



# The Gazette

MARCH 2018  
VOLUME 11 ISSUE 3

## INTRODUCING "GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS"

We are all very fortunate to call Villages of Western Oaks home. But, Villages of Western Oaks is more than just a place to live; it is a vibrant community brimming with family-friendly neighborhoods, chock-full of fascinating, talented people. Our variety is what makes us so both unique and extraordinary. However, sometimes, we get so busy, we lose sight of how interesting and diverse we've become.

We believe that getting to know the people who live nearby will help us create a sense of belonging and shared identity. We have created a column entitled, "Get to Know Your Neighbors" which we hope will strengthen connections, build trust in our wider community, and contribute to a happier neighborhood for everyone.

If you know of a person or a family that you believe is making Villages of Western Oaks a better place to live, please let us know. We would like to introduce them to your neighbors.

## Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

In Texas alone, roughly 1,270,000 caregivers provide an average of 20 hours a week of unpaid care for friends and loved ones. Caregiving is a demanding undertaking and results in high levels of stress. One core service of Alzheimer's Texas is to provide support to caregivers through volunteer facilitated support groups.

"These groups educate and inform participants about dementia and help caregivers develop methods and skills to solve problems," says Christian Wells, President of Alzheimer's Texas. "They encourage caregivers to maintain their own personal, physical and emotional health as well as providing peer guidance on how to care for the person with dementia."

At 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of every month, caregivers in the Austin area can gather at Tarrytown Methodist to share their experiences in a safe, supportive environment. Meetings last about an hour and there is no charge to attend.

"We provide a safe, confidential space for caregivers to share what only other caregivers might understand," says Barbara Wiederaenders, facilitator at Tarrytown Methodist. "The mutual trust is precious and supportive."

### Event Details:

**When:** 3rd Tuesday of Every Month, at 7:00 pm

**Where:** Tarrytown Methodist  
2601 Exposition, Room 227  
Austin, TX 78703

**Contact:** Barbara Wiederaenders, (512) 451-0684 or  
(512) 845-6117

To find out more information about this program, Alzheimer's disease or Alzheimer's Texas, email [vcardenas@TXAlz.org](mailto:vcardenas@TXAlz.org) or call (512) 241-0420.

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Ambulance.....	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-0845

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Kiker.....	512-414-2584
Mills .....	512-841-2400
Patton .....	512-414-1780
Middle	
Bailey.....	512-414-4990
Small.....	512-841-6700
Gorzycki .....	512-841-8600
High School	
Austin .....	512-414-2505
Bowie.....	512-414-5247

### UTILITIES

Water/Wastewater	
City of Austin.....	512-972-0101
City of Austin (billing) .....	512-494-9400
Emergency .....	512-972-1000
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service .....	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency.....	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing.....	512-219-2602
Problems .....	512-219-2628
ATT/SBC Telephone	
New Service .....	1-800-288-2020
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Stop Sign Missing/Damaged .....	512-974-2000
Street Light Outage (report pole#).....	512-505-7617

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Article Submissions .....	villagegazette@peelinc.com
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## CHANGE AUSTIN'S FUTURE ON APRIL 19

You have the power to break generational cycles of poverty, trauma and neglect. You can shape the future of a child and our community. That future starts now.

The annual "Learning Starts Here" luncheon, benefiting Mainspring Schools, brings people together to help disadvantaged, full-of-potential kids and their families in Austin.

Join us on Thursday, April 19 to learn about the issues facing Austin's families and children in poverty, celebrate the achievements of the last year and consider how we can help these children in the future.

**What:** Mainspring Schools "Learning Starts Here" Luncheon

**When:** 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 19  
(lunch is served at 11:30)

**Where:** Renaissance Austin Hotel

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Seth Pollak

Dr. Seth Pollak, professor and researcher at the University of Wisconsin, will discuss the role that early experiences in children's lives have on development of brain structure and function, which is a crucial topic for so many children at Mainspring and across Austin.

Backed by years of fascinating research, Dr. Pollak's particular area of interest is how the quantity and quality of early experiences in children's lives influences how they think about and process information. The goal is to understand how developmental change occurs to develop effective prevention and intervention strategies for children most at risk for emotional, learning and behavior problems.

To purchase tickets, visit [www.mainspringschools.org/learning-starts-here-luncheon/](http://www.mainspringschools.org/learning-starts-here-luncheon/)

On behalf of these kids, families and staff, thank you for caring about this important issue.

[www.mainspringschools.org](http://www.mainspringschools.org)

## MARCH GARDENING TO DO LIST

### Plant: ornamental & wildlife

- Annuals: It's a tricky month for annuals since we get hot days. But the soil is still cold and freezes could still arrive. Late: plant cosmos, sunflowers, morning glory, gomphrena but keep an eye on upcoming freezes. Avoid planting caladiums.
- Wildflower transplants: early in month, you can still plant bluebonnet, larkspur, poppy and other transplants.
- Perennials & vines
- Ornamental (clumping) grasses like muhly and Mexican feather grass (late month)
- Trees, shrubs, roses (as soon as possible before heat sets in)

### Plant: herbs

- Nasturtiums, chives, catnip, comfrey, fennel, horseradish, feverfew, oregano, thyme, rosemary, Mexican mint marigold, peppermint, lemongrass (after last freeze)

### Prune

- Roses (early)
- Evergreen shrubs

- Prune dormant perennials and ornamental (clumping) grasses.
- Trees: DO NOT prune red oaks and live oaks unless damaged. Spray immediately with clear varnish.
- No need to apply pruning paint to other trees
- Avoid topping crape myrtles: simply remove sprouts or entire limbs at the trunk.

