

# Waterwood Neighborhood News

## February 2022

### Calendar

- 2-7 Heavy Trash Pickup
- 2-18 MUD Meeting
- 2-21 WIA Meeting
- 3-7 Heavy Trash Pickup

### Audit/Finance Committee

Larry Maas, President

### 2021 Waterwood Annual Charges (HOA Fees)

WIA's 2021 HOA fees were payable into the WIA office by December 31, 2021. As of January 31, 2022 WIA has received 803 payments out of 1,368 property owners billed. Of the 565 delinquent accounts, 197 are past due only 30 days. Of the remaining 368 accounts, 60 are past due 4 years or less and 308 are past due greater than 4 years. Please be assured, the Audit/Finance Committee and the WIA office staff are making every effort to collect these delinquent accounts.

Past due letters will be sent to the property owners informing them of their delinquency. Property owners have 3 options regarding their past due HOA fees:

1. Pay the past due amount in full.
2. 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.
3. Have the delinquent account turned over to WIA's attorney for collection or foreclosure.

WIA accepts cash, check, money order, credit and debit cards as forms of payment. Credit and debit cards are accepted in person or over the phone. 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.

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)

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.

### Links

(Click to follow)

[Waterwood Website:](#)

[Waterwood MUD](#)

[Waterwood Pictures](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

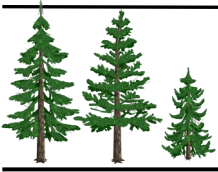
[Click here to place classified ads on the new website.](#)

**Waterwood Security**  
936-661-2800

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

**WIA Office**  
936-891-7710

**Waterwood VFD**  
936-755-0960.



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## Executive Director Corner

Lisa Hayman

BRRRRRR!! Winter has definitely arrived in Waterwood. If you don't know your neighbors, please get to know them. Let's make an effort to check with our neighbors during this cold time to see if they need help outside at their houses. Things like wrapping pipes, moving plants, winterizing, checking automobiles, moving firewood, or help with generators. Most of all, exchange phone numbers so that if there are issues both of you will feel comfortable reaching out to one another.

Bundle up and stay warm!!!!



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## Primary Election for San Jacinto County

Sam Butler, WIA Liaison to County and State

Tuesday, March 1 is the Primary Election day for San Jacinto County so please remember to exercise your right to vote on that day. Your voter registration certificate provides your Precinct number. Election day locations for polling places for the various precincts and times will be on the San Jacinto County Texas website under Elections. Sample ballots are also available on the website. In addition to voting for state offices, you will also be voting in the San Jacinto County local elections. There are 10 propositions on the ballot, so please make sure you take time to read the propositions before going to vote as this will no doubt save you some time when you actually vote. This is an important election that will affect all of us eventually so go vote!

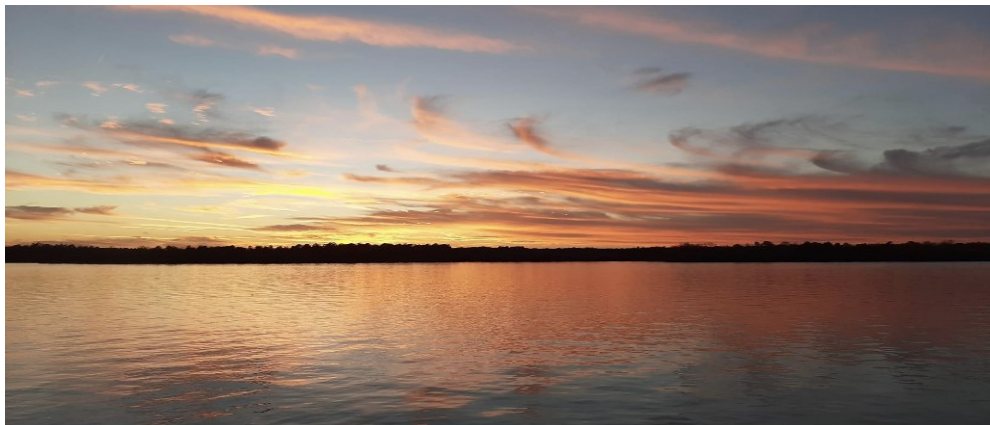
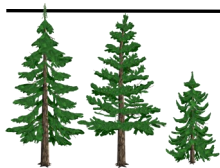


Photo by Louis Pabor



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## Waterwood VFD

Tim McGrath, Chief

During the next few months you will notice a number of prescribed burns occurring in the areas surrounding Waterwood as well as very large burns in the National Forrest and University owned properties. We will be posting notifications received on the Waterwood VFD Facebook page. This allows us to post immediately upon receipt from the sources upon which we rely for burn management partners.

