



SPICEWOOD

MARCH 2019

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SPICEWOOD & BRIARCLIFF

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

La Senda Kicks Off Fundraising with Bad Habits

Every year for the past 11 years, a group of devoted women of Spicewood have traveled to Guatemala to a children's orphanage and school, La Senda, in Sumpango, Guatemala. The women are volunteers for a 501c3 non-profit group, The World Our Parish, that supports the orphanage. On April 5, 2019 from 6:00 to 9:30 PM, they will host a fundraiser at the Pavilion across from Bee Creek United Methodist Church, 3000 Bee Creek Rd., in Spicewood. Tickets are for sale now, see below.

Attendees will enjoy live music by the fabulously entertaining band, Kim and Her Bad Habits, and the best BBQ in the Hill Country prepared by the group's men's team. A live auction, featuring five hours of guided fishing on the Texas coast, a party barge on Lake Travis and access to a memorable event center will spice up the evening, as a silent auction hovers in the background, with golf packages, gift certificates, home and vacation items. Tickets are \$60 for adults and \$10 for children, for all the barbeque one can eat, sodas, waters, adult beverages, and desserts.

In Guatemala, the volunteers present engaging activities at "fairs" for the orphanage's children in a very poor country with little social services. They teach English and encourage the enjoyment of learning, as well as organize a serious international "pray for the nations" day, a sports day and a Texas Day.

To pay for the supplies needed to produce it, as well as to provide additional dollars to support the orphanage, the women host a local fundraiser for the orphanage and school and the missionaries who run it, and thus, the April 5 event.

The mission of the group is to create community in its own back yard, while benefitting children in another community, far away in an impoverished land. Two local churches, Bee Creek United Methodist Church and One Chapel Lake Travis, will come alongside them to assist in this effort. To purchase tickets or to donate, contact Susan Douglass at 512-657-0102 or Bertina Schreiber at 512-796-5740.

Mike & the Moonpies Play April 5th, 2019



Mike and the Moonpies got their start in 2007 start at Austin's legendary Hole in the Wall and just keep getting better with every mile they travel (200-shows-plus last year). Under founder Mike Harmeier's guidance, they have evolved from a weekly dance night band to one whose latest album, Steak Night at the Prairie Rose, was recognized by Rolling Stone as a "boot-scooting rave-up that crisscrosses the country music map, as much Bakersfield as it is new Braunfels."

Embraced by crowds of enthusiastic dancers, their music skillfully mixes time-honored country with classic rock and working-man stories as old as time. They'll take the stage at Spicewood Vineyards Event Center at 7 p.m. Friday, April 5. For tickets(\$35), visit www.spicewoodarts.org.

The Spicewood Vineyards Event Center is at 1419 Co.Rd. 409, Spicewood. Spicewood Vineyards wines will be available for purchase, and complimentary coffee, snacks and bottled water offered at intermission. Guests are asked not to bring alcohol into the Vineyards.

The Moonpies are guitarist Catlin Rutherford, drummer Kyle Ponder, bassist Omar Oyoque, steel guitarist Zachary Moulton, and piano, organ and Wurlitzer player John Carbone. Pretty fine musicians themselves, check them out at <https://www.themoonpies.com/>



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Introducing Get to Know Your NEIGHBORS

We are all very fortunate to call Spicewood home. But, Spicewood 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 Spicewood a better place to live, please let us know. We would like to introduce them to your neighbors.

Email Kelly@peelinc.com to be featured in a future issue.

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Aeration Now Can Help Your Spring & 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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Prevent Oak Wilt – Don't Prune Oaks Feb 1st – June 30th

Information provided by Travis County Transportation & Natural Resources

Oak wilt has claimed the lives of thousands of trees in Central Texas and beyond. Majestic oaks play a large role in this region's beauty and identity; it would be hard to imagine the Hill Country without them. They are an iconic part of many local businesses and neighborhoods, providing shade, beauty, and higher property values. Following simple preventive measures can go a long way towards stopping the spread of this destructive disease.

