

THE MEMORIAL CREEK ESTATES

Bulletin



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER



Letter From The Board

Here we are closing in on the end of another year here in Memorial Creek Estates. We as a board are so excited about many of the accomplishments that have taken place this year. We have had a monthly newsletter that has informed and has kept home owners up to date on items that have happened along the way and with future events, thank you to all that have contributed. Please feel free to join the staff of those that help with information that would be beneficial to all the home owners in the community. There have been several homes recognized for their beautification efforts and many more that we will continue to recognize in the months ahead. Thank you to all those that continue to beautify their homes and property. There are also many home owners that have replaced their fences and it is very much appreciated. That is a responsibility of the home owner to keep up with the replacement of their fence both side and back, it is a big expense but is necessary for each of us under the current covenants and restrictions of the HOA. I would like to remind all of us of a safety issue that has been discussed many times and that is the vehicles and the speed that we drive in our neighborhood. As you know we have many homeowners that like to walk around the neighborhood, please drive slow and courteous so we can protect all the residence. In addition, there are several children that are playing in yards and walking from school at different times, we need to drive slow and protect all those that could be walking at any given time. We do not have the luxury to have side walks so please drive slow and courteous. Thank you to everyone and we wish you and your family a happy holiday season.

Memorial Creek Estates Bulletin

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Kurt Gooslsbee..... Board Member
Anthony Carroll..... Committee Member
Deborah Maly..... Committee Member
Lauren McCarty..... Committee Member
Lester Brown..... Committee Member

*Monthly HOA meetings on the 3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm
6900 Crescent Clover, Spring, TX 77379*

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Gas | Centerpoint Energy..... 713-659-2111

Call Centerpoint for street light repair or outages

Pool | Sweetwater Pools..... 281-988-8480

Closed on Mondays

Constable Precinct 4 | Non-emergency..... 281-376-3472

In the event of an emergency, please call "911"

Trash & Recycling | Texas Pride Disposal..... Tuesday & Friday

Fire Department..... 9755 Landry Blvd.

Animal Control..... 281-999-3191



**Memorial Creek
Estates
Facebook**

Did you know we have a Facebook Page! We are the "Unofficial Memorial Creek Estates" Stay in the know between newsletters.

Our Next Event will be



December 8th at 5:30pm



Hot chocolate bar

Ugly sweater contest for adults and children

**Best lights/decorations in the neighborhood 1st
and 2nd place**

Keep your eye out for more details next month. If you
would like to help with any of our events please email Lauren
McCarty at Lauren.mccarty7@gmail.com

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Memorial Creek Estates FAMILY OF THE MONTH



The November 2018 Memorial Creek Estates Featured Family of the Month is the Calderon Family.

I can pretty much guarantee that most of the people living in MCE have not

met the Calderon family! And, that would be because the Calderon family lives in the furthest most section of the subdivision! Well, maybe not the furthest most to some people, but definitely from the front entrance of the subdivision.

During your stroll about the neighborhood, if you happen upon the Memorial Trace cul-de-sac, please be sure to say hello to Jesus

and his wife, Sandra, and their two children, Cesar and Sandra (yes, two Sandras!) if they are out and about their beautiful yard.

The Calderon family has lived in MCE since 2006 and were drawn to the subdivision because they love this area and because of the great schools that MCE residents are zoned. Jesus Calderon is self-employed and loves soccer (he used to be a goalie!), his wife, Sandra, loves music and plays the guitar (maybe we can convince her to provide entertainment to one of the neighborhood gatherings?) Sandra is also an independent distributor for Herbalife Nutrition, and a general doctor.

College and his love of BMX keeps Cesar pretty busy and his sister, Sandra, who is a junior at Klein Cain High School, models as well as plays volleyball.

As the picture indicates, the Calderon is a very warm and friendly family, so be sure to introduce yourself to them when you see them.

Congratulations to the Calderon family for Memorial Creek Estates Yard-of-the-Month! Good job!



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Purposefully Give Thanks

Did you know Thanksgiving wasn't celebrated regularly until President Abraham Lincoln declared the fourth Thursday of November a national holiday? A little-known fact is that Sarah Josepha Hale campaigned to recognize the day for 17 years prior to it being made a federal holiday. Here are some ideas to help us remember that the holiday is about more than a table of delicious food, football and parades; it's a day to purposefully give thanks and appreciate everything we have.