### Divide/Move

- Dormant perennials, roses, shrubs and trees. Still time, but don't wait!

### Fertilize

- Citrus with high nitrogen fertilizer like Citrus-tone. Fertilize every few weeks through growing season.
- Add compost to beds as you cut back dormant perennials. Fertilize with slow-release granular late in the month or as dormant perennials leaf out
- Add compost around trees and fertilize. Be sure to dig out grass several feet from the trunk, ideally to the drip line of the tree canopy.

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## READY. SET. SUMMER!

YMCA of Austin Camps offer children & teens safe, exciting, and memory-making experiences. At the Y, campers gain a sense of accomplishment, build relationships, and find their sense of belonging.

### Summer Camp Registration Now Open

- For ages 4-14
- Sites in Travis, Hays and Bastrop counties
- 5 days a week
- Financial assistance is available

Spaces Are Limited!

**Register at [AustinYMCA.org/camp](http://AustinYMCA.org/camp)**  
or call Program Services at 512.236.9622



(Continued from Page 3)

- Watch for powdery mildew. Apply a natural fungicide like Serenade.

#### Lawn

- Mow weeds before they set seed. Do not fertilize at this time except with compost!
- Plant other turf late in month once freezes aren't coming

#### Prep

- Add compost to vegetable gardens along with organic fertilizer in prep for more summer crops

- Soil test

#### Other tasks

- Keep floating row cover available; avoid covering plants with plastic
- Mulch, but avoid touching the base of trees and roses
- •WEED!

#### Tips

- When planting, dig hole twice as wide as root ball but no deeper than where it sits in the pot.

- Backfill and water until it sinks in.
- Continue filling in.
- Water again until it sinks in and pack the soil down.
- Mulch.



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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.



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## Heart Gallery of Central Texas



Meet Chasity, 11, she is waiting for a forever family. Chasity is a sweet and kind young girl. She is somewhat shy but likes being around others. She is very comfortable around those who are caring and affectionate toward her. She is very polite and will use 'please', 'thank you', and 'sorry'. Chasity greatly enjoys being outdoors, and she especially likes going to the water park. She loves coloring and showing off her work. Chasity has development, emotional, and learning disabilities and receives special education services. She loves praise and likes to let everyone around know when she is able to accomplish a task. She is working on becoming more independent and pushes towards doing things on her own.

The Heart Gallery of Central Texas, a program of Partnerships for Children, features portraits of Central Texas children in the foster care system who are available for adoption. Working together, our community raises awareness around adoption, foster care and permanency.

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Need a little more elbow room?  
John's new listing is **“Coming Soon!”** at 13429 Madrone Mountain Way in the gated Hills of Texas Estates. Beautiful 1-story, 4 bed, 3 bath, white stone home on 1.49 acres+/- with panoramic and hill country views. Wood floors, game room, professional workshop..loaded! 3 miles from JD's off 1826. Priced in mid **\$500's**.



1525 Ondara—Kevin's investment buyer is **“Contract Pending”** in Avana. Beautiful, brand new 1-story home packed with upgrades. CalAtlantic close-out special 1650 square feet priced at **\$449,560**. No more 1-stories available until August, but we can start building you one now!



6704 Back Bay Lane—John's listing is **“Coming Soon”** in a quiet cul-de-sac. Newmark's sought-after 'Highland' plan with 2 beds and 2 baths downstairs. 2 beds and 1 bath up with HUGE game room looking over the big back yard with towering oaks. Brand new wood floors! Low **\$500's**. Call John for viewing date.



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Kevin has worked with John for over 20 years in real estate. He is an investment expert, commercial broker and buyer specialist. Let's start your portfolio today. **(512) 529-8763**



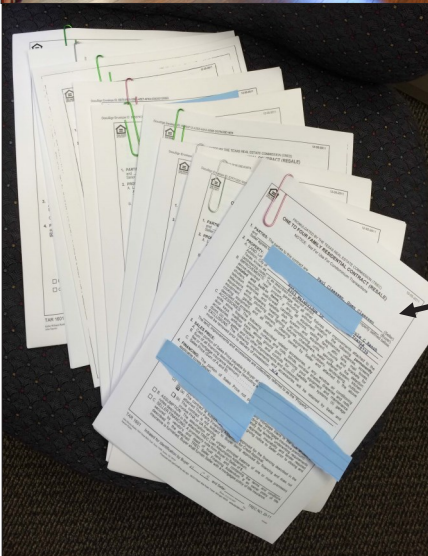
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"John, thanks for the use of your trailer in our move, as it was a huge help in moving 20 years worth of stuff!" Mike and Anna Baker 5212 Corrientes Cove



Hey Southwest Austin! What a difference 2 months makes. In October, November and December we were seeing the market soften quite a bit with home sales slowing and prices fluctuating, depending on the specific property. Buyers had become very choosy in their purchasing and were demanding upgraded and updated (or new) homes for their money. As has followed suit the last few years, January and February is flush with rabid buyers looking for those early spring deals. Timing is of the essence in this present, quick-paced market and your homes should really be listed *and* on the market by late March to take advantage of the early buyers. To the left is what can happen when there is a limited supply of homes and many buyers. We received 13 offers on our listing during a 'February' open house and I reduced it down to the 9 best offers for my clients. It sold for \$35,000. over list price and all parties were thrilled with the smooth transaction. I would love to work for you also. Thanks! John Squires



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