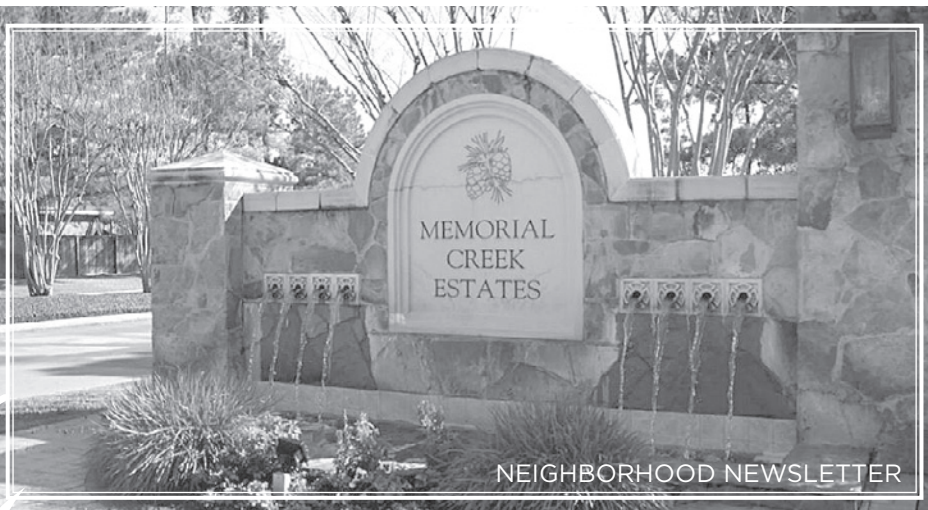


THE  
MEMORIAL CREEK  
ESTATES

## Bulletin



## FEATURED FAMILY

The Memorial Creek Estates Featured Family this month is Steve and Susan Hatley and their three kiddos, Bethany, Kevin, and Kelsi. The Hatleys, who have been residents of Memorial Creek Estates for 13 years, were awarded this month's Yard of the Month award. Bethany, 21 years, is a senior at Texas Tech University and Kevin and Kelsi are 16 and 15, respectively and both attend Klein Cain High School. Kevin is a Junior and Kelsi is a Sophomore. Susan said that Kevin and Kelsi are "Irish twins" because Kevin and Kelsi are less than a year apart and for 3 days out of the year they are the same age. How cool is that?

The Hatley's shared that they love to travel, most recently having visited England and France last summer. Additionally, Steve and Susan are planning two exciting trips this year: to Washington, DC and New York City, NY.

An interesting tidbit of information about Steve and Susan is that they have always wanted to open an ice cream shop near the neighborhood, but since Dairy Queen opened a store on Spring-Cypress, they will just enjoy the ice cream without the work!

As you are out and about, be sure to stop and say hi to Steven, Susan, Bethany, Kevin, and Kelsi!



# Memorial Creek Estates Bulletin

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

### MANAGEMENT COMPANY

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### HOA

Jeff Crock..... President

Steve Peltier..... Board Member

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

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

## Five biggest landscaping mistakes in Houston

Gardening experts say fall is the best time to plant on the Gulf Coast, but before you head to the nursery, we have the five biggest mistakes homeowners make when it comes to gardening in the fall. Avoid these so you don't waste your time and your money! From a distance, Tom Mclesky's front yard looks great. But if you take a closer look you can see it's overrun with weeds, plants are dying and gardening expert Randy Lemmon says the soil is stressed out. Lemmon says this is typical of what many of our gardens may look like, so he created a list of the five biggest mistakes we all need to avoid when it comes to planning our garden.

**Mistake #1:** Most people never plan their work, then work their plan. "What I mean by that is people piecemeal their job," Lemmon explained. "I like that flower. Put it in there. I like that shrub. Put it in there." That's not the way we do landscaping in the Houston area." Lemmon suggests reading up on what type of shrubs, plants and flowers work best in our region. **Mistake #2:** Gardeners don't know how to build their beds. Lemmon said, "When it comes to flower beds, when it comes to landscape shrubbery beds, all we have to do is make sure that it is a quality soil like a good rose soil. Make sure it is a raised bed, because all success in gardening starts with good soil." Lemmon says your beds should be raised about four inches and rose soil works best in Gulf Coast landscapes. **Mistake #3:** Using the wrong mulch. "The soil is being poisoned slowly but surely by the black mulches," Lemmon said. He says the Mclesky's black dyed mulch is the reason why the garden is dying. "We never really researched it," Mclesky admitted. "We just figure mulch is mulch and that's what we went with." Lemmon says that's why not doing your homework could cost you. He says stick with natural mulches that have not been dyed and even though black mulch has become popular... "It pains me to see that black mulch, that dyed mulch, because I don't care what you dyed it with it, it is leaching into the soil and it cannot be good for the plants," Lemmon said. **Mistake #4:** Giving up on color for autumn and winter in Houston. Lemmon says there are so many options like snap dragons, dianthus, calendulas and, as always, mums and pansies. Just be sure to buy your flowers when they are barely budding. "It's a great way to make your landscape stand out above all the others who basically blow off gardening in the fall and winter time," Lemmon advised. **Mistake #5:** Not investing in an irrigation system. Lemmon says many people lost their plants this past summer because we didn't get enough rain. He says the investment will pay off.



