

# Waterwood Neighborhood News

March 2021

## Calendar

- 3/13 Town Hall Mtg.  
3/15 WIA Meeting  
9:00am  
3/19 MUD Meeting  
4/5 April Heavy Trash  
Pickup

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



Join Us at  
Our Town Hall  
Meeting

## Important Town Hall Meeting regarding Fiber Optic Proposal for Waterwood

This meeting is open to all Waterwood residents (property owners as well as renters). Please join the WIA Board and LCS Data Solutions DBA on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at noon at the Waterwood Pavilion. Attendees of the town hall will hear the proposal and will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Free Hot Dogs and drinks will be served.

## 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 Disaster Preparedness Plan

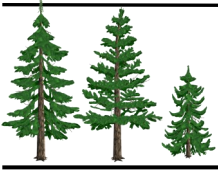
Sam Butler

In both the January 2021 and February 2021 Waterwood Neighborhood News editions there were articles on the Waterwood Improvement Association, Inc. Disaster Preparedness Plan. Since then, many volunteers have stepped up to be leaders in this plan as Block Captains and Boat Captains. ATV Captains are still a work in progress. A lot of work has gone into preparing the resident contact lists by the Group Captains and the Boat Captains will be able to utilize these lists for passengers on their boat in the event of an evacuation due to a disaster.

An announcement will be made in the next Waterwood Neighborhood News edition as to the time and date for our first annual test of this plan. That decision will be made by our Waterwood Fire Chief Tim McGrath. We want to make sure this time and date is known prior to the event as we want as many residents to participate in this as possible. This test is important as it will provide information as to areas that need improvement as well as determining what is working with the plan.

Sign up for residents and volunteers to be Captains is still available in the WIA office so please take care of this as soon as possible. Once residents have signed up, they will be assigned to a Block Captain and possibly a Boat 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).



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

## March 2021

### 2020 Waterwood Homeowner Association (HOA) Fees

Larry Maas

WIA's 2020 HOA fees were due into the WIA office by December 31, 2020. WIA accepts, cash, check, money order, credit and debit cards as forms of payment. Cash is accepted only in person at the WIA office. Checks can be mailed or dropped off at the office during office hours or after hours Monday through Friday and on the weekends in the mail slot of the WIA office door. Credit and debit cards are accepted in person or over the phone.

As of February 28, 2021 over 160 improved properties (properties with homes, condos or townhouses on them) are 2 months past due. Past due letters were sent to the property owners informing them of their delinquency. Property owners have 3 options regarding their past due HOA fees:

Pay the past due amount in full.

Contact the WIA office and setup a formal, documented payment plan. Payment plans must be established in writing, signed and delivered back to the WIA office to be recognized. Dropping off random amounts at random times is not an approved payment option.

Have the delinquent account turned over to WIA's attorney for collection or foreclosure.

It is important that all property owners pay their HOA fees in order for the Association to provide services to the community. These services and associated costs are for the benefit of all Waterwood property owners and their tenants and include, but are not limited to:

Ambulance Services - (\$97,000/year)

Security Services - (\$200,000/year)

Common Area Grounds Maintenance (\$112,000/year)

Fire Services (\$90,000/year)

Association Administration/Other (\$100,000)

Without everyone paying their HOA fees, services must be reduced or eliminated entirely. If you have paid, thank you. If you have not paid, please contact the office immediately to keep from having your account turned over to the WIA attorney.