How to be purposefully grateful every day

- 1. Appreciate the little things.** Some days it's easier to find things to be thankful for than others. Regardless of how your day is unfolding, take time to appreciate the little things and you may find your day turns out better than you expected.
- 2. Look on the bright side.** Look for ways to be grateful when faced with challenges. Gratitude changes your mindset and helps you become more optimistic. Optimists see challenges as opportunities for growth and improvement.
- 3. Count your blessings.** It takes up to eight weeks of practicing gratitude for the brain to start showing changes reflecting greater happiness.* Write down three to five things you're grateful for daily. If you're not sure what to write, answer these questions:
 - What are you grateful for right now?
 - Who are three people you're grateful to have in your life?
 - What is something you tend to take for granted that you're grateful for?
- 4. Volunteer.** When you help others, it tends to create feelings of well-being and happiness. Volunteer in your local community or help others you know who may be facing difficult times. Look for opportunities to give.
- 5. Show appreciation.** In addition to saying "thank you" and letting people know how much you appreciate them, write a note to someone who has had an impact on your life and let them know how much they mean to you.

*Source: Forbes

Keep a gratitude jar. Write down what you're thankful for on a piece of paper and place it in the jar. Regularly pick a piece out of the jar and read what you've written. You're guaranteed to feel more grateful.

"Gratitude can turn common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings."

-William Arthur Ward

I'm grateful for your business. If you need anything, give me a call!

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Memorial Creek Estates *Yard of the Month*

The November Yard-Of-The-Month selections are very varied! The Memorial Creek Estates Featured Family, the Calderons, received the YOM award. The landscaping and use of multiple points of interest make for an appealing and inviting front yard.



The curved sidewalk and steps leading to the front door draw the viewer's attention to the next level, a front patio area with a bench on each side.

The benches are correctly proportioned and built with materials that compliment rather than distract from the overall design of the landscaping. Also, note the use of tropical plants mixed with the hedging. Very well done. The Calderon yard is an

example of including many different elements in the design of the front yard, without the yard becoming cluttered or disorganized.

Congratulations to Jesus and Sandra for a job well done!

The following are the Yard-Of-The-Month Honorable mentions.



Richard and Judy have worked hard on making their front yard attractive (I have seen and talked with Richard while he has been working in the flower beds!), and the picture

is the evidence that their efforts have been worthwhile.

The front flower bed that runs along the sidewalk from the driveway to the front door is a great example of how to incorporate color into flower beds without the use of blooming plants. There are bright green "guacamole" plants, coleus (yes, they can have little flowers, but the real beauty of these plants is the deep red and green

colors in the leaves). Congratulations to Richard and Judy!

The second YOM – Honorable mention is the following home on Memorial Pine Way. The homeowners have not provided permission to use their name, so we congratulate them as anonymous

homeowners. The appeal of this yard is the variety of plants used in the front circular flower bed: a mix of shrubs and grasses that contrast and compliment the plants nearer the house. Well done!



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*By: Vivian Marinelli, FEI Behavioral Health
(edited for space and clarity)*

You've made your lists and you've checked them twice. Now it's off to shop for the naughty (maybe) and nice.

With holiday shopping upon us, here are tips for keeping yourself, your identity and your carefully picked gifts safe and the holiday season enjoyable.

Prepare. Before you head out to shop, gear up for the trek. The stores can be warm and you may want to leave your coat in the car; that way, you are not trying to keep track of your coat, packages, your purse and/or your wallet.

Distractions. The most common distraction is to be on the phone or texting as you are walking to the next store, or to your car. You may be checking on information for your next purchase, but someone else might be checking for people they can catch off-guard. It's critical to be aware of your surroundings at these susceptible times. Wait until you are in a place where you can focus and not be a target.

