



VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3

A NEWSLETTER FOR VILLAGES OF NORTHPOINTE

MARCH 2018

# VILLAGES OF NORTHPOINTE SPRING GARAGE SALE

**FRIDAY, MARCH 16 AND SATURDAY, MARCH 17  
FROM 8 AM TO 3 PM. RAIN OR SHINE**

For those new to this event, the community garage sale is organized by residents in the neighborhood & supported by the Villages of Northpointe Board of Directors and Chaparral Management. The sale of your items takes place at your own place of residence. Each participant can be open both days or one day and stay open longer or shorter than scheduled.

To get the flow of traffic to your location in Village of Northpointe area, you will be responsible to put sign to direct them by putting your address and arrow on it. You can put them at the main point to your address either on Northpointe Blvd or Northpointe Terrace Dr., etc. and closer to your address. You are also responsible for removing any signs you use after the garage sale is over.

You may want to price your stuff for your sales in order to sell it faster. Especially if you don't want to pack it up.

If you have any questions, please email us at [jrpivonka@yahoo.com](mailto:jrpivonka@yahoo.com) or phone No. 832-698-2055. Janice and Franklin Pivonka.



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Villages of Northpointe Security Director <b>Andy Elmore</b> .....	hit02@scbglobal.net
Waste Management .....	281-376-8802
Centerpoint Energy .....	713-207-2222
Tomball Post Office.....	281-516-0513
Harris County MUD #281 (water and recycling).....	281-376-8802
Harris County Constable Precinct #4 <b>24-hour Dispatch</b> .....	281-376-3472
Villages of Northpointe Patrol Officer <b>Deputy Kelly</b> .....	281-376-3472

### SCHOOLS

Tomball Independent School District.....	<a href="http://www.tomballisd.net">www.tomballisd.net</a>
Canyon Pointe Elementary.....	281-357-3122
NorthPointe Intermediate .....	281-357-3020
Willow Wood Junior High .....	281-357-3030
Tomball High School .....	281-357-3220
Tomball Memorial High School .....	281-357-3230

### TAX ENTITIES:

Tomball ISD Tax Office .....	281-357-3100
<i><a href="http://www.tomballisd.net">www.tomballisd.net</a> and follow the link to the Tax Office</i>	
MUD #281 & NorthPointe WCID .....	713-462-8906
<i><a href="http://www.wheelerassoc.com">www.wheelerassoc.com</a></i>	
Harris County Appraisal District.....	713-957-7800
<i><a href="http://www.hcad.org">www.hcad.org</a></i>	
Electric Company Choices .....	866-7974839
<i><a href="http://www.powertochoose.org">www.powertochoose.org</a></i>	

## NEWSLETTER INFO

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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 pokes 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

*(Continued on Page 4)*

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\*SOURCE: [www.RealSatisfied.com](http://www.RealSatisfied.com)

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# THE COMPASS

(Continued from Page 2)

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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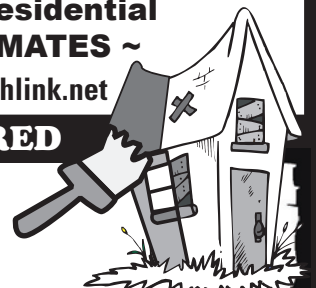
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## JUST ADD WATER

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 floater 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 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.

## TACOS FOR TOTS

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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## SQUIRRELS

*By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center*

What do these three words have in common—grey, fox and flyer? If you guessed they are all in the squirrel family, you would be correct. Squirrels are the most widely known and recognized of mammals and inhabit all continents except Antarctica and Australia.

Squirrels have 4 front teeth, two on top and two on the bottom, that continue to grow throughout their lives. Constant gnawing helps to keep them short and sharp.

At TWRC Wildlife Center, there are two non-releasable grey squirrels that are used as Animal Ambassadors. These squirrels don't have access to the outdoors so TWRC must provide them with materials they would find in the wild to keep their teeth trimmed. One of the squirrels has a malocclusion, the result of a fall when he was a baby. Because of the injury, we must file his teeth every month. If not done, it would eventually cause his death because he would be unable to eat.

### Grey Squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

- Predominantly grey in color with a whitish belly.
- They are about 14 to 20 inches long with a 7 to 10 inch tail.
- They have 22 teeth.
- Tend to give birth twice a year.

### Fox Squirrels (*Sciurus niger*)

- This is the largest tree squirrel.
- They have a reddish-orange belly.
- They are 18-29 inches long not counting their tail which is about a foot long.
- They have 20 teeth.
- Can have two litters per year but typically only have one.

### Flying Squirrels (*Glaucomys volans*)

- There is a membrane, called a patagium, between their front and back legs that allows them to glide from tree to tree. They can glide up to 150 feet.
- They are nocturnal. This is the reason so few people ever see one.
- They are about 9 inches long with a 4 inch tail and weigh about 3 ounces
- Their preferred den sites are holes in stumps and cavities in trees.

Spring babies are already being brought to TWRC Wildlife Center. If you find squirrel babies, TWRC is here to help. During business hours, we're happy to answer your questions over the phone—713-468-TWRC. If it's after hours, go to our website for helpful information: [www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org).

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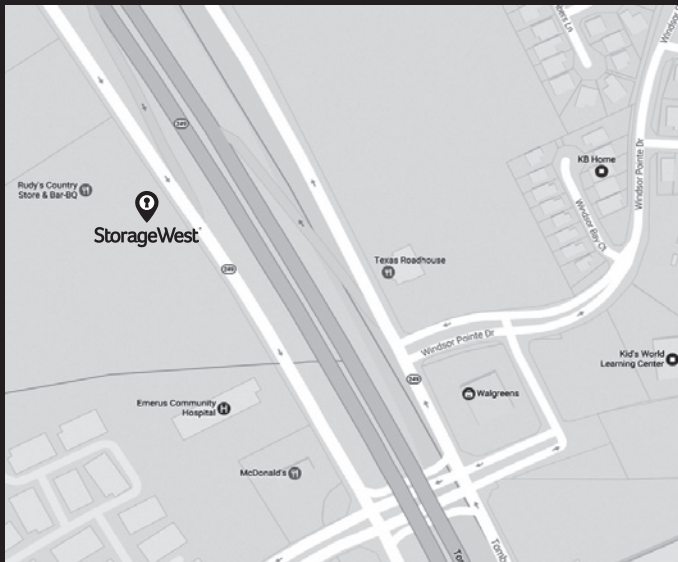
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\*SOURCE: www.RealSatisfied.com



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