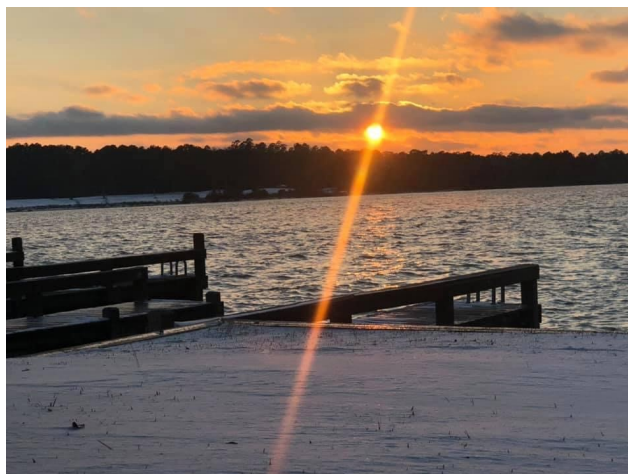
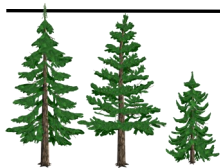


Photo courtesy of Kevin Brashear



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

## March 2021

### WIA \$50 HOA Fee Increase for Waterwood MUD

A motion was made at an October 21, 2020 Special WIA Board meeting to increase the WIA Annual HOA fee by \$50 on behalf of Waterwood MUD. The motion was approved unanimously. In January 2021, WIA distributed \$27,600 to Waterwood MUD. At the February 15, 2021 WIA Board meeting, a motion was made to delay distribution of additional WIA collected funds to Waterwood MUD until such time as Waterwood MUD prepares and disseminates to the WIA Board the following:

1. Road Repair Plan by road, cost and timing;
2. Standby Fee Implementation Plan that includes timing and possible fee amount;
3. Sewer Tap Rate Order Change to include costs to restore roads;
4. Resolve Bond Reserve question;
5. Maintenance Contract Bid Plan;
6. Long-term Plan for SWTP, Lake Livingston water rights and new well(s);
7. Plan to repair/workover the 2 existing wells to increase flow rates; an
8. Hire accounting firm that provides monthly Balance Sheet, P&L Statement and Budget Comparison Reports.

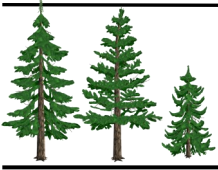
The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. The February 15, 2021 motion by the WIA Board was made to ensure that Waterwood MUD works through their issues in a comprehensive, prioritized and documented fashion. The Waterwood MUD Board has 4 new members that are working to correct many of the past issues.



### Pool Passes

Lisa Hayman - Executive Director

Sunshine and Swimming season is here! Swimming pool passes will be available Monday, March 6 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!



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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### From the WIA Office/BOD

Effective 3/2/2021 garbage services are **suspended** for any property owner that has not paid their WIA fees. Garbage services will be reinstated once the past due fees are paid.

For payment arrangements, please contact the WIA office at 936-891-7710. WIA is now able to accept credit/debit card payments.

### Trash and Limb Pickup

Please remember to put all limbs and leaves outside at the curb on Sunday night. The pickup list is created on Sunday and is picked up by maintenance before 7:00 on Monday mornings. There is a good chance that your leaves and/or limbs will not be picked up if you call on Monday after 7:00am to get placed on the list.

Also, all items for large item pickup must be called or emailed to the WIA office (936-891-7710 or [wia@waterwoodwia.com](mailto:wia@waterwoodwia.com)) on the Friday before the 1st Monday of the month to be on the pickup list. Again, the list is picked up before 7:00 on the first Monday by maintenance and if you contact the office on Monday after the list has been picked up by maintenance your items may not get picked up until the following month.

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### Waterwood MUD

Roy Knapp

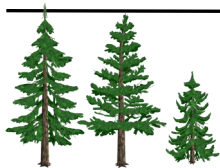
The Board would like to thank all the residents for their patience during the bad weather.

We tried to get to all the calls as quickly as we could.

If asked, the board will review all excessive bills for possible action.

The board recommends that homeowners install cut off valves at their house or customer's side of meter.

Our next public meeting will March 19th at 3:00 pm.



