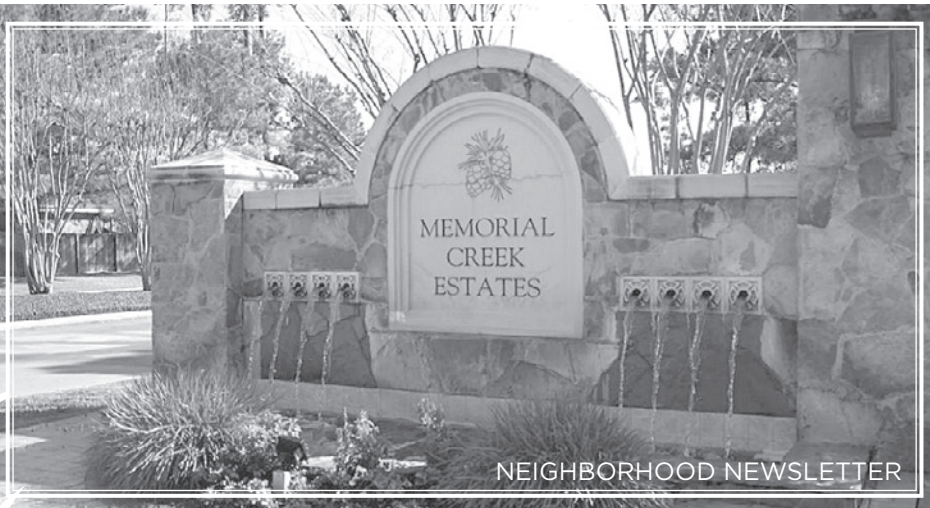


THE MEMORIAL CREEK ESTATES

Bulletin



Memorial Creek Estates *Featured Family*



Pictured are (L to R): Cory and Erin and their kiddos, Rainer and Channing, Jade, and Beth and Sam.

This month's featured family, the Lopez family, include family members, Sam and Beth, and their children, Erin and Jade.

The Lopez family moved to Memorial Creek Estates in December of 2000, so they are one of the "original" home owners and founding members of our community.

Sam and Beth are both very active church members of the Champions Forest Baptist Church and very proud grandparents off Rainer and Channing, children of Erin and her husband, Cory. You can find Sam and Beth at Rainer's basketball games or watching Rainer playing golf for Normangee High School. Sam and Beth can also be seen at Channing's barrel racing events. Additionally,

Channing is a team member for a ranch rodeo club.

Sam and Beth's daughter, Jade, works at a local school district as the PEIMS analyst, while Sam is the operations manager for a glass company and Beth is a speech pathologist. Very busy family doing wonderful family activities!

The Lopez family is also this month's Yard of the Month award winners, and Beth shared that the entire family, she and Sam, kids, and grandkiddos, all pitched in over the holidays for an intense yard maintenance day, and it really shows!

Be sure to say hi to the Lopez family as you walk around the neighborhood and congratulate them on their yard efforts!

Memorial Creek Estates Bulletin

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

First Service Residential..... contactus.tx@fsresidential.com
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Kurt Gooslsbee..... Board Member
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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*

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Memorial Creek Estates Yard of the Month Selections

It is the time of the year when our yards become dull with no growth or color as we wait for spring to arrive. However, there are some homeowners who utilize plants that flower throughout the year, such as the knock-out roses, cyclamen, and snapdragons, and other homeowners have selected shrubs and trees that maintain color and leaves.



This month's Yard of the Month selections include a variety of flowering and non-flowering landscapes. The Yard of the Month family, the Lopez family (see Featured Family), utilizes a variety of plants, differing colors, and interesting shapes in their yard's landscape. The Lopez yard is a good example of a well-maintained yard with trimmed hedges and how the addition of elements, such as rocks in a flower bed, can make a yard more appealing. BTW, the Lopez family shared that it was indeed a family effort in maintain the yard.

Congratulations to the Lopez family for doing a great job on their yard!

The first Yard of the Month, Honorable Mention, belongs to Rohit and Kavitha. Rohit and Kavitha have used a unique design in their front yard that includes a feature flower bed with an interesting display of plants and colors that changes depending on the season of the year. The flower bed oftentimes includes flowering plants, contrasting ground cover, and of course, the rock wall surrounding the flower bed. And, Rohit and Kavitha's yard is also well-maintained throughout the year.

Congratulations on a job well done!

And the second Yard of the Month-Honorable Mention is awarded to the homeowners on Memorial Hills Drive. The yard is very symmetrical in the plant arrangements, and demonstrates how well-arranged and maintained plants present a very

(Continued on Page 3)



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

(Continued from Page 2)



Robit & Kavitha's Yard

appealing yard. And, the family also utilizes rocks in both the flower beds along the front of the house as well as around the trees. Another good example of how a yard can be very attractive without flowering plants.

