

# Waterwood Neighborhood News

## April 2021

### Calendar

4- 5 April Heavy Trash Pickup

4-16 MUD Meeting

4-19 WIA Meeting

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

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

### Fiber Optic Voting Results

by WIA Strategic Planning



The WIA Board held an open special meeting March 3, 2021 at the Waterwood office. Jamie Groskopf of LCS Fiber Internet provided information about the project to the Board and attending residents. The Board approved unanimously a motion to proceed with the fiber optic project and to get all Waterwood property owner's approval. In addition, a town hall was held on April 13, 2021 to allow WIA residents to ask questions of the Board and Jamie Groskopf. The town hall was well attended. Ballots were mailed out on March 8, 2021 to all Waterwood property owners.

Voting on the fiber optic network installation ended on March 22, 2021. Votes postmarked on or prior to March 22, 2021 were accepted and counted through the close of business Friday March 26, 2021. The final vote count came to 157 votes in favor with 105 votes against. The fiber project passed and is moving forward. Progress on the project will be discussed at monthly WIA meetings, via articles in the Waterwood Neighborhood Newsletter and on Facebook.

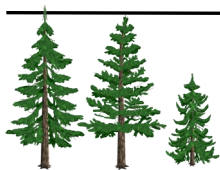
Special thanks to everyone who attended the Fiber Project Town Hall Meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> and  
**SPECIAL THANKS TO LARRY WESTERDAHL** for grilling the hotdogs enjoyed by all!

### Pool Passes

**Lisa Hayman - Executive Director**



Sunshine and Swimming season is here! Swimming pool passes are available 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!



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

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## Collection of 2020 Annual HOA Fees

by WIA Audit/Finance

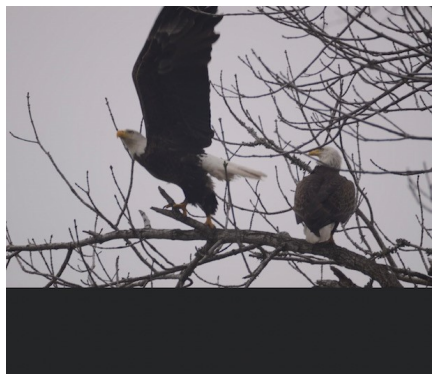
2020 Annual HOA fees were due by December 31, 2020. HOA fees not paid by the December 31, 2020 due date are considered late and subject to a 10% per annum late charge. Late notices were sent to all delinquent HOA fee property owners in February 2021. As of March 31, 2021 the following table reflects the status of paid and unpaid properties, split between Improved (properties with dwellings) and Unimproved (vacant lots).

Property Type	Paid	Pmt Plan	Deed-ed	Not Paid	Total
Improved - Single Family	412	17	0	43	472
Improved - Multi Family	2	0	0	1	3
Unimproved - Single Family	439	8	21	451	919
Unimproved - Multi Family	0	0	0	3	3
<b>Total All Properties</b>	853	25	21	498	1397

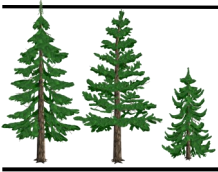
During the March 19, 2021 WIA Board meeting, the Board voted unanimously to initiate legal/foreclosure actions on improved property owners with unpaid HOA fees. Letters dated March 31, 2021 and April 1, 2021 were sent via certified mail to all Improved – Single Family and Improved – Multi Family property owners with unpaid HOA fees. If fees are not paid within 30 days of receipt of the certified letter, the accounts will be turned over to the WIA attorney for collection and/or foreclosure.

The WIA Board also voted unanimously to contract with Collections Unlimited to collect on all unpaid unimproved properties. Any unimproved property HOA fees not collected by Collections Unlimited will be turned over to the WIA attorney for foreclosure.

It should be noted that a great deal of our Executive Director's and Finance/Admin's time is expended to send delinquent notices to property owners that do not pay their HOA fees timely. It also costs a significant amount of money in print and postage costs that takes away from how your WIA dues should be used.



