

Waterwood Neighborhood News

March 2022

Calendar

- 3-7 Heavy Trash Pickup
- 3-18 MUD Meeting
- 3-21 WIA Meeting

Waterwood is turning 50 this year!



*Save the Date for WIA's 50th Birthday
Spring Fling Party on Saturday, April 30th!*

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.

More Upcoming Fun events from the WIA Social Committee:

Horseshoe Tournament

Saturday, April 2nd at 1PM in the WW Pavilion

2 Person Teams. Sign Up Sheets are in the WIA Office.

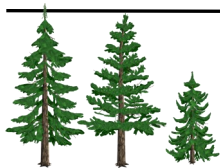
Ice Cream Social

Saturday, June 4th

If you did not have a chance to donate to our 2022 Fireworks Show, it's not too late! We are under our goal and would love to be able to provide the same kind of show that we have all come to love and appreciate each year. If you would like to donate, please stop by the WIA office, drop an envelope in the afterhours mail slot, or mail check to 62 Waterwood. You can also donate by credit card over the phone by calling the WIA office at 936-891-7710.

Your support is greatly appreciated!





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Waterwood Proposals

Larry Maas, WIA President

Membership Vote for Multi-Use Building & Amendments to Residential Policies **- WIA Board of Directors**

The WIA Board of Directors at the February 21, 2022 Board meeting approved two proposals to move forward with a vote of the full membership of the Waterwood property owners. The two proposals approved are as follows:

1. Waterwood Policies on Residential Lots

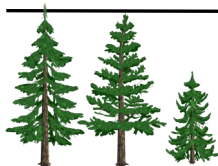
These policies were originally adopted by the WIA Board and recorded with the County Clerk of San Jacinto County in March 2004. The WIA Architectural Control Board (ACB) currently used this document as a quick reference to the governing policies established for Waterwood. The Board is requesting 3 primary changes or additions to the originally approved Policies. These 3 primary changes/additions include:

Article 1 and 2 - Native Growth on Unimproved and Improved Lots: Since this policy was changed in 2018 to allow property owners to remove native growth and trees of any size without ACB approval, several lots have basically been clear cut. This clear cutting has significantly altered the natural wooded appearance of several streets throughout the subdivision. The WIA Board of Directors agreed that the policy should revert back to the original version of the policy that requires ACB approval to remove native growth and trees from any unimproved or improved lot.

Article 6 - Animals: Add the following restriction, "Ownership of livestock or fowl maintained on adjacent, non-Waterwood property is not permitted if livestock or fowl can freely roam onto Waterwood property". The ACB found this addition necessary as some property owners keep livestock or fowl on adjacent property that is not within Waterwood,; but allow the animals to roam freely on theirs' or other's properties.

Article 18 – Vehicle Parking: This policy was changed by vote of the membership in 2018 to allow parking of "boats" on a driveway or side/back yard from May 1 through September 30. The ACB has found that property owners have not adhered to the policy and has required legal action to have non-boat items removed from properties. This has required significant time of the ACB to administer and cos the Association considerable HOA fees to cove the legal costs. It is requested to revert to the original policy to allow "On an infrequent basis, a recreational vehicle, motor home, boat, PWC, or utility trailer to be temporarily parked on the driveway of a lot or adjoining street for up to four (4) consecutive days".

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2. Multi-Use Building

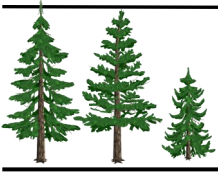
A new postbox area is proposed to handle future growth up to approximately two thousand (2,000) mailboxes. Future growth of the current mail area is extremely limited. The mailboxes are designed in clusters, with each cluster unit containing sixteen (16) mailboxes and two (2) keyed and locked parcel boxes for routine size packages. In addition, the building is designed with a large parcel room. This room will be a monitored, secured room sufficient to handle larger parcels that cannot fit into the locked parcel boxes. Two significant benefits of the proposed mailbox and parcel room is property owners will only use one physical address (no more P.O. Box numbers); the physical home address will be used for both first class mail and parcels and there will be no annual fee.

The two proposed apartment/offices for EMS and Security personnel will be significant upgrades to the areas they currently work and sleep. The EMS personnel currently sleep in a small storeroom in the back of the Waterwood fire station. At this time our ambulance personnel are a male and female (not married or together in a relationship). This housing setup is not sustainable to ensure Waterwood is always serviced by the best available EMS personnel. This storeroom if vacated is well needed storage for the fire department.

Our Security personnel currently work 12 hour shifts, generally three (3) to four (4) days in a row. Their current office space is a small room in the WIA office building. On several occasions (winter storms, extended hours due to manpower shortages, illnesses, etc.) these officers have stayed overnight in the upstairs storage area of the WIA office. Due to the remote location of the subdivision, many of these officers travel significant distances between their homes and Waterwood. This also leads to difficulty in finding officers willing to work in Waterwood.

The recreation/workout room is proposed to have exercise bikes, elliptical machines, tread mills, rowing machines and universal weight lifting equipment. The room will also have a yoga/stretching room.

