

# Waterwood Neighborhood News

May 2021

## Calendar

5-17 WIA Meeting  
5-21 MUD Meeting  
6-7 Heavy Trash Pickup

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

## Nominations Committee

Time is passing quickly so start thinking about a way to serve your community! One of those ways is to serve on our Waterwood Improvement Association Board of Directors. Challenging, fun (at times), informative, and taken very seriously, serving on the WIA Board is a great way to learn more about the community and see the workings of the different committees. If you think you may want to serve on our Board, or know someone who would be a good candidate, give me a call or stop by the Real Estate office and we'll chat! I look forward to hearing from you! Won't be long and we'll be petitioning for candidates.

Melanie Cook

## Links

(Click to follow)

[Waterwood Website:](#)

[Waterwood MUD](#)

[Waterwood Pictures](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

[Click here to place classified ads on the new website.](#)

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 VFD**  
936-755-0960.

**All Waterwood residents, we are in need of everyone to respect YOUR neighborhood.**

Remember Waterwood will only retain it's beauty with your help. This means yards, and property maintained per the covenants. As a reminder, please throw only what is stated into the trash containers.

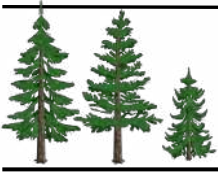
Thanks,  
ACB Chairman  
Michael B. Duffey

## Pool Passes

**Lisa Hayman - Executive Director**



Sunshine and Swimming season is here! Swimming pool passes are available for \$20 at the WIA office between 7:30am - 4:30pm. Please bring last year's pool card in order to receive the 2021 Pool Card. If you do not bring last years pool card, there will be an additional \$75 charge. Please remember payments can now be paid using your credit or debit card!



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

May 2021

## Maintenance

Rick Harlow, Board Member

Hi Folks, I'll be covering three topics for this newsletter; leaf and limb debris, monthly heavy haul and trimming.

We need some cooperation with the leaf and limb debris pick up. This service is designed to remove fallen limbs and bagged leaves.

**Limbs (bundled) are to be no longer than 4 feet and 3 inches in diameter.** Currently we have folks clearing their lots and expecting the residents to flip the disposal bill or they just don't understand our contract. I budgeted \$10,000 to hire clearing of the debris yard (which is over the annual average). We are on pace to exceed \$24,000.



Maintenance (Timberlake) has been instructed not to pick up leaf and limb debris that does not meet the above criteria.

Heavy haul items are picked up on the first Monday of each month. Our maintenance contractor cannot take the heavy haul collection to the San Jacinto County collection station. The collection station is reserved for citizens of San Jacinto County, not commercial entities so the contractor takes the heavy haul items to Leggett. Leggett will not accept TV's, so we can no longer pick-up TV's in the heavy haul. As a citizen of San Jacinto County, you can take TV's to San Jacinto collection on Counts Rd. In Point Blank, Take Hwy. 190 W. 4-5 miles, TR Counts Rd., go 1/4 mi. compactor on left. I'll attach an information sheet from the county.

Last year's tree trimming was very effective. We had a contractor trim the lowest hanging limb areas first which made emergency response folks happy. We don't need low hanging tree limbs shearing off the fire truck water cannon. The worst area was Latrobe. Trimming made it much safer. We also trimmed Pebble Beach, Bay Hill, and all of Whispering Pines 1. This year we will start with all of Green Tree Village and get as much of Whispering Pines 2 as funding allows. The plan is to trim a **minimum** 14 foot clearance over the roadway for 5 miles of roads per year. Since we have 25 miles of roads in Waterwood, we will have a continuous five year cycle. Green Tree and WP2 trimming will start very soon. Please stay clear of the contractor and his equipment. It is an interesting process so watch your children like a hawk!

## COPIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE WIA OFFICE

### RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF SAN JACINTO COUNTY CITIZEN COLLECTION STATIONS

WELCOME to San Jacinto County's Citizens Collection Station operations. This informational bulletin is published so you might better understand the regulations governing the collection and disposal of the County's solid waste. After months of study, it was the recommendation of the Commissioners Court the operations be financed with user fees and limited tax funds. We trust you will benefit from the program.

#### CITIZEN COLLECTION STATIONS HOURS OF OPERATIONS

UNDER State law, Citizen Collection Stations are for the exclusive use of San Jacinto County Residents for household waste disposal. Residents must have a 9-1-1 physical address and proof of residency is required. A current Solid Waste Disposal sticker which may be purchased from any Commissioner's Office will be required. All compactor sites are staffed with a county employee for assistance if needed.

The Citizen Collection Stations will be open the following hours:

LOCATIONS: Point Blank: Monday – Saturday 8:00am – 4:00 pm  
 Shepherd: Monday – Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm Saturday 8:00am – 4:00pm  
 Coldspring: Monday – Saturday 8:00am – 4:00pm  
 Evergreen: Monday – Saturday 8:00am – 4:00pm

All facilities will be closed on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July Fourth, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

#### RATES

Price per Solid Waste Sticker.....	\$100.00
Senior Citizen 65+ and Handicap License Plates or Placard.....	\$75.00
Price for One additional Sticker <b>Only</b> .....	\$10.00
Price for Replacement Sticker.....	\$10.00
Price for bag Stickers.....	\$10.00 for book of 10

**Each Bag of Garbage requires one (1) sticker, if bag is over 55 gals 2 stickers are required**

**All sticker are non-refundable**

Privately owned trash collecting services (businesses) will not be permitted to dump at the compactor stations.

All vehicles must have sticker adhered to windshield upon entering Collection Stations to dispose of loose waste.

Vehicles without adhered windshield stickers may purchase individual bag stickers from Precinct offices.

#### **ALL STICKERS MUST BE ATTACHED TO VEHICLE WINDSHIELD**

Large, bulky, hard to handle items will be priced according to size.

Examples are:

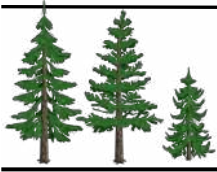
Sofas.....	\$7.00	Television sets.....	\$5.00
Chairs.....	\$5.00	Tables.....	\$5.00
Desk.....	\$6.00	Mattress/box springs.....	\$5.00

#### RECYCLING WASTE

The following items are considered acceptable for recycling: Used Motor oil and filters, Plastics # 1 and # 2 (water bottles and milk bottles), Aluminum (can), Newspapers, cardboard (all cardboard boxes must be broken down), and Metals. Metals include Lawnmowers and Riding lawnmowers, Refrigerators, freezer, A/C Units (free of Freon). Verification of proper removal of Freon must be obtained from a dealer or certified repairman and will be required for disposal of such an item).

#### AUTHORIZED WASTE

The following items are considered to be acceptable household waste and may be deposited in a Citizen Collection Station Container: bagged household garbage, tied at the top, (bagged yard trimmings).



---

# Waterwood Neighborhood News

---

May 2021

---

## **Disaster Preparedness Plan**

Sam Butler, Board Member

The first test of the Waterwood Disaster Preparedness Plan was conducted on Saturday, April 24. When we began the journey to create a disaster preparedness plan for Waterwood, we knew that communication to the residents would be the most difficult part of the plan and the test proved that we still have some communication things to iron out. The look back meeting after the test provided some valuable feedback we can utilize to make communication better. I believe it is important that the residents know what worked and what didn't with this first test. The results of the test are as follows:

The Waterwood Fire Chief sent out 4 GroupMe messages to Block Captains at different times during the test and designated the blocks he wanted to respond. The best part of this is that we had very good responses from most of our Block Captains acknowledging that they received the message. From a percentage standpoint with all 4 tests combined we had a 79% response from our block captains. Improvement is needed in clarifying the language of our message to the block captains and further being specific as to what the block captains are to do when they receive the message as there was some confusion with that. The best/worst part of GroupMe as a communication vehicle is that when you send out a message on GroupMe it goes to all in the group and sometimes you only want some to receive the message. We will continue to work on that issue and add clarification to our messaging so that our block captains are solid on what they are to do. Kudos to these volunteers for your time and effort!