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# Memorial Creek Estates Bulletin

## Yard of the Month

Congratulations to this month's Memorial Creek Estates Yard of the Month award- the Hatley Family on Memorial Mills Dr. (see Featured Family article). The Hatley yard is well maintained and includes interesting features, such as a water fountain on the pathway to the front door. There are flower beds full of color, which is not an easy thing this time of year!

The Hatley yard also includes an interesting mix of hedges in both style and symmetry, and type. The variegated flax lilies contrast with the color of the hedges bringing notice to the design of the flower bed. If you are out and about on the "short block", please be sure to take an extra minute and look a little closer at the beautiful landscaping at the Hatley's!

The first Yard of the Month Honorable mention belongs to Jean and Gerry on Memorial Ridge Dr. Jean and Gerry are new neighbors, having moved to MCE after having experienced Hurricane Harvey. Their home in Wimbledon Champions flooded and they bought their MCE home in 2017.

Since living in their new home, Jean and Gerry have made many landscaping improvements including tree trimming, cleaning up the flower beds and adding new and colorful plants, and, not seen in the picture, a plant and trellis feature area near the fence. Jean

and Gerry have said that they are enjoying their neighbors and the folks that they have met at the social events.

Please extend a warm and friendly welcome to Jean and Gerry!

The next Yard of the Month Honorable Mention is Stefan's home on Edenway Dr. Stefan is one of the first members of the MCE community and although a few things have changed in his yard over the years, what remains constant is the variety of plants, the thoughtful design of the yard, and the use of varied materials to enhance the yard features. The two Sego palms planted at each side of the sidewall provide a striking first impression of Stefan's yard. Interest continues from the street to the house with flower beds on each side of the sidewalk up to the entry where the flower bed is accented with rocks and additional shrubs.

Congratulations to each of the Yard of the Month homeowners! Good job on maintaining your yards and helping make MCE a beautiful place to live!





# Memorial Creek Estates Bulletin

## Aeration Now Can Help Your Spring and Summer Irrigation



In order to prepare your lawn for a healthy spring growing season, you should employ basic lawn care practices at this time of year, which includes aerating your yard. It is important that nutrients reach the soil beneath your grass, and aeration can help you get that done.

Aeration involves making small holes in the soil to allow air, water and nutrients to get to the grass roots.

This helps the roots grow deeper and produce a stronger, more vibrant lawn.

Aerating helps alleviate soil compaction. Compacted soils have too many solid particles in a space, which prevents proper circulation of air, water and nutrients within the soil. Excess lawn thatch or heavy organic debris buried under the grass surface can also starve the roots from these essential elements.

So when is the right time to get this aeration done? These next six to eight weeks leading up to the spring season, when grass begins to grow again, is a good time to aerate.

The two main aeration tools are the spike aerator and a plug aerator. The spike aerator poke holes in the ground with a solid piece of metal. Plug aerators remove a core or plug of grass and soil from the lawn. Most landscaping companies and horticulturists recommend the use of the plug aerator. The machines can be rented or you can have a lawn care service aerate for you. After aerating, it's always a good idea to apply about a half-inch of compost over the aerated yard. The compost fills in the holes left by the plug aerator and brings organic materials into the root zone.

If you have noticed that your turfgrass isn't looking its best or that water has difficulty penetrating through the soil surface, it may be time to aerate your lawn. Lawns with clay soils that get a lot of foot traffic typically require aeration more often as they become compacted over time. Here's a great tip to check to see if your yard needs to be aerated.

Using a shovel, dig a square-foot section of grass about six inches deep and take a look at it. If the grass roots don't extend further than two inches deep into the soil, your lawn would benefit from aeration.

If you plan to aerate your own yard, here are a few helpful tips to get the job done.

- Before you get started, make sure the soil is moist enough. There's nothing more frustrating than trying to aerate soil that is bone dry. Aerating the day after a rain shower or watering your lawn the day before is advised.

- Most aeration machines cover only a small percentage of soil surface per pass, so make multiple passes over the most compacted areas. Save resources (and your energy) by leaving unaffected areas alone.

- The soil plugs can be left on the ground after aeration and allowed to decompose. Or, you can rake them into piles to throw in the compost bin. However, this isn't necessary as it should take about two to four weeks for the soil cores to break down naturally. Sprinkle compost (sand or peat moss can be used instead of compost) over the lawn to fill in the holes.

- An aeration myth is that if you apply a pre-emergent herbicide on your lawn in the spring, aerating your lawn will destroy the herbicide "barrier." This is not true — research shows that aeration will not affect crabgrass control or weed prevention.

