

# Waterwood Neighborhood News

## February 2021

### Calendar

- 2/15 WIA Meeting  
9:00am
- 2/19 MUD Meeting
- 3/1 Heavy Trash Pickup

View the entire  
Waterwood Calendar here:  
[CALENDAR](#)

### Links

(Click to follow)

[Waterwood Website:](#)

[Waterwood MUD](#)

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Add your own pictures to our  
new Waterwood Website by  
sending them to:

[Wiaboardsocialmedia  
@gmail.com](mailto:Wiaboardsocialmedia@gmail.com)

**Waterwood Security**  
936-661-2800

**San Jacinto County Sheriff**  
936-653-4367

**WIA Office**  
936-891-7710

### Waterwood Fire Services Fully Operational



At the January 18, 2021 Board meeting, the WIA Board unanimously approved for the Waterwood Volunteer Fire Department to go fully operational. Fire Chief Tim McGrath has notified the San Jacinto Emergency Services District, Point Blank Volunteer Fire Department that the Waterwood fire services will take call-outs effective immediately. It has been over a year since the Waterwood fire services were fully operational with many changes, upgrades, processes and repairs made to resurrect the fire department. Over this past year, Waterwood has had a mutual aid agreement with Point Blank Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire services to Waterwood and this agreement will continue to be in place. Many thanks go to Chief McGrath, the Point Blank Volunteer Fire Department, Bobby McMahon and WIA Director - Liaison to Fire and EMS Anita Paul.

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### Waterwood Disaster Preparedness Plan

Sam Butler

As reported in the January 2021 Waterwood Neighborhood News, the Disaster Preparedness Plan is approved and to update we are now up to 17 Block Captains and these volunteers are in the process of working with residents on their respective blocks to obtain contact information as well as instructions on how to use GroupMe to communicate. If you have not yet been contacted by a block captain to be part of this plan, please make sure to sign up at the WIA office with your contact information. In the event of a disaster in Waterwood we want to be able to contact everyone in Waterwood and we need your help as residents to do that.

The next phase of the plan will be for Boat Captains and ATV Captains to contact residents in their respective areas. In the event of a forced evacuation of Waterwood it may be necessary to travel by boat or ATV to accomplish this. If you have already provided contact information to WIA or your block captain, you do not need to provide separate contact information for this.

As previously reported, we plan on testing this plan in March or April so please take care of your sign up as soon as possible.

If there are any questions, please contact the WIA office (936-891-7710).

