



## A NEWSLETTER FOR TOWNE LAKE RESIDENTS

MARCH 2018

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# 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.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY .....	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance .....	911
Constable .....	281-376-3472
Sheriff - Non-emergency .....	713-221-6000
- Burglary & Theft .....	713-967-5770
- Auto Theft .....	281-550-0458
- Homicide/Assault .....	713-967-5810
- Child Abuse .....	713-529-4216
- Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence.....	713-967-5743
- Runaway Unit .....	713-755-7427
Poison Control.....	800-222-1221
Traffic Light Issues .....	713-881-3210

### SCHOOLS

Cypress Fairbanks ISD Administration .....	281-897-4000
Cypress Fairbanks ISD Transportation .....	281-897-4380
Rennell Elementary.....	281-213-1550
Smith Junior High School.....	281-213-1010
Cy-Ranch High School .....	281-373-2300

### UTILITIES

CenterPoint Energy.....	713-659-2111
Reliant Energy.....	713-207-2222
Water - Severn Trent.....	281-646-2383
Waste Management - Trash .....	713-686-6666

### OTHER NUMBERS

Animal Control.....	281-999-3191
Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center.....	281-890-4285
Harris County Health Department .....	713-439-6260
Post Office.....	281-859-9021
Harris County Public Library.....	281-290-3210
Cy-Fair Hospital.....	281-890-4285
North Cypress Medical Center.....	832-912-3500

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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### ARTICLE INFO

The *Tribune* is mailed monthly to all Towne Lake residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to submit information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

To submit an article for consideration please email it to [townelake@peelinc.com](mailto:townelake@peelinc.com). The deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue.

## TACOS FOR TOTS

*Submitted by Juan Lozano*

Fairfield's Juan & Yadira Lozano Family will be hosting their 4th annual World Down Syndrome Awareness Day at their restaurant Tacoland. Free face painting and balloon artist will be at Tacoland 3pm-4pm. Free meal all day to any down syndrome friend, and 20% discount for their families. Any kid that come wearing silly socks get a free toy and a free taco, adults wearing silly socks get a free taco.

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Hurricane Harvey, human trafficking, domestic violence, war, and crime.

Proceeds benefit Shield Bearer, a 501(c)3 nonprofit offering professional counseling services and programs for victims of crime, abuse, human trafficking and more. To find out more, visit shieldbearer.org or call (281) 894-7222.



Join Shield Bearer for the the 3rd Annual Running for Hearts 5K Family Fun Run and Walk on April 7, 2018 at Windwood Church. Enjoy a fun family morning and help local families affected by the trauma of Hurricane Harvey, human trafficking, crime, war, domestic violence, and more. Registration is open now at [shieldbearer.org/5K](http://shieldbearer.org/5K).



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## JUST ADD WATER

It's hard not to think about water. Just how much water are you using? Is it more or less than your neighbors?

In our community, water usage varies greatly by season. In the hotter, summer months more people are running their sprinklers and filling their swimming pools.

Did you know the typical 14 X 28 ft. pool holds 16,000 – 18,000 gallons? Larger pools can hold double that amount. Don't forget about that irrigation system. Watering your ½ acre lot four times a week can use 45,000 gallons a month, or more.

Inside your home, your typical family of four uses 240-320 gallons per day! According to Texas A&M, the largest water users are the shower, clothes washer and toilets, accounting for about two-thirds of the water used in an average household. Toilets use up to 27% of the household water supply while clothes washers use 20.9% and showers account for 17.3%. Faucets account for about 15.3% and leaks account for 13.8% of a family's water use. Dishwashers, baths, and other account for the remaining water use. Assuming you have a new water saving showerhead, a four-minute shower uses about 8 gallons of water; older showerheads run at 5 gallons or more per minute. Washing machines can use anywhere from 20-57 gallons

per load. Front-loaders tend to use less water and some new high efficiency machines use not only 40-50% less water but less electricity too. Do you know how much water your machine uses per load?

Let's talk about toilets. Older toilets can use 3-7 gallons per flush; newer models are less than half of that. No matter what the model, if its leaking, it's costing you money. A moderate toilet leak will generally waste 6,000 gallons of water a month – that's \$50-\$70 depending on rates! If it's just a flapper or float that needs replacing, it will cost you around \$3 at your nearest home improvement store. A simple and quick way to determine if your toilet is leaking is to insert a couple drops of food coloring into the tank and don't flush your toilet for 20-30 minutes. Then, check to see if there is color in the toilet bowl. If there is, then you have a running toilet leak. More serious problems should be addressed by a licensed plumber.

Lastly, don't dismiss that pesky leaking faucet. One faucet leaking at a very typical rate of 10 drips per minute, is wasting close to a gallon of water per day. Got a fast drip going? A faucet or showerhead that drips 60 drips per minute wastes 5 gallons of water a day. That's 2,082 gallons per year.

No one wants to be seen as the neighbor who wastes water, especially when your water provider may issue voluntary and/or

*(Continued on Page 5)*

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mandatory rules about water usage during the upcoming summer months. It's always nice to be as eco-friendly as possible, and understanding your water usage often results in savings on your home water bills.

**For more information:**

- <https://water.tamu.edu/save-water-at-home/> (TAMU Water Education Network)
- <https://water.usgs.gov/edu/activity-drip.html> (Faucet drip calculator)
- <http://www.severntrentservices.com/uploads/how%20much%20water%20does%20my%20irrigation%20system%20use.pdf> (irrigation system usage)



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## Register for Local Senate District Democratic Convention

The 2018 Senate District 17 (Harris County) and Senate District 7 Democratic Convention will be held on Saturday, March 24th at Northbrook High School (Spring Branch ISD), located at 1 Raider Circle South, Houston TX, 77080. (Senate District 17 and Senate District 7 will be holding a joint convention).

Registration/Check-in starts at 8:00 am with a Call-to-Order at 9:00 am. The Convention is expected to adjourn at 3:00 pm. **The Convention is free and open to ALL Democrats but it is important that you pre-register for the convention. To register, visit [TexasDemocraticConvention.com](http://TexasDemocraticConvention.com).**

The Senate District Conventions are held every two years in preparation for the Texas Democratic Convention (to be held June 21-23 in Fort Worth). The purpose of the Senate District Convention will be to: Select delegates to the State Convention; Pass Resolutions that will be forwarded to the State Convention for possible inclusion in the Party Platform; Meet your fellow Democratic activists in your precinct and neighborhood; Hear from Democratic candidates and elected officials.

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Do you know of someone who has trouble putting food on the table? Maybe their employment was suddenly terminated; maybe it's a choice between medications or food; for whatever reason a family can find themselves in a situation where they need a little help.

Fountain of Life Church of God on Mueschke Road runs a food pantry on Mondays from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm and the only requirement is that the client should live in zip code 77433 and west of Skinner 77429. For more information, contact 281-373-9337. Food donations and volunteers are also greatly appreciated.

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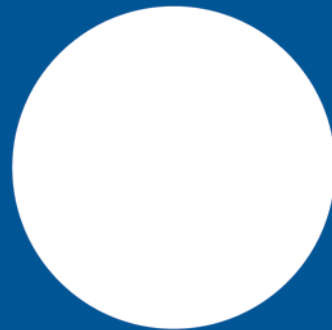
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