Eagle Photos courtesy of Louis Pabor



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# Waterwood Neighborhood News

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## Disaster Preparedness Plan

Sam Butler, Board Member

In the January 2021, February 2021 and March 2021 Waterwood Neighborhood News editions there were articles on the Waterwood Improvement Association, Inc. Disaster Preparedness Plan. Block Captains are continuing with their final preparations in preparing the resident contact lists. ATV Captains are still a work in progress and efforts are being made to get volunteers who own an ATV to participate. Boat Captain duties have been revised so that responses to pick up residents will be made based on where the evacuation is needed.

A decision has been made by the Waterwood Fire Chief Tim McGrath to conduct the first test of our Disaster Preparedness Plan on April 24 at 9:00 A.M. The test will be conducted from 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. and will be followed by a short look back meeting at the Pavilion. Anyone who wishes to come to the look back meeting is welcome to attend. The look back meeting will allow us an opportunity to review the test results and determine the improvement areas in the plan.

In order for the plan to be successful we will need as many residents to participate as possible. We wanted to make sure this time and date for this first test is known in advance so that we hopefully will have a successful test.

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 will be contacted for instructions on how to use GroupMe.

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



Sunrise courtesy of Jink Willis

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

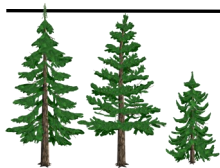
Waterwood Improvement Association

*Spring Fling*  
**COMMUNITY POTLUCK  
LUNCH**

SAT, MAY **15** 11:30AM - 1PM

The WIA Social Committee will meet in April to finalize plans for this fun annual event. Spring Fling 2021 will be a Potluck Community Meal with Hot Dogs provided by WIA. Residents are encouraged to bring a potluck dish to share. Suggestions include sandwiches, casseroles, side dishes, & desserts

People's Choice awards will be given in each category — Main Dish, Side Dish and Dessert. Prizes will be given for the favorites and runner up.



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## WVFD Partnering with the Red Cross

Chief Tim McGrath



The Waterwood Volunteer Fire Department has partnered with The American Red Cross to provide up to three Red Cross smoke alarms and installation per household. These smoke alarms have 10-year batteries and will be scheduled for installation by the fire department after an initial assessment and acknowledgement form has been completed and signed by the resident. Additionally, we will provide a home fire safety checklist and a home fire escape plan that you can complete for your household. Please contact the Fire Department to schedule an appointment for the assessment. We will complete assessments and installations on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.

The Volunteer Fire Department has a new business phone number that will be answered Monday through Friday from 8am – 5pm. The business phone number is 936-755-0960. Feel free to leave a voice message if we are unable to answer your call. We will promptly return during business hours. **For emergencies call 911.**

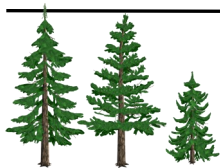
Enjoy the wonderful Springtime that is upon us and continue to keep an eye out for smoke and fires.

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## WINTER STORM DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Anita Paul

You can apply 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

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## Waterwood Women's League

Deb Harlow

Hi ladies! If you didn't make it to our last meeting, you missed another good get-together and a wonderful meal at Carolina Creek. We discussed normal business and Maryann provided some great info about how to revive our gardens affected by the severe freeze. WWL will have a booth in Huntsville on the square for Junk-A-Palooza on Saturday April 10th starting at 7:00 a.m. We'll be selling bird feeders, fairy gardens and lights, vanilla and anything else we need to sell. Come on out to help or buy!

Thanks so much to everyone for your donations throughout the year. We only have a couple of collections left. This month we are asking for school clothes for Onalaska High School. They may be new or gently used and clean. Underwear is accepted, but must be new with tags or unopened. The donation box will be at the Windstream/Palmer office through April 14th. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity!

**Our March trip to Brookwood Community in Brookshire was rescheduled for April 14th!** We have a pretty good group of ladies driving down. You can read about the campus online @ [brookwoodcommunity.org](http://brookwoodcommunity.org) It's an amazing place! Lunch will be off the menu. The group has several drivers and will be meeting at the WIA office at 9:00 a.m. on April 14th for the carpool down. As always, please RSVP if you'll be attending. You may call Brandy, Lalla, Debbie Maas or myself to get on the list.