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

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## Waterwood Volunteer Fire Department



### WVFD Forming Alliances

Chief Tim McGrath

As we all fought to stay warm, have water and safely get around; the fire department built new alliances which will help all residents in the future. First, we worked with the County of San Jacinto to receive, transport and distribute bottled water to residents in need on Sunday, February 21st. Through a new partnership with the National Association of Christian Churches; we received additional canned water from the American Red Cross and Anheuser-Busch which we distributed Monday, Thursday and Saturday. We have approximately 25 cases available for anyone who needs to replenish their emergency supply. Please reach out to me directly.

On Tuesday, February 23rd, in conjunction with Point Blank VFD; Waterwood acquired over 2,500 feet of fire hose which will greatly aid our efforts in training. This will also shorten the turnaround time to be "back in service" after a call. The hose was generously donated by Eastex Fire Department Station 16 in Humble. Finally, I am working with the American Red Cross local liaison to house supplies which will be needed in emergencies and further provide resources to the Waterwood Disaster Preparedness Plan.

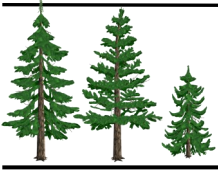
We are warming up quickly; so please be vigilant in watching for fires as our grounds are already, and will continue to, dry out.

Be Safe,  
Chief Tim McGrath



Sunrise photo courtesy of Jink Willis





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# Waterwood Neighborhood News

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## By-laws and Covenants Committee

Melanie Cook

We are in the process of refining and streamlining the main Waterwood Policies document to encompass every subdivision. Originally, we had considered a format that would have tables where subdivisions differed (square footage and materials requirements, etc) but we found that to be too difficult due to the size of the tables. We backed up and decided to have one main document with an addendum for each individual subdivision.

In a nutshell, the goal is to have one master document that covers ALL Waterwood where restrictions are the same throughout the subdivision, but specifics of a particular subdivision be covered in a break-out one-page addendum. This document will be for quick and easy referral and for information only. The original documents written in the 70's will remain intact and continue to be the main referral point along with any amendments.

We welcome any feedback or requests from property owners who have suggestions for ease of use or amendments to the documents.

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## ACB Reminder

Michael Duffey

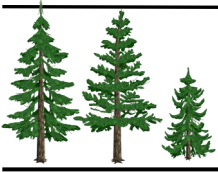
Soon it will be that time again where all residents are eager to get started on outdoor projects to beautify their homes. A simple reminder is **Don't forget to submit an ACB Application for approval.**

Also, "A picture is worth a thousand words". Please keep Waterwood beautiful by picking up trash you see when you are out walking as well as keeping your own residence free of debris.

Much appreciation,  
ACB Team



Photo courtesy of Rob Davis



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

## March 2021

### Shout-out to Waterwood Security

Randy Ayers

I want to send a shout-out to our Waterwood Security officers Tom Alyea and Charles Bain. These two security personnel stayed in Waterwood for 7 days straight during the winter storm. They patrolled daily during the storm and performed wellness checks on our residents during the electrical outage.

I know that all of us appreciate what they did to keep us safe. If you see them out on patrol, please give them a thank you. I know that would mean a lot to them.

I would also like to thank Tana Davis for providing a rollaway bed and food to Tom and Charles.

### Movie Night Coming Soon!

Melanie Cook

After two fun, successful Drive-in movie nights, sponsored by Palmer Real Estate, we are looking forward to the next blockbuster in late March or early April. Keep an eye out for date and time. Shoot me a text, email, or phone call for any ideas or suggestions for movies...Superhero? Comedy? RomCom? Drama? Scary? Disney? I'd love to hear from you!

