

Waterwood Neighborhood News

July 2022

Calendar

7-15 MUD Meeting
7-18 WIA Meeting
8-6 Back to School
Popsicles at the
Pool 1-2PM

Links

(Click to follow)

[Waterwood Website](#)

[Waterwood MUD](#)

[Waterwood Pictures](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

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

Waterwood Security
936-661-2800

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

WIA Office
936-891-7710

Waterwood VFD
936-755-0960.

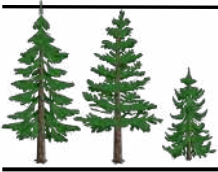
Swimming Pool Rules

With summer upon us more property owners are using the Waterwood swimming pool. Pool users please remember you agreed to abide by the rules you were provided when you received your pool pass. A few rules observed not being followed are:

- Pool users must have a pool pass that is assigned to their family.
- Do not open the gate to let anyone into the pool.
All persons entering the pool must use a pool pass.
- Do not leave the gate open even for a short amount of time.
- No diving or flips into the pool.
- No running within the pool area.
- Food or drinks (even water) are not allowed within 3 feet of the perimeter of the pool.
- No profane language anywhere in the vicinity of the pool, pavilion, or the playground areas.
- Pool users must present a valid pool pass if requested by Waterwood Security or a Waterwood Board Member.

If any of the rules are not followed, your pool pass is subject to suspension. Please remember, the pool, pavilion and playground areas are security camera monitored. These amenities are available to all Waterwood property owners that are current on their HOA fees and/or complaint with all residential policies.

WIA has waterproof maps of Lake Livingston and surrounding communities for sale in the WIA office for only \$5 per map.



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July 2022

Waterwood Disaster Plan Test

Sam Butler, WIA Board Vice President

The second annual test of the Waterwood Disaster Plan was conducted on June 11, 2022. This was the second test of using GroupMe to communicate by text message between the Fire Chief Tim McGrath to the block captains or boat captains down to the Waterwood residents.

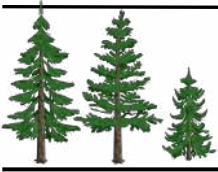
We knew from the outset of developing a disaster plan that communicating emergency messages to our residents would be the most difficult part of the plan and while we improved significantly in reaching more residents than last year, we still were not able to reach everyone in Waterwood which has to be the goal. We did improve significantly in sending clear messages to the block captains and boat captains and their response time back to the Fire Chief was very good. Improvement goals were also met in keeping communication traffic limited back to the Fire Chief. This is very important in the event of a real disaster.

This year's test included an actual boat launch for our boat captains. A GroupMe message went out from the Fire Chief and the boat captains were advised to come by boat to a designated muster point in Waterwood Bay. If a real evacuation notice been given, the boat captains could have rescued 83 residents that day and could have returned to the muster point to rescue an additional 83 residents if necessary.

Primarily because we are not reaching all of our residents, we will continue to pursue different methods of communicating. One of the newest recommendations to consider is to look into the effectiveness of a siren or multiple sirens located in various parts of Waterwood as a warning of an emergency. This idea is in its infancy but it will be researched to determine if it is a more effective method than what we have now.

I would like to thank all of the block captains and boat captains who all worked very hard leading up to our test and for volunteering for such an important role in our community. Many thanks to our Fire Chief Tim McGrath and his wife Aileen for a job well done on test day!

Hopefully we will get through the fire season without anything major but in the meantime please observe the rules concerning a burn ban in San Jacinto County.



Waterwood Neighborhood News

July 2022

Thank you to all our Fireworks Show Sponsors!

Yankee Doodle Dandy \$1,000

The Pabors

Freedom Sponsor \$500

The Culpeppers, The Galassinis , The Princes

Liberty Sponsor \$250

The Butlers, The Hicks

Stars and Stripes Sponsor \$100

**The Davises, The Dicks, The Fletchers, The Harlows,
The Herringtons, The Johnsons, The Nelsons, The Ortizes, The
Kirschner/Stewart, The Ross/Gras, The Turchis, The Walters,
The Wheelers, The Wolks, The Zimmermans, Anonymous**

Patriot Sponsor \$50

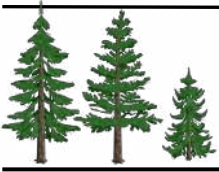
**The Blacks, The Byrds, The Charltons, Stephen Cox, The Fergusons
The Faerbers, Carole Magee, The Mandolas, The Morrells,
(2) Anonymous**

Eagle Sponsor \$25

The Gokas, David Ellis

*This year's show would not have happened without these
very generous neighbors!*

Our community is so grateful for your donations!

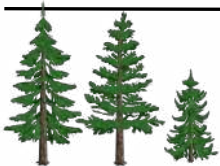


Waterwood Neighborhood News

July 2022

Thanks to everyone who made the 2022 July 4th Celebration a HUGE success!



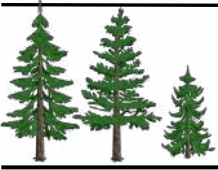


Waterwood Neighborhood News

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Golf Cart Parade!