From February through June, avoid all pruning or cutting of oaks – this is the high season for oak wilt transmission. Any wounds that occur from construction, vehicles, wind, etc., should be painted as soon as they're discovered – ideally within ½ hour of being cut – with commercial tree wound dressing or latex paint. That includes freshly cut stumps and surface roots.

Pruning is least risky during the coldest winter days and extended hot periods in mid to late summer. Any time you prune though, the Texas Forest Service recommends painting all wounds and sanitizing pruning equipment between trees using denatured methyl alcohol (shellac thinner), isopropyl alcohol, or a general purpose household disinfectant such as Lysol, Listerine or Pine-Sol. Household bleach is not recommended.

Red oaks, including Spanish (now Buckley) oak, Shumard oak and blackjack oak, are very susceptible to oak wilt and play a key role in the disease's transmission. Oak wilt is caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, which spreads its spores from "fungal mats" that form under the tree's bark. These mats have a sweet, fruity smell that attracts insects,

especially the sap-sucking nitidulid beetle. After feeding and breeding on the fungal mats, these beetles fly away covered in fungal spores. As they visit other oaks, they spread the fungus through open wounds in the bark. The nitidulid beetle is only about the size of a pinhead, but is capable of flying as far as a mile away. While red oaks are the most susceptible to oak wilt, all oaks can become infected.

Fungal mats usually form on standing trees, but can also develop on logs, stumps and fresh firewood cut from infected oaks. Make sure to remove and either burn or bury infected oaks to prevent mats from forming, and never store unseasoned wood from infected trees near healthy oaks.

The second way oak wilt can be transmitted is through the roots. Live oaks tend to grow together in dense mottes with interconnected roots, so the fungus can be transmitted easily among them. Oak wilt is occasionally transmitted through red oak roots as well, but the movement is slower and occurs over shorter distances than with live oaks. Root transmission can be prevented by cutting trenches four feet deep between infected and healthy trees, but by far the best option is to prevent infection in the first place.

So make sure NOT to prune oaks between February 1 and July 1, and ALWAYS paint wounds on oaks no matter what time of year it is. For more information on preventing and treating oak wilt, please visit texasoakwilt.org, the website of The Oak Wilt Information Partnership, a project of the Texas A&M Forest Service, the Forest Health Protection branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin.



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LTlov is currently accepting applications from registered 501c3 charitable organizations for consideration for a 2019 Annual Grant. Grant recipients must serve families residing within the Lake Travis Independent School District boundaries and are welcome to apply for a grant not to exceed \$5000 dollars.

Each year, LTlov grants funds to other non-profits who share our vision and mission of neighbors helping neighbors to overcome limiting circumstances. The money we use to grant funds is collected through a diverse list of individuals, corporations and foundations who believe in the mission of LTlov and trust our organizational efficiency to be good stewards of their donations. In 2018, we funded 10 organizations with a total of \$26,448 dollars, bringing our total grants funding outreach to \$267,424 dollars since 2009.

The LTlov Grants Committee highly recommends submitting your organization's application well before the deadline of March 20th. The Committee will inform applicants within one calendar week if their application is incomplete, thereby affording opportunity to resubmit a completed application before the deadline. Applications that are incomplete on the deadline will be ineligible for consideration. Applications and instructions are available at www.ltlov.org via the Grants Funding Program page.



Pictured, Partners in Hope, an Annual Grant recipient since 2011, helps families by working to improve living conditions, walking through a season of life, and empowering them to transform over time.



