

Waterwood Neighborhood News

January 2022

Calendar

- 1-17 WIA Meeting
- 1-21 MUD Meeting
- 2-7 Heavy Trash Pickup

TRASH TALK and BOXES!!!

A big thank you to those who assisted in helping by holding their Christmas trash until the dumpsters were emptied. The household garbage dumpsters are emptied on Monday and Thursday. Two times a year we have a **massive** amount of trash and that is always at Christmas and July 4th. The office received many suggestions on what needs to be done. With everyone's cooperation, as always it was dumped and we are back to normal. During these times, any garbage overflow that is put on top of the dumpsters or left in front of the dumpsters, will not be picked up by the garbage company. Those are the bags that create the most issues. Any that are put on top of the dumpsters or balanced on top and fall off, will not be retrieved by the garbage company. One of the main causes of the dumpsters being too full to dump household garbage is **BOXES!!!!** **Please break the boxes down before dumping them in the dumpsters.** During the Christmas overload there were boxes for exercise bikes, furniture, workout benches, playhouses and more. Boxes take up a lot of room, so PLEASE, break the boxes down.

Thankfully, we have a wonderful maintenance group who cleans the dumpster area daily. On those really ugly, stinky, nasty days like last week, when garbage was literally everywhere, they never asked any questions, they never complained, they picked it up, placed it in the open dumpsters and cleaned the area. So a big THANK YOU to Timberlake and their crews for the awesome job they do, because most of us would not want to do such a smelly, nasty job. When you see them blowing leaves, or picking up leaves and limbs or large items, take a moment and tell those guys and girls THANK YOU, they do more than what people see!



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

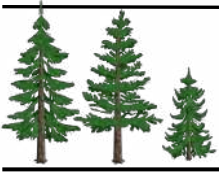
WIA Office
936-891-7710

Waterwood VFD
936-755-0960.

ACB

Lisa Hayman & Kathy Samperi

There are still many trailers in the neighborhood that are being left in driveways, yards, extra lots, etc. All of those residents have received a letter asking them to relocate their trailers or stop by the office and pick up a small improvement letter to install a fence. The deed restrictions in every subdivision in Waterwood state "No mobile home, trailer of any kind, camper or boat shall be kept, placed or maintained on a residential lot except in a carport, garage or in an outside storage area screen from view of streets, golf course, or lake". In 2018, the community voted and approved the following amendment: Boats may be parked on a driveway or side/back yard from May 1 through September 30. We are now 90 days past the allotted time. WIA sincerely does not want to take legal action but we have been left with no choice. Those with trailers remaining, have been turned over to legal council.



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Waterwood MUD 1

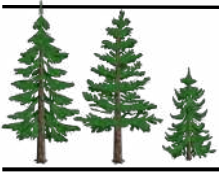
Roy Knapp, President WW MUD

For the past few months the MUD District has been discussing the much needed updates and maintenance for our aging system. Conducting our discussions with our attorney, engineers, auditor and financial advisor before the public has, I hope, given this community an idea of what is needed and what actions this board will decide on. We are in the process of accessing monies from our Bond Fund. This is a long process, one where we must consider all the consequences of our decisions. But decide we must. This community has come to a point where we are experiencing new growth. More new homes are being permitted. New families are wanting to live in this area. Our HOA's plans to meet these needs are dependent on what this MUD District is able to accomplish in the next few years. The current board has the best interest in meeting the demands for future growth. I and this community would not be in the position to take the needed steps for improvement and growth without the commitment of the four gentlemen that lend their experience, time, advise and love of this community.

The MUD board will meet January 21st. at 3:00 in the WIA building. You are all invited to attend and bring you questions and concerns before us.

Holiday Decorating Grand Prize Winner!
Congratulations to the Loy Family!





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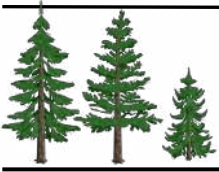
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WIA Santa Event 2021



MANY THANKS to James Schwebach who for the 3rd year now has been such a wonderful Santa!