The Waterwood Fire Chief also sent out 4 GroupMe messages to Boat Captains at different times during the test and designated which boat captains he wanted to respond. This is a smaller group (11) than the block captains (19) and the results were better from a percentage point as would be expected. For the Boat Captains that we asked to respond we had a 91% response. We know that we need to have designated areas to pick up residents in Waterwood in the event of an evacuation due to fire so we will work on getting that done. We have 11 boat captains and if all boats are at capacity, we can evacuate 125 people at one time and if necessary, we can drop off passengers in a safe place and return for more.

My thanks to all who participated in this test. We learned a lot from it and will continue to work toward improving the efficiency and communication.

---

## **By-Laws and Covenants**

Melanie Cook, Board Member

The By-laws and Covenants Committee has been continuing to work on incorporating the amendments that were voted on by the community. Our focus is to make subdivision referencing easier and less tedious for everyone. We welcome any feedback or requests from property owners who have suggestions for ease of use or changes to the documents that you may think will benefit the community and its residents.

Melanie Cook



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

May 2021

## Mail

Melanie Cook, Board Member

Because there has been so much talk about the Post Office boxes, I felt it necessary to offer a little history on the matter.

*Phil Palmer had been involved in Waterwood since 4/1/72 and was one of the original surveyors of Waterwood. He retired 3/31/2012 and moved near The Woodlands, one hour from Waterwood. When he first came to Waterwood in 1972 people received their mail at Oakhurst. Cluster boxes were installed outside of the Sales Office area which at that time was at the northeast corner of 980 and the parkway (currently owned by the Ethician Church/George Russell). Waterwood had their own Phone and Cable system as well.*

*Gene Hunziker bought the phone and cable systems and built a building (1985 per SJCAD) to house the equipment which is at the current location. He agreed to build it bigger to house post office boxes and rental space for the real estate and management. Out of that office Mr. Palmer successfully managed 4 home-owner associations, the Waterwood Municipal Utility District, and the Real Estate Company. He did the POB maintenance until Sugarland Telephone Co. bought him out and maintained the POB's. Sugarland then became Alltel and they continued maintenance of the POB's (with the same office person). Alltel moved out of that building and Palmer Management Co. agreed to continue the maintenance of the Post Office Boxes. Alltel sold to Windstream, and Mr. Palmer agreed to continue servicing the post office boxes since Windstream had no desire and **were planning on discontinuing the service**. Mr. Palmer's belief and goal was to avoid any inconveniences or hardships this would have placed on residents. Since then, 3 more cluster boxes of 16 boxes each have been purchased and installed. The installations must be done with a Post Office representative present.*

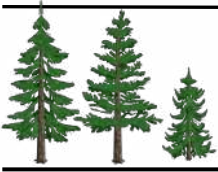
*He charged \$30.00 per year, \$6.00 per key. Our costs are rental of space from Windstream, labor for administration of boxes, new locks & keys as needed, and invoicing/mailling costs. When I took over the maintenance of the boxes in mid-2019 I decided to raise the 2020 rate to \$40 per year and \$10 per key. The rate had not been raised since Mr. Palmer originally took over the maintenance. We will be raising the cost for replacement of lost keys in the future.*

As I tell everyone when they rent a box, our office is first and foremost Real Estate. The boxes are simply a service we provide for our community and are happy to do so. We do our best to make mail delivery and pick-up as easy and painless as possible and will continue to do so. There are times we have no one on the infamous waiting list and other times we have up to 10. No one is obligated (including WIA & USPS) to provide boxes in Waterwood and the post office will not offer or provide home delivery here so that is why we do what we do. If you must be put on a waiting list, or are having issues with the service we provide, we encourage you to check into the Post Offices in Point Blank, Oakhurst, Onalaska, Riverside, or Huntsville. And as always, please feel free to call or stop by if you have any questions.