The department has recently upgraded the radios each member carries with them 24/7. They allow us to communicate directly with the San Jacinto Count Sheriff's dispatch via a cellular system rather than UHF radio signals. Radio signals can be absorbed by the pine tree needles and have led to interruption in our callouts and requests for assistance. We will still employ our standard UHF radios while on scene to communicate with other members and helicopter crews when needed.

Our new Captain, Tyler Harris, is an avid Spartan Racer. He recently competed in The Agogi in Abu Dabi for extreme athletes. There were forty-three participants including seven from the US and one from Texas. They endured sixty-three continuous hours of hiking and running in the desert. There was no sleep allowed during the race and Marshalls supervised their various tasks and adherence to the rules. Food, which typically consisted of a package of dates and camels' milk, was earned by completing tasks and was shared by the entire team of six to seven members. Each member received approximately four hundred calories per meal. At the beginning of the race, prior to arrival, all participants were blindfolded to ensure they had the feeling of being lost in the desert. Teams followed a map for navigation to each task area and in the end thirty-one finished – four from the US and proudly one from Texas. Of course, those participants now have life-long friendships and memories of other cultures they were exposed to. Tyler is now preparing for the highest level offered to adventure racers - The Death Race - held in Vermont.

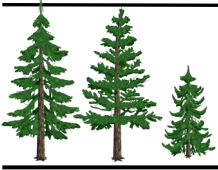
The fire department will be distributing our emergency water in cans during the month of February. Please follow the Waterwood VFD Facebook page for the specific dates and times of distribution.

Be safe during these very cold days ahead.

Thank you,

Chief Tim McGrath





# Waterwood Neighborhood News

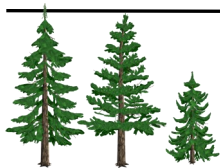
February 2022

POTATE-TOAD WOULD LIKE TO INVITE  
EVERYONE TO  
**Point Blank Volunteer Fire  
Department's  
Annual Baked Potato Sale**



SATURDAY FEBRUARY  
5TH STARTING AT 11AM  
UNTIL SOLD OUT!

**\$10 FULLY LOADED BBQ  
BAKED POTATO**  
**\$5 RAFFLE FOR FULLY COOKED  
BRISKET**



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## Waterwood Women's League

Trista Byrd

Hi, Ladies.

Our next Women's League meeting will be held February 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the WIA Office. Titled 'Junk and Disorderly', our guest speaker will be Siobhan Dagleish, who will tell us about items that antique dealers hunt for.

We will have Subway lunches, sandwich/chips/drink/cookie for \$7.00.

Please RSVP no later than Wednesday Feb. 2nd, 2022 if you will be attending the meeting and if you would like lunch. Your \$7.00 will be collected at the time of the meeting and can be in the form of a check or cash. (IF you rsvp and then are unable to make it AFTER food is ordered you will still need to pay for the lunch).

As before, face masks are required during the meeting.



Photo courtesy of John Charlton

**What  
does  
the fox  
say?!**



Photo courtesy of John Charlton

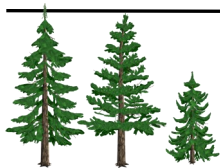


Photo courtesy of Tana Davis

Folks have recently been spotting this guy around Doral and Bay Hill.



Photo courtesy of Tana Davis



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

## February 2022

**Are small rodents raiding your feeders?**

**No, a seed smuggling Tufted Titmouse may be taking those sunflower seeds**

*By Ruth Massingill*

The perky Tufted Titmouse, a cousin of the chickadee, is quite common in the eastern part of North America, where they live year-round. This sparrow-sized songbird is easily recognized with its crest of gray feathers, large round black eyes and rust-colored flanks. A black patch just above the short bill makes for a cute, snub-nosed appearance. Male and female Titmouses have similar plumage, making identification easy.



Tufted Titmouse

The Tufted Titmouse likes to live in mixed evergreen-deciduous woods with a dense canopy and many tree species, at elevations below 2,000 feet. They are also common in residential areas, where they readily come to bird feeders, often carrying away sunflower seeds one at a time and stashing them for cold, rainy days. Not surprisingly, Waterwood is an ideal locale for Tufted Titmouses, so you have probably seen them in your yard, especially if you have seeds on offer.