# January Sights around Waterwood



Sunrise courtesy of Jeanna Thornton



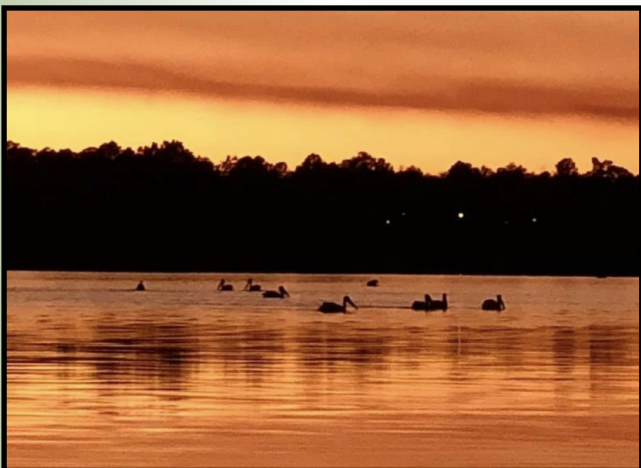
Photo courtesy of Christel Butler



Sunset courtesy of Carole Magee



Photo courtesy of John Charlton



Sunset by Kevin Brashear

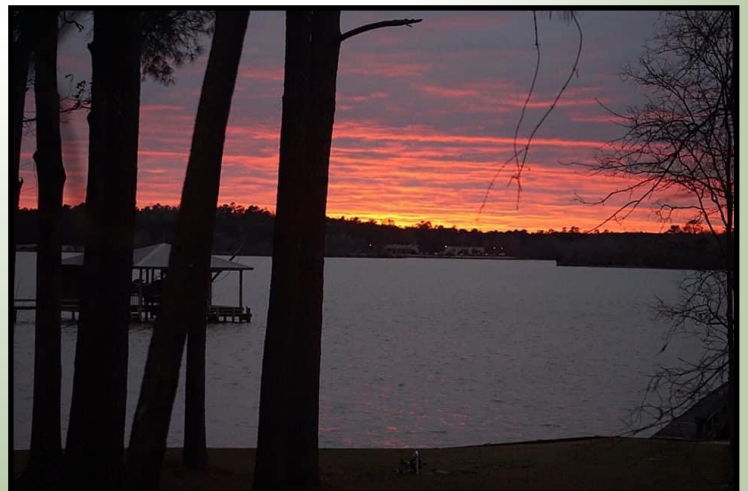
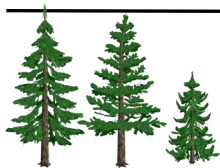


Photo courtesy of Margaret Evirs



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### Waterwood Women's League

Deb Harlow

Hi ladies! We had a pretty small group at the January meeting of WWL Brandy Hertz discussed health and wellness and Carolina Creek Christian Camp provided another great meal! If you didn't attend, you missed a good time.

Thanks so much to everyone that donated coats/sweaters for Onalaska High School. It was a great success and will mean a lot to all recipients! Our February collection is shower supplies for Onalaska High School. The school provides everything needed so children can shower at school when they cannot at home. Travel size is preferred, but any size soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant etc...will be accepted and is greatly appreciated! The donation box is in place at the post office/Windstream building. You can drop off your donations until Feb. 10th or take them to the next meeting. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.

Our next meeting will be held on Feb. 10th at 10:00 a.m., also at Carolina Creek. Although it will be members only this year due to COVID, it should be a great time. We'll have a cooking demo prior to lunch by Chef Lawrence. The menu is prosciutto wrapped pork tenderloin, garlic mashed potatoes, sautéed green beans and heart shaped brownies with chocolate covered strawberries for dessert! Yum 😊 Cost is \$10, cash or check. As always, please RSVP on our FB page, or let myself or Brandy know if you'll be attending.

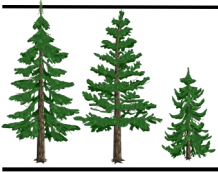
Don't forget to check out our Facebook page for upcoming events. WWL is a 501(c)3 organization. Our main goal is to provide educational scholarships for local students. Please join us, we have a lot of fun, do great things and we'd love to have you!

See all you sweethearts for our Valentine's Day meeting!

Deb Harlow  
Secretary, WWL



Photo by Jeanna Thornton



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**Watch for winged happiness**

### **Eastern Bluebirds build their forever homes in Waterwood**

*By Ruth Massingill*

During gloomy February days, we have our own bluebirds of happiness to instill joy and brilliant color in the landscape. Seeing these harbingers of spring, one cannot help but feel more hopeful. Bluebirds do a lot for us, but they also need our help to thrive.

Bluebirds are in the thrush family and are related to the American Robin. In fact, early settlers called them 'blue robins.' Eastern Bluebirds, which are year-round residents in Texas, are found across eastern North America and as far south as Nicaragua.



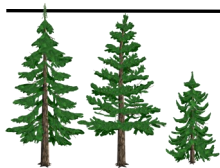
One of the most striking songbirds in the United States, male Eastern Bluebirds are a brilliant royal blue on the back and head, and warm red-brown on the breast. Blue tinges in the wings and tail give the grayer females an elegant look.