Congrats to our Patriotic Golf Cart Winners!!!

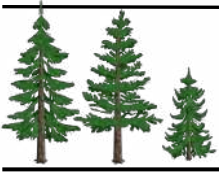


Waterwood Neighborhood News

July 2022



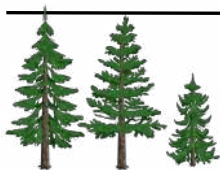
A special thank you to all those who worked hard to help us all have a great time Saturday, July 2nd! Extra special thanks to Greg Riley for the awesome entertainment during the luncheon and Marina, WNGRA for providing a wonderful meal, Waterwood VFD and Security for keeping us safe, WIA and the WIA Social Committee, all the generous residents who donated funding for fireworks, and Rick Harlow, our fireworks show conductor! We appreciate you!!!



Waterwood Neighborhood News

The Beautiful Fireworks display is made possible by generous donations from our WW residents. Donations are accepted year round in the WIA office.





Waterwood Neighborhood News

July 2022

Waterwood VFD

The Waterwood Volunteer Fire Department wants to extend a very heartfelt THANK YOU for your support and contributions to our July 4th Raffle, 50/50 and Koozie sales. We are proud to announce that we raised over \$1,800 to support the departments growing needs; and we had thirteen lucky winners. A special thanks to RL Custom Designs of Huntsville for branding, embroidery, lettering and printing.

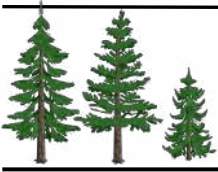
On June 11th we held our second annual Emergency Preparedness drill with Block Captains and Boat Captains. We had fifteen participating Block Captains with an average response time of two minutes. We also had participation by 9 Boat Captains with an average response time of 10 minutes. Excellent work by all involved – especially Sam Butler for his vision. We are exploring several additional avenues to alert all residents of emergency situations and we will keep you informed.

At the June WIA Meeting; the Board approved the rental of a Kubota mini-pumper with 4-wheel drive to assist us with wildland fire response and emergency situations in otherwise unreachable areas. This unit carries water, foam, high pressure capabilities; and has the ability to draft water from any body of water. We proudly displayed the unit at the July 4th Parade and Marina Celebration.

Please continue to be vigilant as we are under a county-wide burn ban. Thank you, again, from all of the volunteers at the Fire Department.

Chief Tim McGrath





Waterwood Neighborhood News

July 2022

Waterwood MUD

Roy Knapp, President

Waterwood MUD District 1 is looking forward to having Precision Utilities as our water maintenance provider beginning July 15. Precision will be taking over operations and billings at this time. Your payments may still be made by mail or on line. All contact information will be in your first bill.

Precision's first official meeting with the board will be July 15th at 3:00 PM in the WIA building

SAVE THE DATE!

Community **B-I-N-G-O**

Sponsored by Waterwood Women's League is returning!

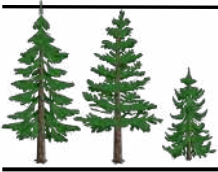
Join us for FUN this fall—October 22, 2022 at the

Waterwood Pavilion from 5:30-9:30 pm.

Hope to see every one turn out to support the

Women's League as they raise money for scholarships for local high school students.





Waterwood Neighborhood News

July 2022

Often heard but seldom seen

Grosbeak cousins are shy visitors with sweet songs

By Ruth Massingill

During a quiet walk in the woods, you might have heard a mellow warbling of sweet whistles, but could not see the melodic bird. If you were lucky, maybe you glimpsed brilliant blue or rosy red feathers.

If so, you likely encountered one of the two kinds of Grosbeaks that visit Waterwood. A sighting of either is a cause for celebration as both the Blue Grosbeaks and the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are beautiful but reclusive. Unlike the Cardinals, which belong to the same family, these two Grosbeaks are not that plentiful and neither bird stays here year-round.

Grosbeak literally means 'large beak' and is given to songbirds from three different families: finches, cardinals and weavers. The Grosbeaks in Waterwood are from the cardinal family. The males of both Blue and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are brightly colored sturdy birds, while the females are more subdued in their coloring. Not surprisingly, Grosbeaks have large powerful beaks for cracking seeds.

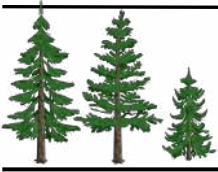
Both are long-distance migrants, but the Rose-breasted Grosbeak migrates through our area twice a year while the Blue Grosbeak sticks around to raise its young during the late spring and summer. The Rose-breasted breed in the northern United States and Canada, then winter in Central and South America. The Blue Grosbeak breeds in the southern U. S. and flies south as far as Panama for the winter. Grosbeaks are long-distance fliers, usually crossing the Gulf of Mexico in a single night and easily traveling 500 miles non-stop.