**For your information...\*Waterwood Improvement Association Protective Covenants state "Any mailboxes shall be located in such areas as designated by the Board and shall be of such design and construction as required by the published guidelines of the Board."**

Sincerely,

Melanie Cook



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

May 2021

WIA Social Committee Invites you to

# Spring Fling

## COMMUNITY POTLUCK LUNCH

**FREE EVENT** *Come meet your neighbors!*

SAT, MAY **15** 11AM - 1PM

*At the Waterwood Pavilion*

**PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE.**

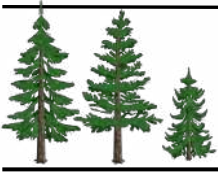
*Gift Card and Prize Buckets will be awarded to 1st and 2nd Place People's Choice Favorite Dish in each of the following categories: Main Dish, Side Dish and Dessert.*

WNGRA will be providing free Hot Dogs  
WIA will serve free Sausage on a Stick

**LIVE DJ | FOOD | GAMES | PRIZES  
BOUNCE HOUSES | FACE PAINTING | FUN!!!**

**COMMUNITY CLUBS will have booths onsite**

Water Yoga The W. I. A. Social Committee will make water yoga available to our community this summer at the community pool. It's a great way to socialize with neighbors and get some exercise at the same time. Water yoga utilizes modified movements and principles of yoga to accommodate people of all fitness levels. Due to its low-impact nature, water yoga is beneficial for everyone, including individuals with physical impairments, such as arthritis, stiff joints, sciatica and obesity. Aquatic exercise typically results in increased strength, mobility, endurance and flexibility. \*There will be two classes per week on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9 A. M.; during June, July and August. \*Four classes are \$30.00/ bi-weekly, payable in advance. \*W. I. A. issued pool passes are required. (Available at W. I. A. office.) \*We will use two pool noodles. Some will be available to use, or you may bring your own. Please call or text Jane Presley at 713-859-9022 to register.



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

## May 2021

### Waterwood Women's League

Deb Harlow

Hi ladies!

If you didn't make it to our April outing, you missed a great time! We didn't have a regular monthly meeting in lieu of a social event. Several ladies carpooled down to the Brookwood Community in Brookshire, Tx for shopping and an exquisite lunch at Brookwood Cafe. We are all hoping our 2021/2022 season will include a fantastic program with more wonderful events!

Our next and final meeting for the season will be held at 10:00 a.m on May 12 at the WIA Pavilion. We are excited to welcome our very own Maryann Readal and The Texas Thyme Unit of The Herb Society of America! The discussion/lesson will be all about the Japanese art of Kokedama. It involves growing plants in a moss-covered ball of soil, wrapped in string or fishing line. Supplies will be available to make your own planter if you choose. It will take 30-45 minutes to make! Bring your gardening gloves! Cost is \$2 to offset the price of plants (some will be herbs) and supplies. Maryann will be available to answer your gardening questions. Please RSVP if you plan to make a planter so Maryann knows what supplies she needs to bring!

Following our meeting and program, we'll have a Potluck Luncheon! You can sign up on Facebook or call one of our officers to let them know if you'll be attending, if you'll be making a planter and what you'll be bringing. We need fruit trays, veggie trays, pasta salad, potato salad, cookies, finger sandwiches etc...Please bring your own drink!

We would like to thank the entire community for the tremendous support to our monthly donation box! Our final collection is for the Pregnancy Center of Huntsville. The box will be in place until May 12. There is a great need for pull-ups, baby wipes, baby wash and lotion, but anything you can give is appreciated! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

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 a lot of great things and we'd love to have you!

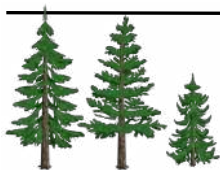
See you on May 12th!

