



Westminster Pine Park Newsletter

October 2018

From the President

"Building Community" is the new theme for our Civic Association. Toward this goal, we had a flower bed planting activity April 21st at the entrance sign on Chelsea and a clean-up day May 12th along Baker Drive. Also, we believe having a vibrant, up-to-date website is a key element as we try to build community. Our Board approved a new website hosting platform that will allow us to create pertinent content and to easily maintain it. The new site, using the same web address (www.w-pp.org), will be up and running very soon. We will let you know as soon as it comes on-line!

As you know, we are a volunteer organization and our strength is determined by the level of participation of all of us: the residents of Westminster and Pine Park. The Board is a group of dedicated residents willing to work on everyone's behalf for the betterment of our neighborhood. Frankly, we could use some help! We all have busy lives, just like you, and we would welcome some fresh ideas and participation. Please, take time to ask yourself if, for the benefit of your family and our neighborhood, you would be willing to make a contribution.

Consider joining our Board for the coming year, spearheading a project or serving on a committee. Contact me to discuss possibilities: mikeherschman@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

Mike Hershman

Thanks a Million Dawnette

It is time to say goodbye to Dawnette and Stan Shelton who will be moving to another neighborhood in Baton Rouge. They will be sorely missed! Their level of commitment and caring for our neighborhood has been exemplary. As you probably know, Dawnette was instrumental in implementing our designation as a Crime Prevention District and she has faithfully served on that board with the responsibility of "Security," as well as serving on the Civic Association Board. Thank you, Dawnette, for all your years of tireless effort and your loving and caring kindness to all of us and our animals! We wish for both of you lots of good luck and happiness in your new home!

Civic Association Calendar:

Halloween decoration judging, Oct. 26
Christmas decoration judging, Dec. 14
Luminary sale Dec 15 (10 am - 2 pm) & Dec 16 (1 - 3 pm)
Pictures with Santa (free), Dec. 16 (afternoon)
Luminary display, Dec. 16 (6 - 8 pm)
Annual mtg. Jan. 28, 2019 (6:30 pm @ Jefferson Baptist)

Neighborhood Spotlight

Did you know that the 1955 NCAA heavyweight boxing champion lives in Westminster-Pine Park? His name is Crowe Peele. You probably have seen Crowe walking his dog, Ching, in the morning and faithfully carrying the newspapers to the doorstep of each home he passes in the neighborhood. What you may not know is that Crowe was a boxer for LSU in the 1950's who won all of his collegiate matches for a 49-0 record.

Crowe lived on Jefferson Hwy in front of Westminster in the mid-50's. He then lived on Blecker for several years, and has now lived on Pine Ridge since 1976. Crowe met his wife, Betty, while paying a bill at the Baton Rouge Water Department where Betty worked. They have been married for 51½ years and have three children who grew up in our neighborhood.

Crowe and Betty love the location of Westminster being close to stores, shopping, and doctor offices.

Other Interesting facts: Betty is originally from Arkansas while Crowe is from North Carolina. Crowe is a member of the Carolinas Boxing Hall of Fame, finishing his amateur boxing career with a 195-5 record. After finishing his boxing career, Crowe owned a Texaco service station on Jefferson Hwy for many years.

Westminster-Pine Park is so thankful to have Crowe & Betty in the neighborhood!

WPP Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Improvement District

My apologies for the delay in getting a security report out to you but I had hoped to have more closure regarding our crime spree in the late spring/early summer. As of now, the only information given to me is that there is a warrant out for the burglaries on Chelsea but I have no info on the construction break-in on Drusilla or the trailer theft. If any resident involved has more information that you would like to share, please do.

As usual, the rash of car burglaries - I believe we had 4-5 - seems to stop and there is rarely an arrest. While many were reported on Nextdoor, the sheriff was only called on a couple of them. I implore all of you to report ALL crimes to the sheriff. This helps them track crime and helps our subdivision get more attention. We do NOT rely on our crime district patrols only! We pay extra for our patrols but still deserve regular attention from the EBR sheriff's Gardere station.

It perplexes me how our neighborhood has almost nonexistent crime and then we seem to have a spree. With our assessment of \$100 a year, we schedule about 4-5 hours a day. I often wonder if the criminals are really lucky or clueless, but nonetheless they are not afraid to hit our neighborhood.

How can we stop them?