Male Blue Grosbeak



Female Blue Grosbeak



Waterwood Neighborhood News

July 2022

Blue Grosbeak adult males are a deep, rich blue with a tiny black mask in front of their eyes, chestnut wing bars, and a large black-and-silver beak. By contrast, females are primarily a rich cinnamon-brown and juvenile males are covered in patchy blue-cinnamon feathers with brown wing bars. Adult males are sometimes confused with the similar-colored Indigo Bunting, but the Grosbeak is bigger and has a much larger bill. I saw some Blue Grosbeaks when growing up in deep East Texas, but have not seen one in Waterwood. Although their nesting range covers most of the lower half of the country, spotting one is a rare treat as they are not common.

But Blue Grosbeaks are surely here since they like the loblolly-shortleaf pine forests in eastern Texas and seek out low tangles of vines or briars to build their nests. Males arrive in our area in late spring before the females. Blue Grosbeaks are inconspicuous despite their bright colors, but in the summer males frequently sing their pleasant, rich, warbling songs, often while perched in dense shrubs and small trees. Their versatility is impressive; they might sing more than 650 songs per day to attract a mate.

Each monogamous breeding pair defends a territory as large as 20 acres during nest building and incubation, which they do as a team. They typically raise one or two broods of up to five nestlings each. In the summer, Blue Grosbeaks feed mostly on insects, especially grasshoppers and crickets, but also eat seeds. Before feeding an insect to their nestlings, they remove the head, wings, and most of the legs.

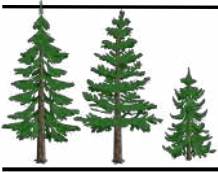


Male Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Female Rose-breasted Grosbeak

The **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, sometimes called "cut-throat" due to its coloration, is similar in size with the same oversized bill as the Blue Grosbeak. Rose-breasted males have black heads and backs, white bellies and red breasts. They also have a flash of red under their wings. Female Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and immature males are brown with lots of streaking and a flash of yellow under their wings. Since they nest further north, the only time we might see them is when they are migrating, either in the early spring or in the autumn. Their song is similar to that of the Blue Grosbeak. Some birders say the Grosbeak sings like a robin that has had opera training. They too tend to hide in tree canopies and are shy around humans.



Waterwood Neighborhood News

July 2022

Attract migrating Rose-breasted Grosbeaks to your feeders with sunflower and safflower seeds as well as raw peanuts. You can also lure them to your yard with berry-producing trees and shrubs such as elderberries, blackberries, raspberries and mulberries. I saw two Rose-breasted males at my feeder last year and will be looking for females as well this autumn and next spring.

The primary predators of Grosbeaks are Cooper's hawks and sharp-shinned hawks. Additionally, Grosbeaks must defend their nests against threats such as blue jays, common grackles, and red and gray squirrels.

Unfortunately, due to their pretty songs and exotic appearance, Grosbeaks are often trapped and sold as cage birds in their wintering range of Central and South America, which negatively affects their populations. Also, as with most bird species, climate change and loss of habitat have led to an overall decline in populations.

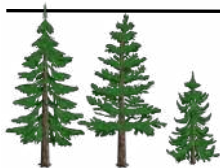
But here in Waterwood, we have all that Grosbeaks need to thrive: thick woodland areas, insects and water from the lake, and an appreciative audience for their extraordinary serenades. Keep your ears open and you may get a rare treat!

Fun Fact: Grosbeaks are heavily parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds, which lay their own eggs in the Grosbeak's nests and leave the raising of their young to the substitute parents. Cowbirds never build nests of their own; they destroy the original eggs or nestlings and lay eggs in the nests of more than 220 species of birds.

Action Alert: Birds are suffering from the heat and drought as much as our plants are. Although birds can get water from the lake, it takes a lot of energy to fly there every time they are thirsty or want a cooling bath. Consider offering shallow bowls or birdbaths of fresh water daily. You will enjoy the show!

Have you seen a Grosbeak in Waterwood?

Share bird stories with Ruth at: ruthmassingill@yahoo.com



Waterwood Neighborhood News

July 2022



American
Heart
Association.



STOP
THE BLEED

Come and learn how to push hard and push fast your way to a CPR certification! Heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in the United States. Early detection and intervention could be the contributing factor to saving a life.

Learn to recognize life threatening bleeding and how to properly intervene. From identifying types of bleeding, packing a wound, to accurate placement of a tourniquet, this hands-on class is a great way to prepare yourself if an emergency arises.

My name is **Kaitlin Cook** and I am the Vice President of the San Jacinto County First Responders. My goal is to get as many SJC citizens educated and trained in CPR and bleeding control. San Jacinto is a very large county, which means it could be a while until help arrives. Take the steps now to educate you and your family on emergency procedures.

Below you will find class descriptions and prices.

CLASSES:

BLS- CPR for Healthcare Providers \$50 per person

Heartsaver CPR AED- CPR course for individuals with little to no medical training who need a completion card for their job. \$50 per person

Family and Friends CPR- This course is a hands-on informative class that does not certify you. You will receive a course completion card at the end. Great for parents, grandparents, kids, and community members. \$20 per person. *Get a group of 10 together and price will go down to \$15 per person*

Stop the Bleed- Free to the public. Max class size is 20 individuals.

Contact Kaitlin Cook by:

Email- sjcfresponders@gmail.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!



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