Ballots will be mailed to every property owner within the next two weeks. The Board of Directors asks for your vote in favor of both of these proposals. Ballots must be returned before March 31, 2022.



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Waterwood MUD

Roy Knapp, President

Care for Sewage Systems

The care of our water system was discussed at February's meeting and it was suggested the board post items that should not be introduced to our sewage lines. Many items are taken for granted and people assume they can just flush their troubles away. In doing so we create problems in our lines. Clogs, that in time lead to backups and unwanted pressure that cause ruptures by items that are not meant to break down in the treatment process. Paper products cause a majority of line clogs. These include paper towels, hand wipes, sanitary products and the occasional small pet i.e. fish and gerbils. These are not problems that can be cured with a few boxes of RID-X. If your home has a grinder pump, these items will cause you problems and cost you the home owner money. Products that claim they are flushable are now found to be not so. The time it takes to break down is longer than what it takes to treat in our plant. This leads to delays in our sewage treatment. We ask you to think before you flush.

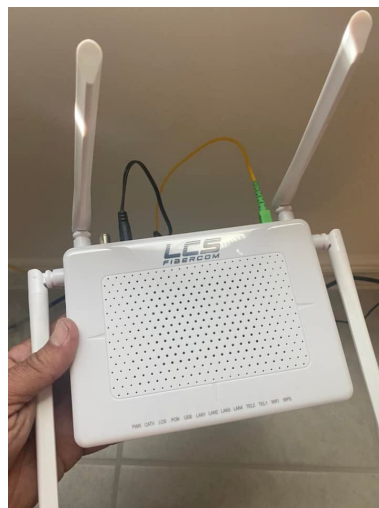
The board would like to take this time to thank Joyce Hubbard. Joyce has taken leave from the MUD and Inframark. Joyce and Danny have been a source of great expertise and time to this community and board. We can not thank her enough!

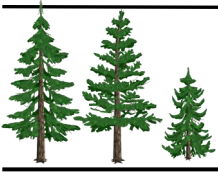
The will meet on March 18th at 3:00 in the WIA meeting room.

LCS Fiber Update

Jamie Groskopf

Congratulations to the Alford's in Greentree Village who now have the fastest Internet service in Waterwood! They won the drawing by WIA board President Larry Maas at the last board meeting to be the first home connected to our new network inside Waterwood. The drawing also included a free month of Gigabit internet service!





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Waterwood Women's League

Trista Byrd

Dianne Chrestopoulos opened our February 9th meeting at the WIA Office. There were 25 ladies present.

Marla reported that she had delivered well over 39 bags of Toys for Tots. The recipients were thrilled.

If you have toiletries, call Marla or Shirley who will come pick them up or you can deliver them to their homes. These items are a big need at this time.

NEWS FLASH!!! "We are growing!" The new members to the club were announced, Linda Brown, Marie Bershear, Siobhan Dagleish and Nancy Measamer.

Siobhan Dagleish was our speaker for the day. She talked about different periods of furniture design and actually gave us a bit of a World History lesson. It was very informative and interesting. She said that Bluebonnet was the oldest antique shop in the area.

There was open discussion on ideas of fund raising ideas, as we are in need of scholarship money. Some ideas discussed were: Bingo (3rd weekend in Oct), Garage Sale (spring), Plant sale (Herb Festival - March 26th). More discussion to come and it was noted that if we are going to do these fund raisers, we need people to volunteer to help and participate.

Pat Chandler gave us the Treasurer's report stating that we have over \$16,000 in the bank for scholarships. \$88.00 was collected for books (inclusive).

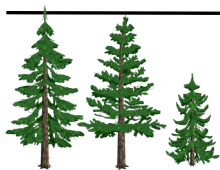
Pat Chandler said that Bob Tackett left his house to their church and also the dock Side Restaurant which has been closed for years has been given to the Community Church. Pat asked for ideas about what to do with them.

There is still a need for elementary age boys' clothes. If you have items that could be used please call Marla Fink at 9817-726-1395 or Shirley Morrell 713-825-1952.

Discussion about gourds that some of the ladies have been painting was had which was headed up by Debbie Maas and will be sold at the Herd Festival booth. Volunteers will be needed to help at the festival.

Next Meeting will be held on March 9th. "Tweet & Twitter" will be presented by Ruth Massingill, who will give a program on how to attract birds through a natural Habitat. Birdhouse kits will be available to purchase at the March 9th meeting for \$20 each. Dannie Byrd put the kits together for the League with all the instructions and screws you will need. All you need is a pair of needle nose pliers. Birdhouses not sold at the meeting, will be sold at the Herb Festival.

If you have questions about their construction, please call him at 281-731-6263 or Trista at 713-705-2801.



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The bird maestro of song

Northern Mockingbird's musical talent is as big—and as diverse—as Texas

By Ruth Massingill

Our state bird and year-round Waterwood resident does not stand out in a crowd of colorful birds until it begins to sing... and sing...for hours on end. A medium-sized slender gray-brown bird with a perky tail and two white wing bars on each wing, Northern Mockingbirds pour all their color into their personalities.