WE APPRECIATE YOU JAMES!!!!



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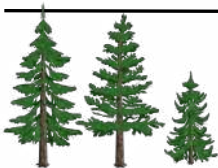
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Holiday Decorating Contest Winners!

Larry Westerdahl

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Annual Holiday Decorating Contest this year! Whispering Pines 1 subdivision had the most participation of all the subdivisions. If you were selected as a Winner or Honorable Mention CONGRATS! Please return signs to the WIA office once you take down your decorations. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!





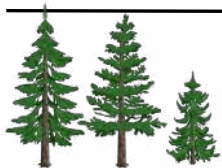
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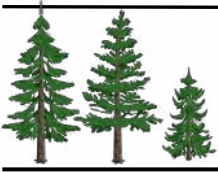
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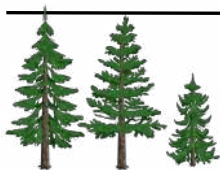
LCS Fiber Update

Jamie Groskopf

Hello Waterwood! We have made some major progress recently and wanted to share where things are at. The network is live and several subscribers are online in a testing capacity! We are tweaking some minor management functions but service has been excellent and online subscribers have provided very positive feedback. We are working hard to get the main Waterwood Parkway line installed permanently and hope to have that done by the next week or so. All 15 major creek crossings and the crossing under US-190 are complete. Barring weather or equipment setbacks, we will begin service connections in Green Tree Village and Whispering Pines 2 by the end of this month.

Some things that will be helpful when we near your area and are ready to connect you up. If you could take a moment to think about these before the installer shows up it will speed up the installation process and improve your experience.

- 1.) Do you have a sprinkler system or other buried private electrical or other lines in your yard that we would need to know about? Knowing what we have to avoid will speed up the installations and avoid unnecessary repairs.
- 2.) Will you be using our WiFi equipment or your own? The Internet service will come into your home directly on a fiber optic connection to an ONU (Optical Network Unit) for the best service possible. We have selected two types of ONUs depending on your needs. If you want to use your own WiFi router we will provide a single port ONU to feed your router with service. If you want to use our WiFi or desire home phone, we will provide you with the larger ONU that has 4 Ethernet ports, telephone, and Dual Band WiFi built in. When the installer arrives, if you would like assistance setting up your WiFi, please have the SSID name (name you want broadcast when you look at the WiFi access lists) and the WiFi password you intend to use ready for the installer to set up. Examples of easy to remember or identify names and passwords (WiFi SSID: JonesLakehouse, WiFi Password: welove2fish1962). Trying to think of good names and passwords while the installer is waiting usually results in spotty selections. You can always leave the SSID as the default but we will want the default password changed to avoid security issues.
- 3.) Will you need additional work inside your home? Our basic installation brings the optical cable inside your home to a wall-mounted port, typically on an exterior wall. If you need fiber or Ethernet lines run into the attic or other rooms to reach specific locations there may be additional expenses but we are happy to accommodate what you want. If you think you will need some of this additional work, please let the installation scheduler know so we can allot additional time for the onsite work or we may have to return at a later time.
- 4.) There are many modern services that some subscribers are not familiar with. While most users are familiar with streaming video services, if you are not and want a brief overview we can arrange that for you at time of installation or separately if you prefer. If you have your streaming device(s) like Roku, AppleTV, Amazon Fire Stick, or others ready to install we can help you set those up and show you the basics. If you need advanced network help to integrate security camera or other devices that may require static addressing that can be scheduled separately.



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Waterwood Women's League—December 8th Meeting

Trista Byrd

Dianne Chrestopoulos opened our meeting. There were 24 ladies present. The meeting was held at Boop Snapp's home where we had an Ornament Exchange which was lots of fun and we had a variety of soups and desserts provided for lunch by members of the League. Dianne thanked Boop and Marla for their hospitality for the day.

Dianna discussed the Toys for Tots program. Many brought toys to this meeting and others will bring theirs to Shirley Morrell or Marla Fink later in the week.

