

Waterwood Neighborhood News

January 2021

Calendar

- 1/4 Heavy Trash Pickup
- 1/15 MUD Meeting
- 1/18 WIA Meeting
9:00am
- 2/1 Heavy Trash Pickup

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

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:

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

Waterwood Security
936-661-2800

San Jacinto County Sheriff
936-653-4367

WIA Office
936-891-7710

WIA NEWS

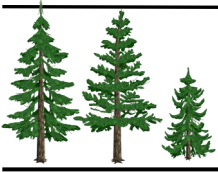
Waterwood Improvement Association is pleased to announce Lisa Hayman has been promoted to the role of WIA Executive Director. Lisa has served our community well for over 24 years in various roles and is such a valuable asset to Waterwood! Please join The WIA Board in congratulating Lisa next time you're in the WIA Office!

Lisa started working for WIA July 8, 1996. Her first office was in the First National Bank building in Huntsville. Lisa was hired by then Executive Director Joe Moore. In 2001, the office was relocated to Waterwood where it is now. Lisa has worked for 24 different boards and a variety of people. Lisa has served alongside 10 different WIA Presidents, and a few more than once. Although Lisa does not live in Waterwood, she loves the community and enjoys visiting and getting to know the residents. Lisa often states that she enjoys her job, the people she works for and the people she works with. Lisa has sure seen a lot of changes in our community over the years.

As most people will agree, Waterwood is a hidden gem that we all get to enjoy. —Lisa Hayman



Photo courtesy of Jink Willis



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Scenes around Waterwood



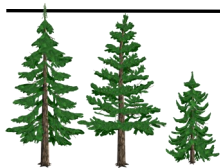
Photo courtesy of Theresa Brown



Photo courtesy of Pat Zappa



Photo Courtesy of Lucy Lindauer



Waterwood Neighborhood News

January 2021

Disaster Preparedness Plan

Sam Butler — Director

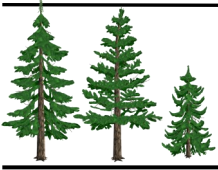
The Waterwood Improvement Association, Inc. Disaster Preparedness Plan was approved unanimously at the WIA Board meeting on December 21, 2020. The plan is designed to provide assistance prior, during, and after a disaster in Waterwood. No one wants a disaster but we need a plan in the event we do and this plan is a good start. The first step in determining the effectiveness is to test it. Therefore a test of the plan will be conducted in March or April 2021.

In order for this plan to be successful we need the help of all residents in Waterwood. Some residents have already stepped forward and have volunteered to be Block Captains, Boat Captains and ATV Captains. These volunteer residents will be the direct communication link to residents in Waterwood in the event of a disaster. A brief description of each voluntary position is as follows:

Block Captains are voluntary residents who are assigned to a section or street where they reside in Waterwood. They have the responsibility of preparing a list of all residents and their contact information who reside in their designated block. This contact information will be kept confidential by the Block Captain and WIA. In the event of a disaster, communication will be delivered by the Block Captains by a cell phone app called GroupMe to the cell phone of the residents. Each resident will be instructed how to use GroupMe by their block captain. Block Captains will be notified of a disaster using GroupMe by the Waterwood Fire Chief and then in turn will notify their assigned residents by GroupMe. In the event that a resident in the block does not have a cell phone the block captain will notify the resident in person.

Boat Captains are voluntary residents who also own boats that have immediate access to Lake Livingston from their boat houses. In the event of a disaster that prevents some residents from evacuating Waterwood with their vehicles the boat evacuation offers a viable evacuation. Boat Captains have the responsibility of preparing a list of residents that live near their residence. This contact information is also kept confidential by the Boat Captain and WIA. Communication will also be delivered to the Boat Captain by GroupMe from the Waterwood Fire Chief and further by the Boat Captain to the residents if evacuation is necessary.

ATV Captains are voluntary residents who also own ATV's. This method will also be used to evacuate residents who are not located near Lake Livingston but may still be prevented from evacuating Waterwood with conventional means. ATV Captains have the responsibility of preparing a list of residents that live near their residence. This contact information is also kept confidential by the ATV Captains and WIA. Communication will also be delivered to the ATV Captain by GroupMe from the Waterwood Fire Chief and further by the ATV Captain to the residents if evacuation is necessary.