The bird's unusual name has nothing to do with the rodents we do not want to attract to our yard. Rather, the name titmouse is based on the Old English word for bird, *mase*, and *tit*, denoting something small. The plural can be either titmouses or titmice, although purists prefer titmouses. So, however you refer to a group of these birds, you are correct.

Tufted Titmouses consume a variety of insects, including caterpillars, beetles, ants, wasps, bees, stink bugs, spiders and snails. Nuts and seeds are also favored, and they use their strong beaks to open acorns and seeds by holding them with their feet and pounding with their bill. They will come to feeders for sunflower seeds, suet and mealworms. Typically, Titmouses shell the seeds they carry away from feeders, then hoard them for leaner times.

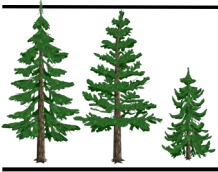
Even before you see the Tufted Titmouses raiding your feeder, you may hear their clear, two-syllable whistle: *peter peter peter*, which sounds a bit like a chickadee. You can hear their lovely call on [TheCornellLab](https://www.cornelllabofornithology.org/) site.



Titmouses nest in holes in trees

In the forest, Titmouses nest in natural holes and cavities left by large woodpeckers since they are unable to excavate cavities on their own. Their short, sturdy beaks are excellent for shelling seeds and nuts, but not for making nesting spaces. Their dependence on dead wood for their homes is one reason why it is important to allow dead trees to remain in forests.

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The Tufted Titmouse has adapted to habitat loss by taking up residence in suburban areas, where they will use nest boxes placed in wooded areas (See **Fun Facts** below for more on this.) In my own yard, a Tufted Titmouse pair have used a bluebird nest that is surrounded by trees and therefore is not attractive to bluebirds, who prefer boxes I have placed in more open areas. As with any nest boxes, Titmouse boxes need guards to protect eggs and baby birds from predators such as snakes and raccoons. Boxes should be cleaned and ready for occupancy by early February since Titmouses have a long breeding season, which can last from mid-February to late June.



: Titmouse box with guard

Raising young is a family affair; titmouse pairs stay together all year, and the male feeds the female often from courtship until eggs hatch. Tufted Titmouses typically have one clutch a year with 3-8 eggs. Sometimes the pair has a 'helper,' one of their offspring from a previous year. To give the hatchlings a soft place to grow, the female lines the inner cup of her nest with hair, sometimes plucked directly from living animals. The list of hair types identified from old nests includes raccoons, opossums, mice, dogs, squirrels, rabbits, and even humans.

The Tufted Titmouse's willingness to live near humans and profit from feeders may be helping to expand their range and keep their populations strong. Partners in Flight estimates a global breeding population of 8 million, with 100% living in the U.S.

However, here in Waterwood, we are on the western side of the Tufted Titmouse's range; if you travel to Central Texas, the Tufted Titmouse is replaced by the Black-crested Titmouse, which is very similar except for having a white forehead and fully black crest.

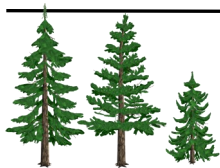
So, even if the Tufted Titmouses who come to my feeders are seed smugglers, they are so cute I do not begrudge them their booty. In fact, I refill the feeders at mid-day on these cold winter days for them and all their bird friends. But I do wish the squirrels would find other places to have lunch!

**Fun Facts:** If you are inspired to attract Tufted Titmouse pairs to your yard during breeding season, you can find detailed instructions for building, placement and monitoring titmouse nest boxes at this site sponsored by the [Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency](#).

Share feeder sightings and squirrel strategies with Ruth at: [ruthmassingill@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthmassingill@yahoo.com)



Black-crested Titmouse



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

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Ever wonder what ever happened to the old gas pump that use to stand on the bulkhead down at the marina?



A little over a year ago when the bulkhead was being replaced the pump was dozed over and pushed into a pile of debris that was scheduled to be hauled away the next day. I just couldn't stand by and see this old piece of Waterwood history thrown into a landfill.

After doing a little home work I found that the pump was originally a Gulf Oil pump (built by Southwest G.O.C.) and was installed in Waterwood in 1975. That old pump stood at our marina for 45 years. The night I spotted the pump half buried in that pile of debris I decided it deserved better than that.

For the past year I have been painstakingly working to restore the pump to its original luster. It's about 90% done now, just needing glass and the Fluorescent lighting placed inside the face. Since this was my first gas pump restore I have learned a lot. It's been a great project and it feels good knowing the pump and it's history will be around for some time to come.

Here's a few pictures of the process....



Courtesy of Dave Amundson, Bass Boat Village Property Owner



# 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](mailto: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](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.**