Past and Upcoming fundraisers:

*Garage Sale in November was not as successful as hoped for, but weather was probably a big reason for the small turn out.

*Fair on the Square- brought in about \$355. Items sold were things that the members made in the months preceding the Fair. This was organized by Debbie Maas.

Pat Chandler gave us the Treasurer's report stating that we have \$17,071.70 in the bank for scholarships.

We were told that if you have an old American Flag the needs to be retired, we should drop it off at the Veterans (Hearts) Museum in Huntsville where they will dispose of it properly.

Collections:

Marla Fink and Shirley Morrell are in charge of the following collections.

Socks for Solders – box in Palmer Real Estate vestibule

Sweats for Vets – large sizes

Warmth for Warriors- blankets

Toiletries

New Membership Booklets were distributed, thanks to Sally and John Charlton.

New members to our group were introduced:

Phyllis Lavallais

Pamala Sultan

Annette Lamoreaux

Sharon Gusman

Pat Chandler discussed the Food Bank: she said they still need volunteers in Point Blank to help. All should arrive at 9:30 a.m. (Call Pat for more information 936-377-4506).

We discussed ideas for making more scholarship money and at the January 13th meeting hopefully members will have some fund-raising ideas to share. So get your thinking caps on!!!

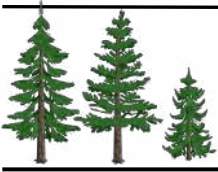
The meeting was dismissed and lunch was served. Thanks to all those members who brought soups, fixins, and desserts, - Soooooo good!

The door prize was a beautiful cake plate made by Debbie and won by Vicky Nelson.

Stained glass Christmas Tree made by Wanda Gardner was raffled off and won by Deb Harlow. We made \$450 on the raffle

Our next meeting will be on January 12th at 10:00 a.m. at the WIA office. Our theme will be Jiggle & Giggle Booty Camp- presented by Mary Jenge, a certified Yoga instructor.

A healthy lunch will be served.



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Symbols of freedom or pirates of the bird world?

Majestic Bald Eagles are at home in Waterwood

By Ruth Massingill

As the national emblem of our country since 1782 and a spiritual symbol for native peoples for centuries, Bald Eagles may be the most recognizable and admired bird in America, but they have some surprising habits and characteristics. Although chosen to represent freedom and courage, one of our country's founders considered Bald Eagles to be dishonest and cowardly. A bird of paradoxes to be sure.



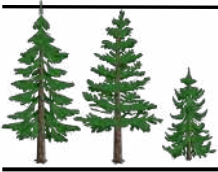
Adult Bald Eagle fishing

First of all, Bald Eagles are not bald, as you know if you have been lucky enough to see one up close, which is highly likely since a number of the birds make their home on the shores of Lake Livingston and live here year-round. The only eagles found only in North America, a mature Bald Eagle has a distinctive white feathered head, neck and tail that contrast with a chocolate-brown body, and large yellow bill. In fact, their name stems from the Old English word 'piebald,' which means 'white patch' and refers to their bright white heads.

Covered in dark feathers initially, Bald Eagles don't obtain their distinctive white heads until age 3 or 4. When fully grown, these impressive birds of prey are one of the largest birds in North America, with the females weighing up to 14 pounds and having a wingspan up to 8 feet. Males are smaller, at 7 to 10 pounds with a wingspan of 6 to 7 feet.

After a dramatic courtship, Bald Eagles display strong family values. Bald Eagle courtship involves elaborate calls and flight displays, but the most dramatic behavior is the birds flying high into the sky, locking talons, and free-falling and cartwheeling together, releasing right before they hit the ground. I saw this incredible feat a few years ago in the sky above the fourth fairway on the Waterwood golf course.

Eagle pairs typically bond for life. Each year when breeding season arrives, the same pair meet, build (or reuse) a nest, and raise up to three young. Both eagles help raise the babies, with each sitting on eggs, and hunting and providing food. Bald Eagles make the most massive tree nests ever recorded for any animal species. The largest nest documented was 9.5 feet in diameter, 20 feet deep, and weighed almost 3 tons.