Although Eastern Bluebirds are plentiful in Waterwood, they like open areas such as fields and golf courses. They are more likely to be found at the edge of a clearing rather than in the timber. That is because Eastern Bluebirds are ground foragers, perching on limbs or fences and pouncing on caterpillars, beetles, crickets, grasshoppers and spiders. When insects are scarce, they also eat berries and wild fruit, and will visit mealworm feeders, especially when raising their young. They have keen eyesight, spotting their tiny prey from a distance of 60 feet or more.

Mating begins as early as mid-February. Bluebirds make their homes in tree cavities, abandoned woodpecker holes or birdhouses. The male Eastern Bluebird displays at his nest to attract a female. He brings nest material to the hole, goes in and out, and waves his wings while perched above it. That is his contribution to nest building; the female builds the nest and incubates the eggs.

Bluebirds are generally mild mannered and can be intimidated by more assertive bird species. However, when vying for a nest location, male bluebirds get into fierce fights. I have seen them battling in the air and on the ground around a favorite bluebird nest box in my backyard. Once a female enters the nest hole with the victorious male, the pair bond is established, often for several seasons. The female lays 4 to 5 eggs, which hatch in a couple of weeks, and the young birds leave the nest about 20 days later. It is common for pairs to raise two to three broods between February and mid-July.





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They may bring happiness to humans and help control pesky insects, but Eastern Bluebirds have suffered from severe weather, destruction of nesting habitat, and competition from aggressive non-native species such as European Starlings and House Sparrows. Beginning in the 1960s, conservationists concerned about the decline in bluebird populations established bluebird trails and campaigns to provide nest boxes designed to keep out the larger European Starling. House Sparrows, however, are still a major threat, as they can take over a nest and even kill the baby bluebirds.

If your yard has an open area where there is no insecticide use (bluebirds feed almost entirely on insects during the nesting season), consider putting up a nest box to attract your own happy couple. [The North American Bluebird Society](#), whose website has a wealth of information about attracting and protecting bluebirds, recommends mounting nest boxes on a smooth round pipe 5 feet above the ground with a guard to keep predators such as snakes and racoons from raiding eggs and young.

Boxes should be built to precise specifications (there are plans on the NABS site), or they are readily available to purchase. The entrance hole cannot be larger than 1 -1/2 inches, and the box should not have a perch or landing platform. Ventilation is necessary in our hot climate, and a hinged panel is required so the box can be cleaned out and sanitized with a mild bleach solution before each nesting season. Do not treat or paint the inside of the boxes, which can create noxious fumes.



I think these efforts are well worth the reward of seeing joyful flashes of royal blue at my birdbaths, mealworm feeder and nest boxes. No matter how stressful or overcast the day may be, our own bluebirds of happiness are vivid reminders that beauty is always with us!

**Fun fact:** The song, "[Bluebird of Happiness](#)," was a best-selling record on the Billboard charts in the 1940s and was opera star Jan Peerce's signature song. Click on the title to hear the hit version recorded in 1945.

*If you are interested in helping repair and clean out the bluebird nest boxes on the golf course to prepare for nesting season, contact Ruth at: [ruthmassingill@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthmassingill@yahoo.com).*

# Classifieds



Serving Waterwood and the Lake Livingston area for nearly 50 years, **Palmer Real Estate** is ready to meet all your Real Estate needs. Our services include Property Management and Rentals, Home sales, Lot sales, and Acreage sales. We have agents available covering east Texas from Lufkin all the way to Galveston. Look for the big orange sign, come by to just say “Hi” or give us a call and let us guide you through all your Real Estate transactions!

## Waterwood News Classified Ads now being accepted

**Do you want to advertise your business, vacation rental or make a special announcement in our monthly newsletter?**

Send ads to: [News.waterwood@gmail.com](mailto:News.waterwood@gmail.com)

\*Ad payments must be received in the WIA office before publication. Payments can be made in person or mailed to the WIA office at: 62 Waterwood, Huntsville, Texas 77320.

Call WIA office for rates.