1. Install a monitored alarm system. This will deter thieves and will help in faster response times.
2. Remove all items of value from sight: bikes, lawn equipment, etc. Lock up your valuables.
3. LOCK YOUR CARS AND REMOVE VALUABLES. Almost everyone who had a car broken into said the same thing, "We always lock our cars. We just forgot."
4. Consistent use of WPP stickers on cars will help residents and law enforcement officials identify who doesn't reside in the neighborhood.
5. Park in driveways. Cars on the street provide "cover" for potential thieves to hide.
6. Prune bushes and shrubs and keep your property neat and tidy.

I know crime is frustrating but we have to be the first level of defense to prevent it. We had a complaint from a resident who wanted to know "where is our security" during the last wave. Please understand - and we have said this countless times - we do NOT have 24-hour patrols!

By having a crime district I believe we have built a great rapport with the EBR Sheriff Department. You may not realize that some of the marked units seen in the neighborhood are actually deputies spending time here while on normal patrol. While some of you lament the length of time it takes to get a deputy to respond to a call, there are times when Gardere has only one or two deputies scheduled in the entire sector. If it is not an emergency wait times are longer. If our deputies are around at that time, they will respond to your call for assistance.

As many of you know, my husband and I are moving from Pine Park. I have lived here for the better part of 45 years and am very sad to leave, but the crime board will have a very capable lead in Paula Kemp (225-413-0500), who will be appointed to finish my term. As always, feel free to voice all of your questions and concerns.

Look out for your neighbors and remember - if you see something, say something.

Dawnette Shelton

No Dumping Allowed

We have received complaints about some people leaving items for garbage collection in yards other than their own. It is illegal for any of us to leave our garbage or any type of tree debris or yard waste at the following locations: the vacant "FEMA" lots, the grassy boulevard on Chelsea, and the three grassy Circles (Claus, Downing, and North Maiden). The civic association is doing its best to maintain the FEMA lots and the Chelsea Boulevard median by keeping them mowed and looking nice. And we appreciate those who help maintain the circles. Please cooperate. Do not leave your trash in these areas.

The right of any resident to have trash collected is related to the monthly "garbage" fee we pay. That fee is collected on the same bill as water and sewer. To qualify for having garbage collected, residents are required to put the garbage in their OWN front yard. The city-parish views the leaving of trash in the areas described above as being "illegal dumping," which should be reported by calling 311. Under some circumstances, leaving trash other than in your own yard is the criminal offense of littering, which should be reported to the sheriff's office by calling 389-5000.

Also, the city-parish has rules regarding how the garbage should be placed in your yard. Garbage and recycling carts should be placed at least three feet from each other and three feet from mailboxes, utility poles, fire hydrants, and trees. Cart lids must be closed; overflowing carts might not be collected. Large bulky trash, such as old furniture, mattresses, etc., should be placed in an unbundled trash pile for once-weekly collection (on Thursdays). Tree debris and limbs and bagged leaves also are collected on Thursdays and should be placed three feet away from the other unbundled trash. If a tree service does work for you, they are required by law to take ALL debris and limbs with them. Construction contractors also are not allowed to leave their trash in your yard. If you have a large amount of trash of the type that normally goes into the garbage cart and that trash does not fit within your cart, please do not put the trash in your yard. You must either wait to put the items into your cart on the next garbage day or bag up the items. Please be a good neighbor and comply with these rules.

If you have concerns about your garbage collection, want to report missed garbage, trash, or recycling collections, or need to buy an extra cart, you may call 311 (225-389-3090). You also may use the RedStick311 mobile app or submit online at <http://311.brla.gov/>. If you set out a large item, please contact 311 so they will know to send the proper truck.

Phone Tree

Are you registered for the Phone Tree?

The civic association sponsors a phone tree system that averages 2 to 3 phone messages a month. The phone tree provides you with reports of crimes, lost/found pets, and important announcements. To register for the service, to change or remove a number, or to submit information for a phone tree message, please contact our phone tree coordinator, Paula Kemp, by calling or texting 225-413-0500, or by personal message in Nextdoor.com. (Janis Kile is backup, 225-933-8673 cell, janiskile@cox.net.)