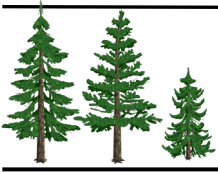
Don't forget to check out our Facebook page for upcoming events! WWL is a 501(c)3 organization. Our main goal is to provide educational scholarships for local students. Please join us, we have a lot of fun, do great things and we'd love to have you!

See all you at the next meeting!

Deb Harlow  
Secretary, WWL



Please donate clothes for Onalaska High School students



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

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## WHAT in the World is a WNGRA?

Al Rincon, Events/Tournaments Chair

Well...one way to define it is...All the I-N-G's! Walking, Jogging, Hiking, Nature-Watching, Picnicking, Fishing, Kayaking, and yes...a little Golfing too, if that's your "bag" (see what I did there?). The Waterwood National Golf & Recreation Association (WNGRA) invites all community members, whether you've recently moved-in or you've been here since the 70's, to join and enjoy the great outdoor fun and fresh air! If there's one thing this prior year has taught us, is to enjoy the simple things, the beauty of nature, and the importance of activities with Family and Friends. We are certain you'll agree that our amazing Waterwood greenspace & golf course provides a peaceful, natural, refreshing and safe environment for us to enjoy life's simple things.

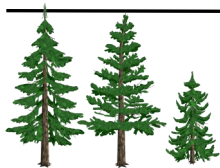


The **WNGRA** held its First Quarterly Meeting recently and we were all pleased a) to see great attendance, and b) to meet some of our newest neighbors! President James Schwebach and Treasurer Alex Chrestopolous provided an informative update regarding the 2021 goals for our organization, membership participation, grounds maintenance needs and the related budget. I must say, it was inspiring to witness the positive energy and interest in enhancing our community expressed by the attendees.

As an added bonus, a few lucky winners walked off with \$200 worth of Visa gift cards....simply for sharing what they loved most about Waterwood!



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# Waterwood Neighborhood News

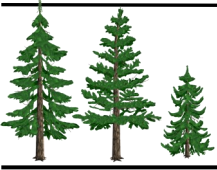
April 2021

Resulting from the meeting, we have an action item to create a calendar of FUN EVENTS for the year. We encourage you to be on the lookout for a variety of media, printed and online, which will announce event details, dates, location, etc. A few great ways to remain in-the-know are, a) join the WNGRA and Waterwood Texas Facebook pages, b) watch for mail-outs from WNGRA, and c) we'd be thrilled to have you as a Member of the WNGRA Family. Please email or call Al Rincon at [alrincon@kw.com](mailto:alrincon@kw.com) or 713.560.8972, or James at [schwebachj@aol.com](mailto:schwebachj@aol.com) for membership registration.

In the meantime, you're invited to join us for a non-competitive golf scramble on Saturday mornings at 9am. We meet under the trees near the 18th green. It's 5 bucks to play, but I guarantee you that watching some of our golf swings is totally worth the entertainment value alone! :-) -







# Waterwood Neighborhood News

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## Aerial insectivores

### Swallows are returning to Waterwood

By Ruth Massingill

One of the true signs of spring is when the swallows return from their winter in South America to raise their young. There are at least eight kinds of birds in the swallow family, but the ones we are most likely to see are Purple Martins and Barn Swallows. Both are insect eating machines, devouring hordes of mosquitoes and other flying pests.



Purple Martins

Purple Martins are the largest North American swallows. They once nested in tree cavities, but long ago adopted structures put up by human “Martin landlords.” Native Americans hung up empty gourds for Purple Martins before Europeans arrived. Now, Purple Martins in eastern North America nest almost exclusively in apartment-style houses or plastic gourds designed for them.



Purple Martin Condo

Putting up a Purple Martin house is like installing a miniature neighborhood. The dark, glossy-blue males and brown females will peer from the entrances and chirp from the rooftops. The community is both social and vocal; if you host Martins, you will hear birdsong morning and evening.

Also a member of the swallow family, the Barn Swallow is smaller than a Purple Martin, but has a longer and more deeply forked tail, blueish-black back, wings and tail, a cinnamon-colored forehead and throat, and creamy underparts.