Deb Harlow, Secretary, WWL



Brookwood Community, Brookshire, Texas





# Waterwood Neighborhood News

May 2021

## WNGRA

Al Rincon, Events/Tournaments Chair

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Norman Snapp Memorial Tournament**

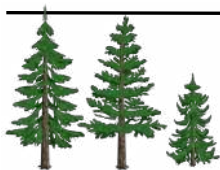
**4 Person Scramble**  
**June 19, 2021 ♦ 10am ♦ \$60+/- Donation**  
**Call (713)560-8972 or alrincon@kw.com**  
**WATERWOOD NATIONAL GOLF & RECREATION ASSOCIATION**




Hello Waterwood! Great News! The WNGRA Norman Snapp Tournament energy is gaining momentum! We're up to 34 Golfers, 11 Hole Sponsors, a Hole-in-One Sponsor, and Two Title Sponsors! We're on track to hit our goals to help maintain/enhance our Golf & Greenspace! Now, it's time to DOUBLE our Golfer Registration. Please help us by registering and/or sharing the link below. Also, if you happen to have a special talent or a favorite adult beverage, we sure could use some themed gift baskets to offer as raffle prizes. We'd love to showcase some of your creative talents at the tournament!

<https://waterwood.perfectgolfevent.com/>





# Waterwood Neighborhood News

May 2021

**Nature's clean-up crew in action**

## Turkey Vultures are uniquely equipped to prevent disease

*By Ruth Massingill*



May might trigger thoughts of spring cleaning for many of us, but our Turkey Vultures are doing year-round cleanup duty with assistance from their scarcer Black Vulture cousins. They do the dirty work, and we have a more sanitary world as a result.

Often scorned and sometimes feared, Turkey Vultures do not deserve their negative image; when you get to know them, they are amazing and amusing birds. Just don't call them buzzards—that is an entirely different bird!

From a distance, Turkey Vultures appear black, but their bodies are actually a deep milk chocolate color with silver on the wings and tail that are visible in flight. They have red featherless heads. The Black Vulture is darker, with a gray head and white-tipped wings.

Turkey Vultures are awkward on the ground but at ease aloft. With a six-foot-wingspan and light body weight (2-4 pounds), they can ride rising columns of warm air and then be carried by those thermals for up to 40 miles. You might see a kettle of vultures circling in a thermal, accompanied by an eagle. The eagles use the vultures to find thermals and take advantage of the uplifting air. As vultures catch thermal updrafts, they take on the appearance of water boiling in a pot – hence the name kettle. Turkey vultures have been reported by aircraft pilots gliding as high as 20,000 feet and soaring for hours without flapping their wings.



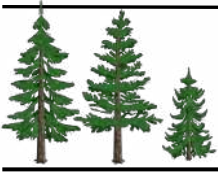
However, when hunting food, Turkey Vultures often fly close to the ground, where their keen sense of smell detects decaying carcasses. Black Vultures cannot smell, so they tag along and when their cousins converge on carrion, they try to drive off the Turkey Vultures and help themselves. Turkey Vultures also have excellent eyesight and can spot dying or recently dead animals from high in the air.

Most of what they eat would make any other animal very sick, but Turkey Vultures have an amazing digestive system and a very strong immune defense. Their stomachs are acidic; vultures can survive eating carcasses infected with botulism, anthrax, cholera or salmonella. Vultures play an important role in keeping our environment cleaner and smelling better. As nature's clean-up crew, they dispose of carrion that would otherwise be a breeding ground for disease.

People once feared vultures could transmit diseases, but recent studies show these disease organisms do not survive passage through a vulture's digestive system. It has also been shown that vultures are immune to botulism. In fact, vulture poop is so high in uric acid that it is a sanitizer.