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Disaster Preparedness Plan (Cont.)

The critical part of the plan is communication. This is where residents of Waterwood can be helpful. Each resident will be responsible for providing their own contact information to WIA. The required information is household name, address, cell phone number and email address. This is completely a voluntary plan but without this information we have no way to contact you and let you know that there is a disaster and how you can be helped.

Another significant way for Waterwood residents to help is to volunteer to be a Block Captain, Boat Captain, or ATV Captain. This is a significant part of the plan and for it to be successful we need your help.

Sign up for residents and volunteers to be Captains is available in the WIA office so please take care of this as soon as possible as we plan on testing this plan in March or April 2021. Once residents have signed up they will be assigned to a Block Captain, Boat Captain or ATV Captain and will be contacted for instructions on how to use GroupMe.

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



Photo courtesy of Jane Presley

The Santa Event on Saturday, December 12th was a big hit. Over 30 adorable children and a few pups came to take pictures with Santa, ride the Polar Express Train, and enjoy Christmas treats. Thanks to everyone who helped out and those who donated baked goods!

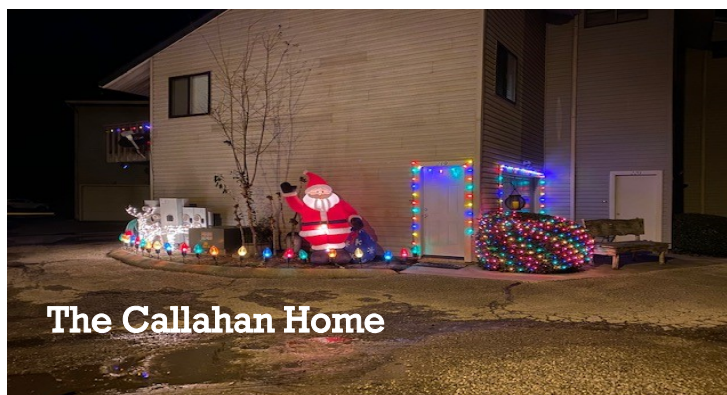


Special thanks to our favorite Santa, James Schwebach and to Mary Fox for all her help with the train!!!!



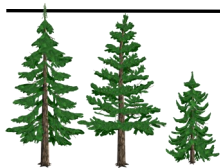


Thanks to all our neighbors for brightening up Waterwood this Holiday season! Next year, we plan on doing the contest a little differently...There will be a Grand Prize Winner as well as a winner and honorable mention in each of the neighborhood sections. So buy up those lights and decorations from the clearance sections for next year!



Waterwood VFD Spreading Christmas Cheer! Thanks Chief Tim McGrath and WIA Director Anita Paul for the Christmas Eve drive through our community!





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Waterwood Women's League

Deb Harlow

Hi ladies! If you were unable to attend our December meeting of the WWL, you missed a great time. We had a wonderful luncheon followed by an ornament exchange at Carolina Creek Christian Camp.

All of our Christmas elves were extremely busy helping our Marines bring joy to underprivileged children! We collected 44 bags of goodies for "Toys For Tots." Thanks so much to everyone in the community who donated. Our donation box for Jan. is currently in place at the Palmer/Windstream office until Jan.13th. We are collecting coats/sweaters for Onalaska High School. Please drop off new or clean, gently used items or bring them to our next meeting..



We'll be meeting on January 13th for a yummy gumbo luncheon at Carolina Creek. Cost is \$10, cash or check. Brandy Hertz will be our guest speaker. Please RSVP on our FB page, or let myself or Brandy know if you'll be attending ASAP.

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!

Deb Harlow, Secretary
WWL

Directions to Carolina Creek:

84 Wimberly Lane

The turn is past the big gated sign for "The Wild."

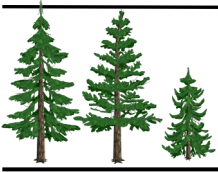
- Take 980 North toward Riverside.

- TR on 3454 /Thomas Lake Road (about 10 miles)

- TR after about 1.5 mi. on Wimberly Lane.