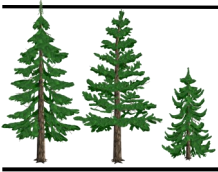
The Barn Swallow is the most abundant and widely distributed swallow species in the world. It breeds throughout the Northern Hemisphere and winters in much of the Southern Hemisphere.

This bird is also known as the mud swallow because it builds cup-shaped nests made from mud and straw on patios, porches, culverts and bridges. Like the Purple Martin, Barn Swallows once nested in natural cavities, but when settlers began building barns, the swallows moved in.



Barn Swallow looking for a meal

Continued on next page



# Waterwood Neighborhood News

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## Swallows are returning to Waterwood (Cont.)

Although their nesting habits differ, members of the swallow family lead similar lives in most other ways. Swallows may stay on the wing for hours in seemingly effortless flight, traveling far and wide to find swarms of small insects. Researchers have discovered that Barn Swallows and Purple Martins divide up the aerial environment into distinct bands. Barn Swallows may cruise low, sometimes just a few inches above the ground or water, while Purple Martins may soar up to 500 feet to find food.

Neither Purple Martins nor Barn Swallows visit seed or suet feeders, but they may take ground-up eggshells or oyster shells placed on an open platform feeder. Shells should be baked for about 10 minutes in a 350-degree oven and then pulverized.

Unfortunately, swallows are one of the most steeply declining groups of birds in North America, so they need all the human help they can get! There are two species of non-native birds, the European Starling and the House Sparrow, which will nest in Purple Martin housing. Starlings will destroy eggs and kill nestlings. They can even prevent Martins from nesting and often injure or kill adults. Unlike native birds, House Sparrows and European Starlings are not protected. Starlings are larger than Purple Martins, with a stocky body, short tail, and a long yellow beak. Many Martin houses are built with starling-resistant entrance holes (SREH)S. There is a world of helpful information about all aspects of hosting Martins at the [Purple Martin Conservation Association](#) website.



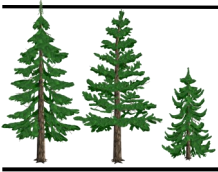
European Starling

Both Purple Martins and Barn Swallows tend to return to the same sites year after year. I have had both kinds of swallows bless me with their companionship every year for more than 20 years. The Barn Swallows use an artificial nest cup I purchased years ago and mounted under a covered porch. They outfit the nest with soft feathers and straw and typically raise two sets of 4 to 5 young, beginning in late February or March.



Purple Martin Nestlings

The Purple Martin “scouts,” or adult birds, arrive about the same time as the Barn Swallows, with the subadult birds (fledged the previous year) showing up a month or more later. They like to nest in multi-room houses in the open where they can launch themselves skyward to gobble up insects. This year, European Starlings invaded, so I have changed out my Martin house for one with SREH, but I am worried that the Martins may be driven away.



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## Swallows are returning to Waterwood (Cont.)

In some cultures, it's a sign of good luck if swallows select your home for their nests, so I feel honored by their presence. Unfortunately, swallows are one of the most steeply declining groups of birds in North America, so they need all the human help they can get! Here in Waterwood, I find that by late June or mid-July, all the swallows have decamped to begin the long trip back to their winter home in South America. I am left swatting mosquitoes and looking forward to their return the following spring!

**Fun Fact:** Putting up martin houses used to be so common that John James Audubon used them to choose his lodgings for the night. In 1831, he remarked, "Almost every country tavern has a martin box on the upper part of its sign-board; and I have observed that the handsomer the box, the better does the inn generally prove to be." ([TheCornellLab](#))

*If you like to talk about birds, you can contact Ruth at: [ruthmassingill@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthmassingill@yahoo.com)*

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Sunset on the 14th Tee Box

# Classifieds



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CALIFORNIA ROADSTER

OVER \$20,000 INVESTED. CUSTOM BUILT.  
ONE OF A KIND. SHOW WINNER.

**HERE IN COLUSA.**

\$9,000 obo

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**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!

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**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.