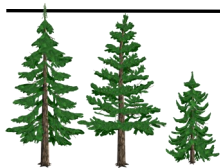


### Shout-out to Rick Harlow

**If you don't have a Rick Harlow on your board you should get one, BUT you can't have WIA's!!! " -Lisa Hayman**



WIA Director Rick Harlow



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# Waterwood Neighborhood News

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March 2021

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## Waterwood Maintenance

Rick Harlow, WIA Maintenance Director

The recent storm hit our community pretty hard, some folks more than others. Maintenance tried to head off WIA damage from the storm by wrapping pipes, covering faucets and shutting off water to the pavilion area. Tom Readal kept the pool pumps running and placed a drop light at the shower mixing valve. Lights were left on to add heat to the bathrooms (incandescent bulbs). We added anti-freeze to the toilets and sink traps. This was done to save repair dollars. The only issue we had was to the vendor owned pool equipment at no cost to the community.

During the storm we did learn a few valuable lessons. As the snow packed around the WIA office and the trash dump area, it became slippery, eventually turning to ice. The simple solution is to have sand available prior to snowfall. The dump gate got hit by a vehicle causing some damage and preventing gate operation. Lisa Hayman, WIA Executive Director, stayed at Waterwood for the duration of the storm to resolve issues. She contacted the gate contractor, Jamie who removed the gate and had it repaired. He also reinstalled the gate. It was back in commission within 72 hours. Lisa also tasked Timberlake to deliver a trailer for trash to hold us over until the gate was operational.

I thank all involved. I know people don't see the things that happen behind the scenes but I thought you should all know.

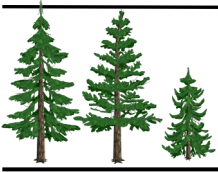
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## WINTER STORM DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Anita Paul

You can begin applying for help online at Disaster [assistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 TTY. This help may include grants for temporary housing or home repairs. Also low cost loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help Texans.





# Waterwood Neighborhood News

March 2021

## Waterwood Women's League

Deb Harlow

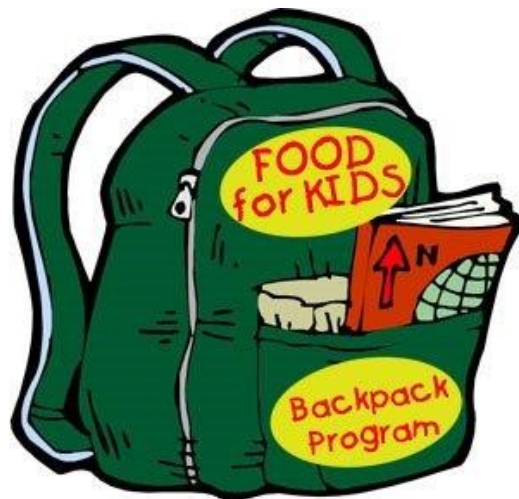
Hi ladies! We had a pretty good turnout at the February meeting of WWL. It was a Valentine's luncheon at Carolina Creek. Chef Lawrence prepared a delicious meal of prosciutto wrapped pork with all the fixin's, including chocolate mousse and heart-shaped brownies with chocolate-covered strawberries to go. If you didn't attend, you missed a good time and a great meal.

Thanks so much to everyone that donated shower supplies for Onalaska High School. It was a great success and will go a long way to help these students! Our March collection is back pack food for Onalaska High School. The donation box will be at the Windstream/Palmer office through March 10th. We are asking for non-perishables. Things like beef sticks/jerky, nuts, fruit cups, mini cereal boxes, packaged meals, etc... You can drop off your donations until Feb. 10th or take them to the next meeting. Thank you in advance for giving so generously!

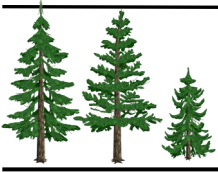
Our March trip to Brookwood has been rescheduled for the April meeting! Our next meeting will be held on Mar. 10th at 10:00 a.m., also at Carolina Creek. Chicken Marsala is on the menu. Cost is \$10, cash or check. As always, please RSVP on our FB page, or let myself or Brandy know if you'll be attending.

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!

See all you at the next meeting!