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The average nest, however, is 4 to 5 feet in diameter and 2 to 4 feet deep. Each year, the adult breeding pairs add to the previous year's nest, typically adding about 1-2 feet of new material. Eagle nests usually don't last past five years because they collapse from their immense weight in the tree. Eagles are careful parents; concern for their young is so strong that they walk around the nest by folding their talons in, so they won't accidentally hurt the eaglets.



Bald Eagle nest

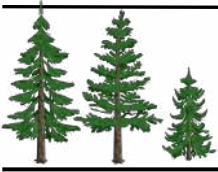
As with many animals, the first year is the riskiest for the young eagles, with an estimated 50% death rate. The oldest chick usually has the advantage of a larger size and stronger voice, which draws the parents' attention. This extra attention means they are usually given more food, which can lead to starvation for younger chicks. Other risks come from nest collapses, bad weather or predators such as hawks, crows, owls, bobcats and raccoons. Bald Eagles are mature at 4 to 5 years and ready to find mates. Their average life span in the wild is 20 years, but captive eagles might live twice that long.

Bald Eagles are deadly and efficient hunters, but they often steal their meals. As hunters, eagles dive for prey at speeds between 75 -100 miles per hour, and their talons are incredibly strong with a gripping power 10 times greater than a human. They can fly with a fish at least equal to their weight. They have large strong beaks and excellent eyesight, so they can see prey from very high in the sky, utilizing a wide field of vision and the ability to see ultraviolet light. The term 'eagle eye' is an apt description.

Despite these advantages, Bald Eagles can be lazy, often preferring to go after other creatures' catches rather than do their own fishing. A Bald Eagle will harass a hunting Osprey until the smaller raptor drops its prey in midair, where the eagle swoops it up. A Bald Eagle may even snatch a fish directly out of an Osprey's talons. Fishing mammals can also lose prey to Bald Eagle piracy.

In addition to fish, eagles eat birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates such as crabs, and small mammals. They will also scavenge in dumpsters and eat roadkill. When food is available, Bald Eagles may gorge, ingesting a large amount of food and digesting it over several days. They can also survive fasting for many days, even weeks.

Continued on next page



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Bald Eagles were near extinction in the 1940s but have made a remarkable recovery.

Unregulated hunting and loss of habitat had taken eagle numbers to a dangerous low when Congress passed the Bald Eagle Protection Act in 1940, making it illegal to kill, sell or possess an eagle. (Only Native Americans are allowed to possess eagle feathers as part of their religious ceremonies.) When DDT was introduced for agricultural use at the end of World War II, Bald Eagles declined further and were placed on the Endangered Species list in 1967. By the early 1970s, there were fewer than 400 breeding pairs in the country. DDT was banned in 1972 and eagles began a recovery. Today, there are an estimated 10,000 pairs.

Once a rare sighting in Texas, Bald Eagles now nest throughout the eastern third of the state., where there are plenty of water sources for hunting fish, and plenty of big trees for perching and nesting. Loss of habitat is the greatest threat to them now as human populations expand.

Here in Waterwood on the shores of a lake filled with fish and surrounded by tall trees, Bald Eagles thrive and thrill bird watchers. Keep an eye out for these flying paradoxes as they soar majestically overhead—or scavenge in a roadside ditch.

Fun Facts: Being the national symbol of the United States means Bald Eagles appear everywhere, from one-dollar bills to countless business logos, making it the most pictured bird in the country, even beating out Northern Cardinals on Christmas cards.

However, one founding father—Benjamin Franklin—disliked the choice of the Bald Eagle, saying, *“I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly.”* Franklin was more in favor of a Turkey being the National Bird, saying, *“The Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America.”*

By contrast, Native Americans consider eagles to be sacred since they are the highest-flying birds and are seen to be nearer to the Creator. The eagle symbol signifies courage, wisdom and strength in many Native American cultures.

Share your eagle experiences with Ruth at: ruthmassingill@yahoo.com



Juvenile Bald Eagle

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.