be comfortable and a style you like, luring you outside with warm touches like cushions, throws, and rugs. If you don't have space indoors to store textiles, there are some great outdoor storage options that are water- and critter-proof.

Try choosing a few colors you want to incorporate in your outdoor living space. Blues and greens are a popular pairing here in the Pacific Northwest, or maybe you'd like something brighter like yellows and oranges. Everything doesn't need to match perfectly, but by sticking to a color scheme your space will feel put together even if you're making purchases from different stores or buying secondhand.

## Outdoor Dining

I recommend investing in a set of melamine dinnerware and acrylic glassware. Not only does this eliminate concern over broken dishes or glasses on your patio, but you also won't have to carry your heavy dinnerware outside. You can take this light-weight set on the road for picnics as well.

With our temperate climate, grilling is a great way to cook, be outdoors, entertain, and create memories almost year-round. Grills come in all shapes and sizes, so regardless of the size of your household, entertainment habits, or budget, there's a grill for you. If you don't grill much, consider the portable Coleman

Roadtrip or a Weber Q-Series. For entertainers and foodies, look for a larger grill with enough space to cook different dishes simultaneously. While a few of my neighbors have outdoor kitchens with built-in grills, I'm very happy with my standalone Char-Broil Tru-Infrared Signature grill with a side burner.

## The Right Atmosphere

As the days become longer and we extend our time in our backyards, the right lighting and heating become essential. What you'll need is dependent on what activities you like to do outdoors.

String lighting with Edison bulbs works well if you need bright light for reading or family game night. If you're looking for low-level lighting, check out smaller string lights or lanterns with battery operated candles. One of our neighbors uses mason jars filled with small solar lights around her patio for a cozy feel.

Chilly nights shouldn't force us to end our evenings early. Outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, and heat lamps all invite our friends and family to linger outside and enjoy our time together. If you plan to invest in an open wood-burning fire-pit, make sure you get approval from our McCormick Woods Homeowner Association.

*Mary owns HomeStyle by Mary, a staging and design service. She is a resident of McCormick Woods.*

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# Congrats, CLASS OF 2020

By Wil Norgaard.

Gracie and Hudson Norgaard send their congratulations to all fellow graduates of 2020! Best wishes for a prosperous future! - the Norgaard family



around the neighborhood

# Spread JOY

Marydeane Furstenwerth, a retired South Kitsap teacher, has lived in Gleneagle since 1991 with her husband. She has always enjoyed her marvelous neighbors in Gleneagle. A relative newcomer has brightened these socially distant COVID-19 days with her amazing street art. This young artist is named Abigail Mae and is full of creativity. Bonnie, her mom, helps spread joy in Gleneagle, and the pair is never dismayed by the rain! We love seeing McCormick Woods residents spreading positivity during these unprecedented times and appreciate our talented residents.





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We are pleased to announce the opening of new model homes by MainVue Homes in Muirfield at McCormick. MainVue Homes at Muirfield offers an exclusive opportunity to own a luxurious MainVue home and live on the golf course at McCormick.

This summer, we welcome you to visit two new model homes by MainVue Homes located on the 10th fairway at McCormick Woods Golf Club. Please see our website at [www.liveatmccormick.com](http://www.liveatmccormick.com) for information on opening dates and details on how to tour MainVue's new models, showcasing the Kingston and Avoca home designs.

MainVue's Kingston plan is a stylish, single-story rambler with a sophisticated open flow, maximum accessibility, and ultimate privacy. The Kingstons' home design inspires single-level living and offers countless luxury inclusions as standard.

The Avoca plan is a two-story home offering more than 4000 feet of living area with attractive modern space in all the right places. From the soaring-ceiling foyer that flirts with the upper level to entry den that allows professionals to set private work-from-home boundaries, your house crush doesn't come any more beautiful than the Avoca.

Muirfield at McCormick offers sophisticated and stunning view homes along the 10th fairway of the McCormick Woods Golf Club, in quick walking distance to dinner or drinks at the clubhouse. MainVue Homes are luxurious with designer features and high-end finishes as standard, and MainVue homeowners especially love relaxing in their Signature Outdoor Rooms. Choose a single-story or two-story home plan that best suits your life and live on the golf course in Muirfield at McCormick.



Designer Façade of the Marcello Home Design

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## Food, Refreshments, & Prizes Treasure Hunt for the Kids



Join us at McCormick in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day with our special guest and Northwest gardening legend, **Ciscoe Morris!**

Take our model home tour for home inspiration and for a copy of his new book.

Ciscoe will join us on the McCormick Trail of Homes Tour for an exclusive book signing from 1-3 pm.

For details, check out our event calendar:  
**[LiveAtMcCormick.com/events](http://LiveAtMcCormick.com/events).**





# Life AT THE WOODS

RESIDENT BUSINESS GUIDE

## Attention McCormick Woods Residents:

Are you a McCormick Woods resident and own a business?  
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