Continued on next page



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

## May 2021

Turkey vultures rarely if ever kill prey themselves, relying on food from sources such as dumpster diving, roadkill, or washed up fish near bodies of water. They will not ingest extremely rotted carcasses. Turkey Vultures also consume fruits, plant matter, coconut, pumpkin and shoreline vegetation. I recently was visited by a group of six Turkey Vultures who strolled around my front yard, then discovered some cantaloupe rinds I had left in the adjoining field for visiting critters. The Turkey Vultures, who are usually non-confrontational, pushed and shoved to get a bite of the sweet treat.

In addition to their digestive systems, Turkey Vultures are uniquely designed for the dirty work they do. During hot weather, vultures poop on their own feet to cool off and also to kill bacteria accumulated from carrion. They create their own antiseptic rinse for their dirty feet!

Turkey Vultures are often seen standing or perching in a spread-winged stance in sunny locations. This is to dry their wings after damp or rainy nights, warm their bodies after a cool night, or bake off bacteria. Groups of perched vultures are called a wake.

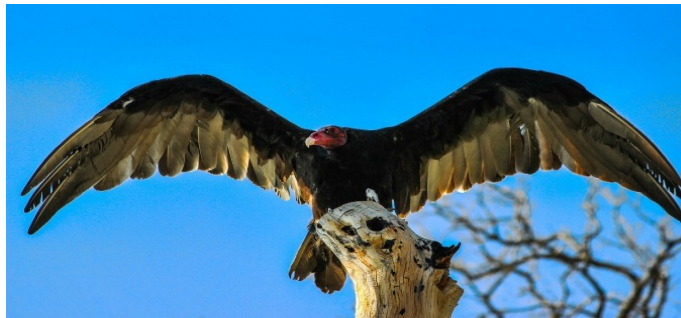
Although they do not prey on living creatures, Turkey Vultures have a number of natural predators, including great horned owls, golden eagles, bald eagles and red-tailed hawks. Opossums, foxes and raccoons prey on Turkey Vultures' eggs.

Turkey Vultures can't even make threatening shrieks to ward off marauders. Since they do not have a syrinx (a bird vocal organ), the only noises they can make are grunts and hisses. The Turkey Vulture's primary form of defense is regurgitating semi-digested meat, a foul-smelling substance that deters most creatures intent on raiding a vulture nest. Because their talons are almost useless for defense, vultures, if threatened while nesting or roosting, either fall over and play dead, or vomit.

Both Turkey and Black Vultures are good parents and community citizens. Males and females take turns incubating eggs, then mom and dad join forces to raise the babies. They even share food with relatives (except perhaps sweet treats like cantaloupe!), and continue feeding the young for months after they have fledged.

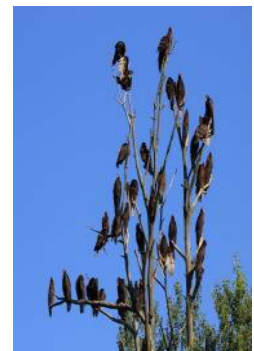
So, the next time you see vultures sitting by the roadside or soaring on an updraft, thank them for all they do to keep our world cleaner and safer.

**Fun Fact:** The turkey vulture's scientific name is *Cathartes aura*, which is Latin for "cleansing breeze."



**Be on The Lookout:** Not all birds can resist disease so readily as the Turkey Vultures. We are currently experiencing an outbreak of salmonella among our finches, especially the pine siskins. Watch for dead birds around your feeders and for sick birds that are puffed up and sluggish. Read how you can help stop the spread of this fatal disease [HERE](#).

If you want to trade vulture stories, you can contact Ruth at: [ruthmassingill@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthmassingill@yahoo.com)



# Classifieds



2011 ACG (AMERICAN CUSTOM GOLF CARS)  
CALIFORNIA ROADSTER

OVER \$20,000 INVESTED. CUSTOM BUILT.  
ONE OF A KIND. SHOW WINNER.

**HERE IN COLUSA.**

\$9,000 obo

waltringler21@gmail.com



**STREET LEGAL 38 mph**



# 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.