They are not shy; the mockingbird makes its presence known with an amazing repertoire of songs, numbering in the hundreds, and sits conspicuously on high branches, fences, even eaves of houses while it serenades all within hearing. Males and females look alike, and both sing, but the male sings louder and more often during daylight hours.

Wherever you travel in North America, you are likely to encounter mockingbirds; their year-round range extends from southern Canada to Central America. Although there are 16 avian species in the world with the name “mockingbird,” the Northern Mockingbird is the only one native to the United States.

The Northern Mockingbird is often associated with mimicry, copying the calls of other birds as well as manmade noises like music and machinery. Northern Mockingbirds have even been known to imitate at least 12 different species of North American frogs and toads. No wonder the mockingbird's Latin name, *Mimus polyglottos*, literally translates to “many-tongued mimic.”

However, our Northern Mockingbird is not just a copycat; he mixes a variety of songs borrowed from other species with his own material to create original compositions. A typical song is about equally divided between mimicked phrases and mockingbird-specific vocalizations. His capacity to improvise is so extensive that he'll sing many of his song types only once a season.

The male sings both to defend his territory and to attract a mate, and has the stamina to sing almost endlessly, all day and even into the night, especially if there is a full moon. A male may have two distinct repertoires of songs: one for spring and another for fall. The female Northern Mockingbird sings too, although usually more quietly than the male does. She rarely sings in the summer, and usually only when the male is away from the territory.

Male and female Mockingbirds

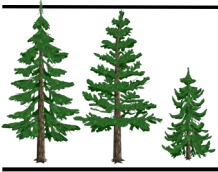


Northern Mockingbird in flight



Northern Mockingbird on yaupon

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Like many species, the male Northern Mockingbird is not only more vocal than the female, he is aggressive, attacking any perceived threat from other birds, and even from dogs or cats. Mockingbirds also flash the white patches on their wings and outer tail feathers when defending their nests or territory from potential predators such as hawks and snakes.

Northern Mockingbirds are common in yards and often can be seen hopping along the ground and snatching prey from the grass. They eat mainly insects such as beetles, earthworms, ants and grasshoppers in the summer, but switch to eating fruit and berries in winter. Although several sources say Northern Mockingbirds seldom visit feeders, I have at least one Mockingbird that comes to eat suet at my feeder on cold days and then grabs some yaupon berries for dessert. As a thank-you for the meal, he sits on a tree limb and sings, appropriating notes from other bird visitors, including the Carolina Wren, Tufted Titmouse, Blue Jay, Northern Cardinal and Eastern Bluebird, with a few Crow calls thrown in for good measure.



Mockingbird flashing white wing patches

The Northern Mockingbird's amazing musical talent was almost the death of the species. In the 19th Century, the illegal pet trade depleted mockingbird populations by poaching wild birds across the East Coast and selling them as cage birds. The best singers were worth up to \$50 in 1828—that's more than \$1,300 in today's dollars. Luckily, once the trading was stopped, the species rebounded, although there have been population declines in recent times due to habitat loss and climate change.

But Mockers are prolific breeders. They have been known to make as many as seven nesting attempts during a breeding season. They nest in shrubs and trees, typically 3-10 feet off the ground but sometimes as high as 60 feet. The male chooses a site and begins to build several nests, then the female chooses one to line with soft materials and lay eggs in. Females may start laying in a second nest while the male is still caring for fledglings from the previous one.

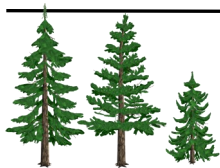
The introduction of the invasive multiflora, or rambler rose, to the United States was a disaster for ranchers, but was a boon for Mockingbirds as it makes an ideal nest site because of its tasty berries and thick tangle of branches.

If they are lucky, Mockingbirds can live a long time by bird standards. The oldest Northern Mockingbird on record was at least 14 years, 10 months old when it was found in Texas. Perhaps singing leads to longevity as well as happiness!

So, the next time you hear a mashup of bird songs, look for the somewhat drab but amazingly vocal Northern Mockingbird, truly the maestro of music and mimicry in the bird world.

Fun Facts: The Northern Mockingbird is the state bird of Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. The 1927 legislation declaring the Northern Mockingbird Texas's official bird reasoned that the species is "a fighter for the protection of his home, falling, if need be, in its defense, like any true Texan."

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



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American
Heart
Association.



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



San Jacinto County First Responders

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!

Hello, Bridge Players!!

We are a local (Coldspring) bridge group that hosts regular weekly daytime bridge games, and occasionally, a weekend game. We are currently seeking bridge players who represent all levels of experience. If you're new to the game or have been playing as long as you can remember, or anywhere in between, we'd love to play bridge with you.

We're looking forward to hearing from you, and we're especially hopeful that you'll be joining us!

Please contact Zelda at the following email address for more information:

jones.zelda@gmail.com

We are COVID aware, and adhere to preventative measures to ensure that we are protected.

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

*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.