



Waterwood Neighborhood News

WHEN THERE'S SMOKE, THERE IS FIRE

Why were those clouds of smoke flowing into our neighborhood? Why were the brush and trees in flames along the Parkway? Those folks are "Prescribed Burns" (PB).



PB as defined by Wikipedia "Controlled or prescribed burning is a technique sometimes used in forest management, farming, prairie restoration or greenhouse gas abatement. Hazard reduction or controlled burning is conducted during the cooler months to reduce fuel buildup and decrease the likelihood of serious hotter fires."

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) defines PB as, "The controlled application of fire to naturally occurring vegetative fuels under specified environmental conditions and confined to a predetermined area, following appropriate planning and precautionary measures."

"Controlled" is the key word in the most recent PB in and around Waterwood during late February and early March. There are two property owners who either have used PB or going to use PB in the near future.

One of the property owners wrote to WIA, "Our burn contractor plans to conduct a burn in GT 6 + the area south and east of your burn pile." They further advised that the lines are being pushed and the burns are planned through mid March.

They also asked WIA to contact their "Forester" who is out of Silsbee, if there were any questions about their PB.



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Also please remember the WIA Spring Fling on April 9th.

WNN "Happenings"

Did February start off on a COLD note??? Wow the temperature dropped from the mid 60s to 28 on 2/2 and it just got colder. We even had a ice storm.



Our new Maintenance Contractor, JJJ Enterprises, is doing a great job. The owner, Craig Jeffcoat and his team are to be congratulated.



REMEMBER, the Waterwood annual **SPRING FLING** is scheduled on April 9, 2011 at the VFD station. Chairman Donnie Marshall says we will have a great BBQ with all of the trimmings.



DESSERT CONTEST: **WNN** is sponsoring a "Dessert" contest at the "Spring Fling". There will be three trophies awarded for the best desserts. To enter, call or go by the WIA office. Thanks for your support.



The Waterwood Volunteer Fire Department's **fish fry** will be on **March 26th** at the fire house from 11:30 am to 2 pm. Plan to attend, eat a great fish dinner and help support our **VFD**.

THE WNN IS PUBLISHED ON A MONTHLY BASIS. THE ARTICLES AND COMMENTS ARE WRITTEN TO INFORM AND ENTERTAIN THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND/OR OWN PROPERTY IN THE WATERWOOD COMMUNITY. IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US. THANK YOUR FOR READING THE WNN.

John Shideler – Editor

Waterwood Women's League

Love was in the air at the February 12th WWL Valentine's Party hosted by Dona and Justin Curren. The food, the decorations and the company were wonderful.



The "Who am I" game was played. The participants found out quickly who were the best interrogators by guessing their half of a famous couple.

The guest speaker for the evening was Brian Smith, CFP, ChFC, a Financial Advisor from Huntsville. He spoke about investing and planning for the future in the current market.

The evening ended with raffle of a Valentine goodies basket filled with champagne, 2 glasses, chocolates and a gift certificate for two to the Homestead Restaurant which was won by Maryann and Tom Readal



READ for Scholarships

More books are needed for the READ for Scholarships program. If you'd like to contribute your gently used books, call Jane Miller at 936-891-5397 for pickup. Books are available at the Palmer Realty office on a book case located across from the P.O. Boxes. Books cost \$.50.

Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting will be a trip to Round Top, Texas for the Guitar Festival on Saturday, March 12th. Husbands are invited!

About WWL

Waterwood Women's League has been in existence since 1976. Its purpose is to aid in the quality of life of the women of Waterwood and the surrounding areas and to support annual local high school Scholarship Funds and other charitable endeavors in the area such as the Coldspring CareShare Mission – aiding local families with needed household and personal items and Back Pack Buddies – providing home meals for local needy school children.

WWL is a great way to meet other ladies in the area, learn something new and give back to the community. If you wish to become a member, please contact Sally Charlton at 936-891-5137 or e-mail her at sally.outonthedeck@gmail.com for information.

We'd **love** for you to join us!

WWL Meeting Schedule for 2011

April 13 – "An American Woman in Iraq", Crystal's Patio, Coldspring

May 11 - Decorating with Phyllis Palmer

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Country Cousin

A San Jacinto County farmer walks into a NYC bank and tells the loan officer he is going to Norway on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000. The bank officer tells him that they will need security for the loan, so the farmer hands over the keys to his new Ferrari. The car is parked in front of the bank. The farmer produces the title and everything checks out. The loan officer agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan.

An employee of the bank then drives the Ferrari into the bank's underground garage and parks it there. The bank's president enjoys a good laugh over this farmer using a \$250,000 Ferrari as collateral against a \$5,000 loan.

Two weeks later, the farmer returns, repays the \$5,000 and interest, which comes to \$15.41. The loan officer says, "Sir, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found you are a multimillionaire. What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?"

The farmer replies: "Where else in New York City can I park my car for two weeks for only \$15.41, and expect it to be there when I return?"

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The Texas Natural Resources Code covers “Prescribed Burning Standards” and the certification of “Prescribed Burning Manager”. The TCEQ established criteria for PBs. These requirements can be found at:

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/legal/rules/rules/pdflib/111b.pdf>



WNN was advised that the VFDs were “toned out” on five consecutive evenings, starting on February 27 through March 3, 2011.



The PBs close to our neighbors east of 980 which occurred in late February and early March required the call out of the Waterwood VFD and two other neighboring VFDs to extinguish some of the fires.



If any Waterwoodian has a question regarding PBs, they can contact the TCEQ 24/7 telephone at 888-777-3186. The TCEQ’s Beaumont office has jurisdiction over the Waterwood area. Their phone number is 409-898-3838.



News from the Waterwood VFD

By: Donald Marshall – Fire Chief

On our recent Insurance Services Office audit the VFD scored a 7/9. The number is an assessment of how well the fire department serves the community and can respond to an actual home fire emergency.



The one included this month is on cooking fires. Throughout the United States, many residential fires occur in the kitchen while cooking. In almost all these cases the fires are preventable, but because of various reasons occur.

Most of us do not understand that number. It is a formula that insurance companies use in determining your cost of insurance for your home. For the homeowners in Waterwood, that number is considered good when compared to the other communities in San Jacinto County. The audit is available at both the WIA office and the MUD office.

These hints come from a website that is listed below. Please view this web site so you can learn some of the cooking problems.

One final word on residential fires, when one does occur, call 911 immediately and request help. You will probably be excited but give a good address.



Most residential fires can be contained if the department can reach them in time, but most residents attempt to contain the fire and it spreads too quickly and the homeowner becomes overwhelmed.

We would rather come to a small residential fire and contain it to a small area and have you safe than to come to a residential fire that has spread throughout the home.

The audit also shows where the fire department and the water department were deficient, and how we can improve to better our rating. One of the areas that the VFD can improve on is in public education. We plan to provide educational material on prevention of residential fires in future editions of the WNN.

Be Safe.

<http://www.statefarm.com/learning/besafe/home/home.asp>