After aerating, it's important to continue appropriate lawn care practices.

Aerating will help you save water over the spring and summer seasons. Instead of running off or only penetrating a few inches, water will be better absorbed in an aerated yard. That makes your entire landscape and your water bill happier.

### Did you know...

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, outdoor water use varies greatly depending upon geographic location. In dry climates such as that in the Trinity Glen Rose District, a household's outdoor water use can be as high as 60 percent. Some experts estimate that as much as 50% of that irrigation water is wasted due to inefficient watering techniques, wind and evaporation.



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Gastroenterology



**Diego Marines, MD**  
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Bariatric and General Surgery

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# Memorial Creek Estates Bulletin

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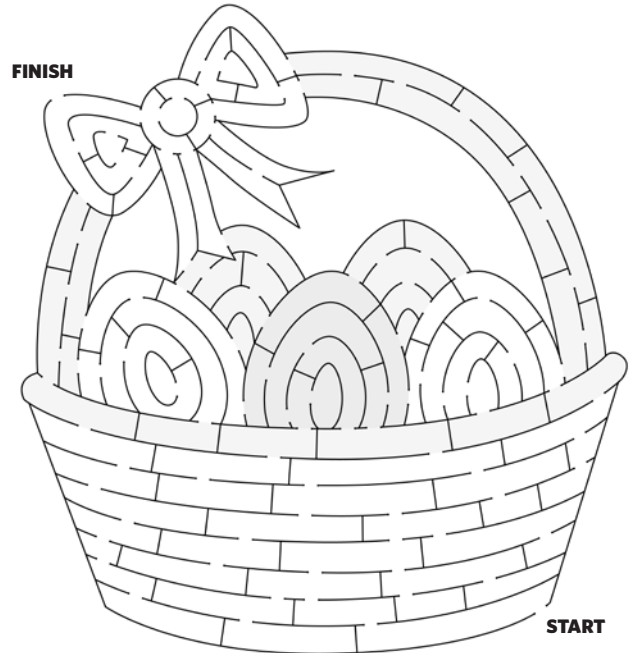
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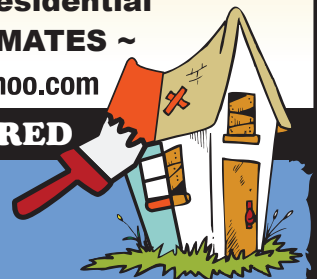
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## Blessings for Food Pantry and Children: Messiah Lutheran's Community Garden

Why are people growing little plants under lights in their dining room? Why are other people growing 35 sweet potatoes in pots on their porch? It might seem suspicious or odd, but these people are getting ready for the spring planting at Messiah Lutheran's Community Garden.

Mike Strickler notes, "It is awesome to be part of this team project. Besides delighting in God's creation, we donate these vegetables and fruits to Cypress Assistance Ministries (CAM). We recognized a need for fresh produce for those who are less fortunate and decided to use our varied talents to make a difference." In the past year, over 365 lbs. of fresh produce were donated.

Imagine the weight of crates filled with produce or the smell of cilantro filling the car. When Diana and Mike Kalb witnessed these deliveries to CAM, they were filled with pride and joy. They understood the hard work of preparation, planting, and harvesting that had been involved.

Henry Lombrana, the Director of the Food Pantry at CAM, notes that clients love having fresh produce, instead of only canned goods. This option is not available at some other food pantries. Fortunately, CAM's partners like Messiah Lutheran and some local grocery stores provide fresh vegetables and fruits, which are otherwise too expensive for a limited budget. Also, CAM has "Special Delivery" clients (mostly seniors or individuals with disabilities) who appreciate receiving fresh produce. These items are a God-send, especially if they are on low-

sodium or low-sugar diets and cannot use most of the canned goods at the food pantry.

Gardening also evokes good memories of working with soil, mulch, and plants for many people. If you like getting your hands dirty, come and join us in tending to God's creation. If you want to learn more about gardening, take some free classes from our master gardener, Ron Richter, and maybe make small plots in your own yard. These classes are offered on a regular basis.

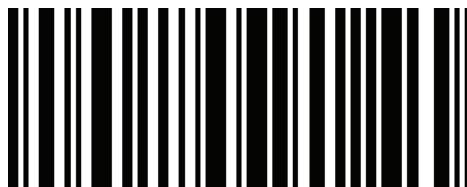
Messiah's Chrysalis Preschool has their own bed in the Community Garden, and Messiah members have developed a preschool curriculum, which passes on the legacy of gardening. They really like being outside and having hands-on learning. They are excited to work their own plot, water the plants, and harvest the goods. Plus, the children get to taste different varieties of vegetables and to take a baggie of delicious home-grown produce to share with their families. Given that a theme this summer is "Garden to Table," some kids might be imagining their own garden one day!

Gardening is special in so many different ways. Messiah Lutheran is deeply grateful to connect with God's creation and care for God's people with their Community Garden.

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