



Westminster Pine Park Newsletter

April 2024

From the President:

Hello Spring!

Now that we are having this beautiful weather, it is time to get our yards ready for the Yard of the Month contest that begins in May. Please do not blow leaves and debris into our streets as it is against a city ordinance to do so. Please do not put trash bags in the street gutters. Keep the neighborhood looking nice by edging the sidewalk and curb in your yard.

As you know, I worked diligently with Entergy last year to correct our power outages. As to my knowledge, we have not had any outages and have had winds up to 50 miles an hour. Keep your fingers crossed!

Well! The Jefferson Highway nightmare is here. It will be done in phases and will take 2 to 2½ years to complete. To get information and stay up-to-date with the DOTD project and traffic go to www.511La.org.

We are looking into placing speed bumps on the busy streets to help combat speeding. We have had many complaints especially during school hours.

John Pray

Neighborhood Spotlight

W-PP is a great neighborhood for runners. Every morning you can usually spot someone walking or jogging down one of our streets. But did you know that W-PP is also home to one of Baton Rouge High's Hall of Fame runners?

Jim Starnes ran track for Baton Rouge High in the mid-1950's. In 1957, Jim's relay team won the 440 and 880 relays at the state championship. They set state records in both events—records that stood for close to 20 years! That year, Baton Rouge High won the track & field state championship with Jim's relay teams scoring almost half of the team's total points. Jim's state championship team will be inducted into the Baton Rouge High Athletic Hall of Fame on May 11th of this year.

Jim and his wife Betty have lived in W-PP since 1972. They have always loved the location of W-PP and the great friends and neighbors that they have had throughout the past 52 years. Their two children grew up in W-PP, going to Westminster Elementary and swimming on the WAC swim team.

Jim and Betty have been married for 62 years. When asked what the secret to a long marriage is, Betty replied, "Learning to keep your mouth shut!" That sounds like good advice for us all!

Steve Foster

WPP Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Improvement District

A warm thanks to everyone who attended our Annual Meeting in January. Attendance was up to pre-Covid levels. It goes to show that our neighbors really care about Westminster-Pine Park. Cpt. Chad Jones, our deputy patrol coordinator, reported that 2023 crimes are still very low, which is keeping our neighborhood one of the safest in Baton Rouge. Our 4 off-duty deputies who patrol W-PP average 30 hours (mainly sunup to sundown). Their presence is an effective crime deterrent. Periodically, we see homeless camps under the I-12 bridge just south of Jefferson Hwy. Neighbors on this part of Drusilla have experienced petty thefts, vandalism, and disturbances of the peace as a result. Please secure your backyard fences on Drusilla to discourage any such trespassing through your yards. When this becomes problematic, our Councilwoman, Laurie Adams, teams up with the Sheriff's Office and the City Parish to clean up periodic homeless camps. On a positive note, Hospice of Baton Rouge is completing The Retreat at Quarters Lake, a beautiful facility just across Wards Creek. This means that the banks of Wards Creek close to Jefferson Hwy will be better maintained and it will result in more eyes on the surrounding area. We can all help to keep W-PP safe by checking security cameras and Ring doorbells if crimes occur. Call the Sheriff's office (389-5000), post it on NextDoor, and report it on our Phone Tree (Steve Foster-328-8424 or David Carnes-266-4822). Keep us informed—together we can prevent crimes. LOCK SHEDS and CARS. Keep bikes and mowers secure. Please lock all doors on your homes, too.

Crime Cameras –FLOCK cameras are installed at all four entrances. Our deputy patrol coordinator, Detective Chad Jones, has helped us with these cameras. The Sheriff's Office installed 40 FLOCK cameras in and around the parish. We are networked into this. Incidentally, our board has no access; it's monitored by the Sheriff's Office. The cameras feature a high-resolution License Plate Reader that is networked into the Sheriff's Real Time Camera Center as well as other law enforcement agencies. It's helpful to put Westminster-Pine Park stickers on our cars. Contact us if you want a sticker.

Speeding and running stop signs If you see any speeders or drivers running stop signs, notify the Sheriff (389-5000).

David L. Carnes (davidcarnes@cox.net) 225-266-4822

Real Estate Report

WPP is truly holding its own in this adjusting market. There are 4 houses on the market as of March 19, 2 pending closures, and 8 closures since October 1. The average days on the market for the sold properties is 40 (EBR average is 71) and the median sales price is strong at \$297,000 (EBR is \$261,000).

Beating the parish statistics validates the popularity of the neighborhood. One house on Drusilla was under contract just 8 days after it was put on the market! The demand for homes in the neighborhood is still there thanks to our location, the quality of the neighborhood itself, and the size of the homes.



Want to join the neighborhood pool?

Search "westminster aquatic" to find us on Facebook!