**Drop Off Backpack  
Food by March 10 at  
the Real Estate  
Office**



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

## March 2021

### The Einsteins of the bird world

#### Crows and their cousins may be talking about us

*By Ruth Massingill*

They are big and bold, with confidence aplenty. Moreover, corvids—members of the crow family—redefine the traditional meaning of birdbrain.

American Crows and their relatives, Blue Jays, are seen and heard year-round in Waterwood. Ravens and magpies are also in the corvid family, but do not make their home in our area.

Here in Waterwood, American Crows are certainly easy to spot with their glossy black feathers, black bills and legs, and their distinctive caw, caw call. They are twice the size of Blue Jays, but act as if they are even bigger. It is not unusual to see several crows chasing, or “mobbing,” a predator such as a hawk or an owl. Conversely, groups of smaller birds sometimes mob crows to protect their nests.

Crows are very social and usually are seen in groups. A family of seven crows routinely hangs out in my yard, waiting each morning for the sunflower seeds I spread on my sidewalk. Once they have had their breakfast, they roost in a nearby tree and loudly discuss their plans for the day. Or maybe they are commenting on the quality of their breakfast?



Crows mob perceived threats



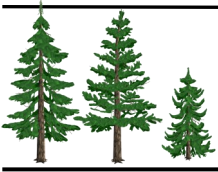
Crows are mobbed by smaller birds

several years.

In the winter, crows like to congregate in communal roosts, which can be from a few hundred up to two million birds. Crows thrive around people and can be found in urban lawns, parking lots and city dumps as well as in rural fields and forests. They usually feed on the ground and eat almost anything: earthworms, insects, seeds and fruit. They will even eat garbage, carrion and chicks they rob from nests.

Family life is central to corvids; both American Crows as well as Blue Jays mate for life. Most young crows do not breed until they are four or more years old; instead they help their parents raise young for

Blue Jays, with their bright blue backs, white bellies and black highlights, at first glance seem unlikely relatives of crows, but they share a number of attributes. Although half the size of crows, Blue Jays are larger than most birds at your feeders and make their presence known—loudly and aggressively. I often think that if they were not so common, Blue Jays would be more admired as they are such beautiful birds. Like American Crows, Blue Jays have complex social systems with tight family bonds.



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

## March 2021

### Crows and their cousins may be talking about us (Cont.)

When foraging, Blue Jays are especially fond of acorns, but readily come to tray or hopper feeders for peanuts, sunflower seeds or suet. Perhaps the most amazing eating process corvids practice is “anting,” which involves grabbing an ant and rubbing it through the bird’s feathers before swallowing the ant. Researchers think the birds do this to get the ants to release the formic acid that makes ant stings so painful for humans. For the corvids, the ants taste better once they release the bitter-tasting acid. Ants are high in protein, so they make an efficient food source.



Blue Jays are crow cousins

Both Crows and Blue Jays are known for their intelligence. Crows, especially, make and use tools, solve puzzles, understand analogies and like to play. Researchers have concluded that crows are as smart in many aspects as a 7-year-old child. Even more intriguing, crows can remember human faces, hold grudges and tell other crows about it!

Blue Jays may not be as adroit as their crow cousins at tool making and problem solving, but they contribute to forest fire recovery by caching seeds from oaks and pines, which is called “scatter hoarding.” Corvids store more seeds than they eat, so some seeds sprout, helping trees reproduce and spread across long distances. This is particularly important since oaks and pines are keystone species that are decreasing due to habitat fragmentation and climate change.

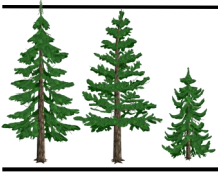
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Blue Jays 'anting'

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**Fun Fact:** Crows may be the ultimate problem solvers. In this amazing clip from the BBC TV series, [Inside the Animal Mind](#), a crow solves a VERY complicated puzzle.

If you like to talk about birds, 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.

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\$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.