Parking. Pay attention to detail when choosing a parking spot. It may be daylight when you park, but it may be dark when you return to your car. Try parking in a well-lit area. Make note of the location of your car, or tie a holiday bow to your car where you will be able to spot it easily. Prior to leaving the store or mall, gather all your packages and have your keys ready in your hand. Walk with purpose to your car and scan your surroundings for anyone (or anything) that seems suspicious. Many shops or malls have additional security on-site, even in the parking lots. Some also have escorts available who will accompany you to your car.

Super-shopping. If you plan on a shopping marathon, following the first three tips will have you ready for the race. However, if you need to make multiple trips to your car to drop off purchases, you'll need to make sure they are secure until you return. Put packages in the trunk where they are out of sight. If packages need to be in the back or front seat, try to place them on the floor of the car and cover them with a blanket so they're not visible to anyone walking past the car.

By taking the extra time to ensure personal and financial safety and security during your holiday shopping excursions, you can enjoy finding the perfect gift for everyone on your list and see their faces light up when they unwrap their treasure that you picked just for them.

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4 Ways to Help Prepare Your Home for Winter



Winter is on its way and for much of the country that means freezing temperatures, wind, snow, ice and heavy jackets.

Preparing your home now for the colder months ahead is vital. The following tips are designed to help get you and your home ready for what winter has in store.

Invest in Weather Stripping

If you can run your hand around the edges of an outside-facing door on a cold day and feel the flow of cool air, you have an airflow problem, one that could cost you a lot of money over the course of the winter.

Weather stripping is a good way to help seal warm air in and cold air out of your home. Available in almost any hardware store, weather stripping installs quickly around windows and doors and can help prevent air leaks.

Before winter arrives, check your windows, doors, vents and fans, plumbing areas, air conditioners and any electrical/gas lines for leaks or drafts to save yourself energy and heating costs.

Evaluate Your Roof to Prevent Ice Dams

Your roof is one of the most vital protections standing between you and the harsh outside elements. Excess snow, ice and other environmental hazards can cause significant damage,\" said Chala Sampers, Top Dog Roofing. \"The objective is to get as much of the water away from your house as possible.”

In cold weather, heat escaping your home can melt and refreeze ice and snow on your roof, leading to ice dams. Evaluate your roof in advance of harsh winter weather to prevent ice damming. An ice dam in your gutter can cause water to seep into and saturate an interior wall. These block off drains, and let water and ice continually build up on your roof – and possibly under it – weakening your roof and putting your home at risk. If you're unsure of what to look for, see if a roofing professional can evaluate your roof for ice dams while cleaning your gutters.

To help prevent ice dams make sure your attic is well insulated and ventilated. Insulate the attic floor well to minimize the amount of heat rising through the attic from within the house. If your attic wasn't

built with a ventilation system, contact a trusted local professional or contractor about ventilating your attic before winter.

Buy a Roof Rake to Keep Snow from Building up

If you expect a lot of snow this winter, invest in a roof rake. As snow packs down from multiple storms it could cause a roof collapse – a roof rake can help you easily clear snow off your roof and protect your home during those blizzard months.

“Understanding the importance of checking your roof and knowing the basics of winter roof maintenance and damage can help homeowners avoid unnecessary stress and surprise costs,” added Chala Sampers, Top Dog Roofing (<https://www.topdogroof.com/>).

What's even more surprising is that a new, national survey by Owens Corning Roofing found that although 70% of Austin homeowners said that damage to their roof would be stressful or very stressful, only 3% say they always check or have their roofs checked before the start of a season that typically brings bad weather. So be prepared this season and make sure to conduct a thorough roof check before, during and after harsh winter months.

Protect Pipes from Freezing

A frozen water pipe can burst and flood your house or basement.

Help protect your pipes from freezing in bitter cold weather by making sure you don't turn the heat down too much when you're out of the house. You may not be there to enjoy it, but your pipes need the heat to prevent freezing.

Give your home a once over for any exposed or vulnerable piping and wrap them with insulation. Hardware stores usually carry foam rubber or fiberglass sleeves for pipes, which are easy to install.

If your pipes do freeze, and water stops flowing from faucets, call a plumber immediately.

Please keep personal safety in mind when checking items off this list and connect with a trusted professional or contractor for help with anything you are unable to do yourself. For more info visit <https://www.owenscorning.com/roofing>.





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