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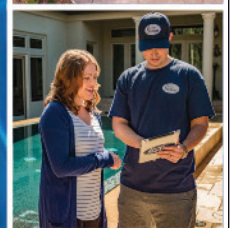
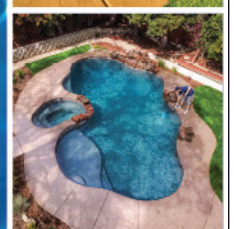
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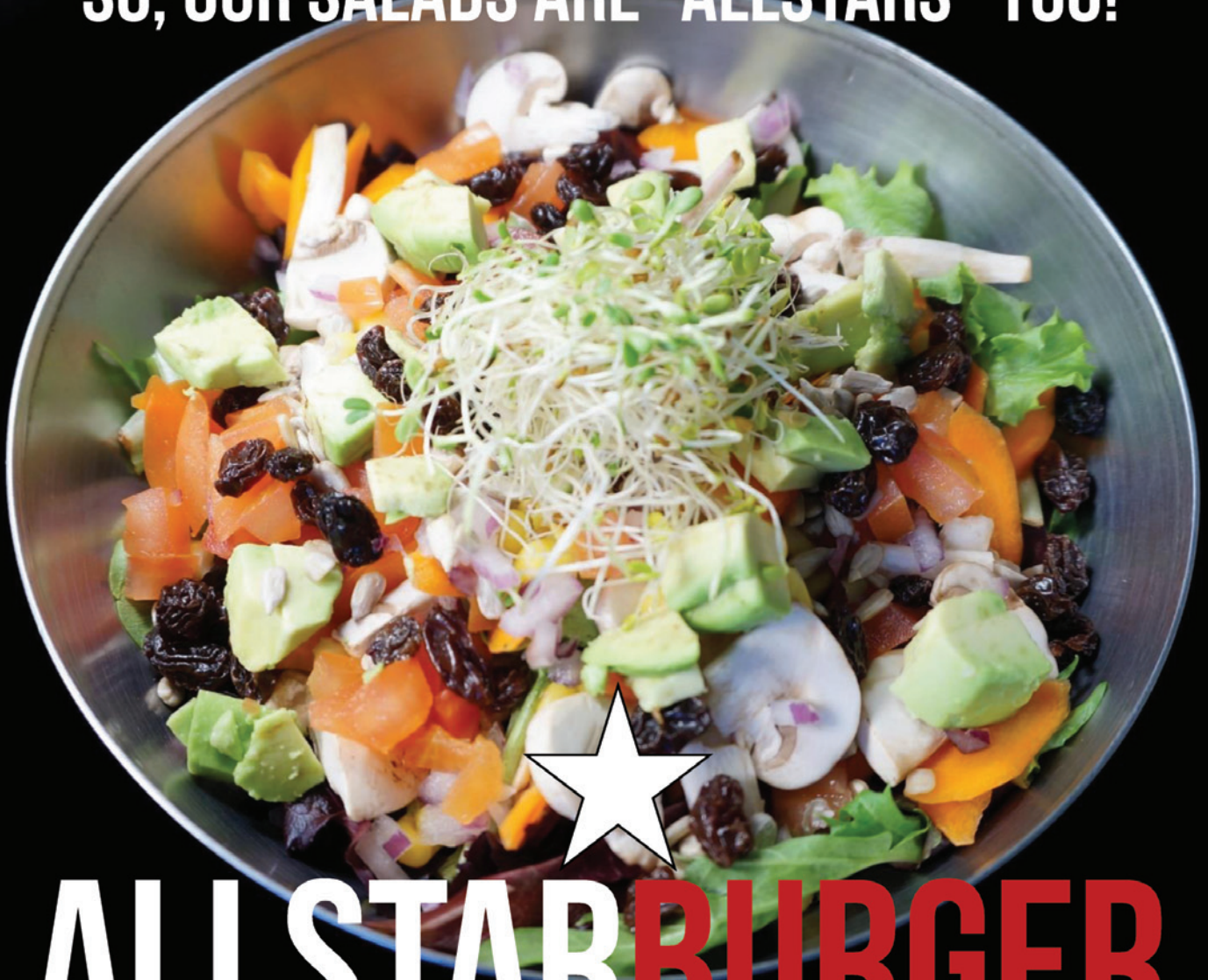
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