Congratulations!



Homeowners on Memorial Hills Drive's Yard

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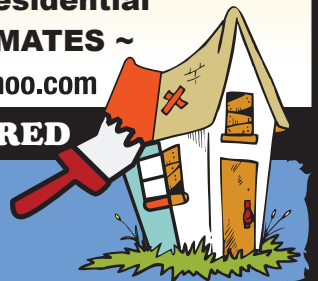
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Become a Host Family - FAQs

What does hosting mean? Hosting means you open your heart and home to a teenager from another country. You provide the same loving, caring environment for them as you do a member of your own family.

What kinds of families are acceptable? We accept many types of families: single parent families, families with children of any age, childless families and families with grown children.

What is the host family responsible for? The host family is responsible of providing three meals a day, registering the student in school, a separate bed and a quiet place to study. The STSF local LC will obtain the signed school acceptance form prior to the student's arrive to the country.

What happens if the student is ill or in an accident? Our students have their own medical insurance. Each student should have an ID card and claim forms before they arrive. STSF will help with the filing of claims.

What about spending money? The student's natural parents agree to send adequate spending money. This money should be enough for clothing, social activities, trips, school expenses, and telephone calls to their home country. Ideally, students will already have a bank account when they come over that they can access with an ATM card. Host Families can also assist their students in setting up savings or teen account.

Are we supposed to show them America? Trips are organized and available to the students through their Regional Directors or through an STSF approved travel organization. Keep in mind that this is an academic program with opportunities for travel for students who are meeting academic standards. RDs also sponsor trips for students. More information about these trips will be given throughout the year.

What is expected of the exchange student? Our students are here on an academic program. This means, they must attend all of their classes, participate in class and maintain at least a C or above in each class. The student has an orientation that explains the rules they agree to abide by. These include obeying all local, state and federal laws. They may be immediately dismissed from the program and sent home for violation of these laws. They are expected to follow host family rules concerning family responsibilities such as chores. They must also obey curfews established by the host family.

What is the length of stay? Most of our students arrive in august for a 10 month academic stay. They must return to their home country 7 to 10 days after the last day of school. These are a few students who only come for a semester. Some arrive in January and stay until December. How do you match students to Host Families? We try to find students whose hobbies and interest match the family members. We look for common interest in the arts, sports, and religious involvement. The host Family may request a student from a country they have special interest in. We try and match as much as possible to ensure a successful experience.

Are Host Families paid to host? No, but host families receive a \$50.00 tax deduction (Charitable Contribution) per month for each month the students live with you.

What are the rewards of hosting? Your family gains a new family member. The relationship that evolves throughout your year as a host parent will last a lifetime. The focus of this program is to have host families and students learn from each other.

If you are interested in hosting, please contact Vicki Odom at 832-455-7881 or vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com.



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Memorial Creek Estates Bulletin

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Mosquitoes



Mosquitoes can not only be irritating by biting, but they also are able to transmit various diseases to humans and animals. They are known to transmit heartworm in dogs and cats, and they can spread encephalitis (including West Nile Virus), Chikungunya, Zika, dengue, yellow fever, malaria and filariasis among humans.

Most female mosquitoes require a blood meal for egg production whereas males feed on nectar and do not bite. Eggs are laid on the surface of water or in dry locations that can be flooded by water. Eggs laid in dry locations can remain dormant under for several months. Eggs hatch into larvae, or wigglers. Mosquito larvae live in water and feed on organic debris or microscopic plants and animals. Larvae molt into pupae which are non-feeding. Mosquito pupae spend the majority of their time at the surface of the water, only moving when disturbed.

Many things can help to reduce mosquito problems around the home. Since three of the four life stages of mosquitoes are in or near water, it is best to eliminate all sources of standing water. Containers such as watering cans, buckets and bottles can turn into mosquito breeding grounds. Water should be drained from birdbaths, gutters, flowerpots and pet dishes at least once a week. Children's wading pools should be emptied of water at least once a week and stored so they cannot collect water when not in use. Tree holes should be filled in with sand or mortar, or drained after each rain. Leaky faucets and pipes located outside should be repaired.

Areas that cannot be drained, such as ponds or large rain collection systems, can be stocked with fish that eat mosquito larvae. Dunks can also be used in these areas. Dunks are a small, donut-shaped

product that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israeliensis*. The donut disrupts the life cycle of the mosquito and is non-toxic to humans, amphibians and fish.

Avoiding outdoor activities during peak mosquito hours is the best method to avoid being bitten. When outside, wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing with long sleeves & long pants. Repellants containing active ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), para-methane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone can be effective to keep mosquitoes from biting when evening activities cannot be rescheduled.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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