Replay line: When you receive a call from our phone tree, the call will be identified as coming from 877-565-8456. Because the number may be misidentified by your phone carrier as being Republic Services, we suggest you add the number to your contacts. If your phone is busy or you do not have voice mail, you might miss the phone tree call. If you call that number from a phone that is registered in our system, you will hear a replay of the most recent message.

Overlay District Update

The revision to the Jefferson Highway Overlay District was approved by the City-Parish Metro Council on August 15, 2018. This was the culmination of 2 years of work by our Board and its committee members John DeMond and Josh Hoffpauer in accord with Frank Duke, the Director of our City-Parish Planning Commission. By bringing the building restrictions for future construction into compliance with best practices, we hope to have ensured the ability to maintain the integrity and value of all of our properties.

New Neighbors

Welcome to the following people that have moved into the neighborhood since the last newsletter:

Elizabeth Gilbert & Jacob Stephen - 4546 Fleet Dr.
Yolanda Barnett - 4288 Chelsea Dr.

Our new neighbor packet includes a plethora of useful information. If you are new to W/PP and have not received a visit please contact Tana at 225-276-6119.

Halloween Decoration Contest

It's that time of the year again: Halloween decoration contest time! Skeletons in the grass, graveyards on the front lawn, witches hanging from the trees and spiders crawling on the drive-ways. Let your creativity out and decorate your yard for our contest. Judges will be driving around the evening of Friday, October 26.

Luminary Display

The annual Westminster/Pine Park luminary celebration is scheduled for Sunday, December 16 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Supplies will be available at the pool Saturday, December 15 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and Sunday, December 16 from 1:00 to 3:00. Any money raised over expenses funds projects that do not fit within the scope of the crime prevention and neighborhood improvement district or that do not fit within the CPD budget for the year. Hot chocolate stands will be set up at several locations in the neighborhood, and Santa will be riding around.

Welcome Wagon

The Neighborhood "Welcome Wagon" needs your help! W-PP is a busy, friendly neighborhood. Keeping up with each other can sometimes be difficult. The Welcome Committee tries to call on new residents with a Welcome Packet, but it is sometimes hard to make person-to-person contact. When you notice a new neighbor move in it would be wonderful if you would call or text Tana Cramp (225-276-6119). If you are new to the neighborhood and haven't received a Welcome Packet, please call or text Tana so she can set up a visit. If you prefer to have your packet mailed she can do that too. Thank you! "Won't you be my neighbor?"~ Fred Rogers.

Yards of the Month

May - Day Residence - 3817 Pine Park Dr.
June - Gautreau Residence - 4524 Pine Ridge Dr.
July - McKenzie Residence - 4424 Blecker Dr.
Aug - McKee Residence - 9094 Baker Dr.
Sept - Kramer Residence - 4415 Fleet Dr.

Congratulations to the YOM winners, and thank you for making our neighborhood a nice-looking one. We all appreciate it.

Westminster/Pine Park Civic Assn.
4220 N. Maiden Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70809



Be sure to LIKE us on Facebook. Search for Westminster Pine Park.

Check out our website for zoning restrictions and other info: www.w-pp.org

Parking regulations: Available at <https://www.municode.com/library/la> under Baton Rouge Title 11 Chapter 28. Here are some highlights:

Vehicles must be parked in the direction of traffic within 18 inches of the curb.

Vehicles cannot be parked on the street for more than 9 consecutive hours.

Vehicles cannot be parked on the sidewalk or the grass between the house and street.

Vehicle can't block mailbox or driveway.

Please contact Tana Cramp at 276-6119 for a W/PP sticker for your car to help the sheriff identify non-neighborhood cars.

WPP Civic Association Board

Executive Officers

Mike Herschman (Pres/Crime Prev Dist Rep.)	931-2100
Paula Kemp (Vice President/Phone Tree)	413-0500
Steve Foster (Secretary)	930-9377
Steve Long (Treasurer/Crime Prev. District Rep.)	445-2437
Janis Kile (Past President/Phone Tree)	933-8673

Members/Committee Responsibilities

John Pray (Beautification)	933-9253
Susan Simoneaux (Welcome)	248-0889
Rick Martin (Newsletter/Social/Fundraising)	924-5680
Kirsten Raby (Publicity)	389-3475
Jeff McKee (Public Works)	927-6990
Tana Cramp (Welcome)	276-6119

Have a question or comment?

We'd love to hear from you.

E-mail us at board@w-pp.org.