- Proceed through gates of camp and fork to left to Lakeview! - Past the pool on the left is a great big building.

Two sets double doors.



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Are you seeing flashes of gold in your yard?

Finches and look-a-likes flock to feeders this month

By Ruth Massingill

Winter in East Texas is goldfinch season, but there are several related birds that you may also see at your feeders this time of year. Keep in mind that not all yellow birds are goldfinches and not all goldfinches are yellow!



American Goldfinch in Winter

American Goldfinches, sometimes called 'wild canaries,' are small but feisty birds, fluttering on zebra-striped wings and making twittering calls as they jockey for a place at feeders. They are the only North American finches whose appearance changes markedly with the season. While here in the winter, the males and females look much alike, in drab olives, browns and grays with a yellowish tint on the body or a splash of yellow on the wings. By late March we may see birds that have molted into a striking breeding plumage of lemon yellow, with the males sporting a jet-black cap and black wings with white bars.

Goldfinches are strict vegetarians; unlike many birds, they do not eat insects. To attract goldfinches into your yard, plant native thistles and milkweed, avoiding herbicides or other chemical treatments. And, provide feeders of all types—hopper, platform or hanging—goldfinches like them all. Their favorite foods are Nyjer seed and black sunflower seed.

They also nibble the suet I put out for them.

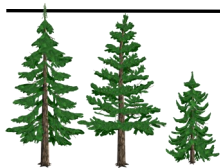


Pine Siskin

"Goldfinches in camouflage," **Pine Siskins** are the same size and shape as goldfinches, but Pine Siskins have streaky brown plumage with a touch of yellow on the wings and at the base of the tail, and a longer, thinner bill. Like the American Goldfinches, Pine Siskins like to visit feeders of sunflower, millet or thistle seed, with occasional bites of suet.

Not surprisingly, Pine Siskins use their narrow bills to dig the seeds out of pinecones, so they can often be seen flitting through the branches of our pine trees. You are most likely to find one in your garden during the winter when food is scarce, and they rely more on humans.

Pine Warblers also inhabit our pine forests and are similar in size and coloring to goldfinches. They live in our area year-round and are brighter in spring and more drab in winter. Pine Warblers have a yellow throat and breast with an olive-green back and white wing bars. Unlike the goldfinches, they have faint black streaks on their breasts. Like the Pine Siskins, they eat large quantities of seeds, pri-



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Finches (Cont.)

marily from pinecones, but they also visit feeders, unlike most other warblers.

Despite these many similarities, Warblers and Finches are not the same species. In general, warblers have thin, slender beaks for turning over foliage and picking insects, while finches have more conical shaped bills to crack open seeds. However, the Pine Warbler is the only warbler that regularly eats seeds as well as fruits from bushes or vines.

All three of these golden birds flock to my feeders in the winter, even when it is raining and cold. In the past couple of years, I occasionally see a bit of purple among the olive and gold hues. Like “a sparrow dipped in raspberry juice,” male **House Finches** have cherry red plumage, but the females are streaky grey and brown.

House Finches were originally found in the western U.S. and Mexico, but in 1940 a few were released in New York after failed attempts to sell them as cage birds. Since then, they have spread across the eastern U.S. They are more abundant in the western part of Texas, but increasingly are being seen in our area. They also are vegetarians and like to perch on feeders that offer black oil sunflower seeds.



House Finch

a

Your efforts will be blessed with throngs of golden birds, and maybe few splashes of purple, too!



Male Pine Warbler

To attract as many of these finches and their relatives as possible, offer thistle (Nyjer) seed in tube feeders, fill platform or hanging feeders with black oil sunflower seeds and millet and, for good measure, put out some suet. Be sure the seed you offer in feeders is fresh and dry, and rake up dropped seed periodically to prevent disease.

Fun Fact: Nyjer seed is a small, thin, black seed from the African yellow daisy. Though it is not related to the thistle plant, Nyjer is often referred to as "thistle seed." High in oil, it is a nutritious source of energy for backyard birds. The high protein content in Nyjer is also useful for regenerating feathers when birds molt in the late fall and early spring.

Ruth Massingill is a Master Naturalist and an avid bird watcher. She can be reached at 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

*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.