The Westminster Aquatic Club (WAC) is a private, family-friendly, pool, tennis, and pickleball facility located on N. Maiden Dr. in W-PP. Dues are \$375 per year. Stock ownership (required) is a one-time fee of \$250 with payment options available. Benefits include:

- Full time certified lifeguard on duty
- Fenced in baby pool & bathroom facilities
- Shaded pavillion & picnic tables with BBQ grill
- 24/7 keyed access to lighted tennis and pickleball courts
- Reservations available for private parties (w/ lifeguard)
- Summer kick-off party, 4th of July bash, end of summer party
- Pickleball tournament and other community events

For more information, including membership options & days/hours of operation contact Tori Finley at 682-330-0920 or WestminsterAquaticClub@gmail.com

Westminster Aquatic Club



SWIM TEAM

Kids ages 4-18 can join the neighborhood swim team for fun & exercise this summer.

Practices begin in mid- to late-May and run until the end of June.

For more information, contact Margaret Miller by email at margaret.miller789@gmail.com.

Phone Tree

If you want to receive notifications of crimes, emergencies, and neighborhood-wide events, be sure your phone number is registered in our W-PP phone tree. Cell phone numbers will receive notifications via text while home numbers will receive a recorded phone call. Steve Foster is our phone tree coordinator. Please submit requests to be added to the system or to remove or change a phone number to Steve.

If you have been the victim of a crime we would like to warn our neighbors, but you must inform us before we can do a broadcast. You can contact Steve Foster (coordinator) at 225-328-8424 or email stevenliz91@gmail.com or David Carnes (Crime Prevention) at 225-266-4822 or email davidcarnes@cox.net.

When you receive a call or text from our phone tree, the call will be identified as coming from 877-565-8456 and the texts from 225-317-7992. Put those numbers into your contacts so you will not think they are spam. For lost pets or other general announcements, please use Nextdoor or Facebook. If you call the 877 number from a phone that is registered in our system you will hear a replay of the most recent message (if it is within seven days of the broadcast). The system will attempt to call your phone three different times. If your line is busy or you have no answering machine, you will not receive the phone tree message. We generally do not do a follow-up message, but if a crime has occurred someone on the crime prevention board usually does a post in Nextdoor.com with more details and follow-up.

Thanks! Steve Foster

Welcome New Neighbors!

Welcome to the following people who have moved into the neighborhood since October:

4844 Drusilla Dr.	4444 S. Maiden Dr.
4745 S. Maiden Dr.	9058 Baker Dr.
4288 Drusilla Dr.	4437 Drusilla Dr.
4537 Chelsea Dr.	4017 Pine Park Dr.
3822 Blecker Dr.	

We're glad you chose Westminster-Pine Park. If you haven't yet received an Information Packet for New Neighbors, please contact Aimee Rasche 225-369-3562 (text or voice) and she will get one to you.

Halloween Contest Winners

1st Place - 3805 Pine Park Dr.
2nd Place - 4447 Chelsea Dr.
3rd Place - 4417 Chelsea Dr.

Christmas Contest Winners

1st Place Best Lighting - 3945 Strand Dr.
2nd Place Best Lighting - 4244 Drusilla Dr.
3rd Place Best Lighting - 4365 Chelsea Dr.
Best Door - 3805 Pine Park Dr.
Best Wreath - 4411 Blecker Dr.

Jefferson Highway Project Info

The middle lanes of the section of Jefferson Hwy from Drusilla to Bluebonnet should be open for use at the end of April. Then the middle lanes of the section of Jefferson Hwy between Bluebonnet and Airline Hwy will be replaced. That should be complete in September, after which the outside lanes (only one at a time) from Drusilla to Bluebonnet will be replaced. That will take longer than replacing the middle lanes because there are driveways and intersections to contend with. After the entire project from Drusilla to Airline is complete a new surface will be placed on top of the roadway. Hopefully all will be complete by Christmas 2025.

Street Light Outage Reporting

Street light outages can be reported either by calling 800-968-8243 or by going online at www.energylouisiana.com and navigating to Residential Customers->Products and Services->Report Street Lights Out->Report a Lighting Issue->Street Light->Continue. Then enter the address, choose the light, enter your name, and submit the report

Yard of the Month

Hey neighbors! Get ready! Your yard could be the next "Yard of the Month." We will begin the awards in May and continue through September. Judging will be done the first weekend of the month.

We judge by neatness, overall appearance, color, and new landscaping. So get ready, your yard may be next!

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 Aimee Rasche at 369-3562 for a W/PP sticker for your car to help the sheriff identify non-neighborhood cars.

W-PP Civic Association Board

John Pray (Pres/CrimePrevDistrict/Beautification)	933-9253
Steve Foster (Vice Pres/Secretary/Phone Tree)	328-8424
Steve Long (Treasurer/Crime Prev District Rep)	445-2437
Rick Martin (Newsletter/Social/Fundraising)	924-5680
Darren & Aimee Rasche (Publicity/Welcome)	369-3562
Alicia Elam (Public Works)	235-2768
Glen Guilbeau	907-8701
Brendan Rush	202-6586
Roy Hill	329-5325

W-PP Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Improvement District Board of Directors

David L. Carnes (President)	266-4822
Larry Johnson (Treasurer)	937-6575
Steve Long (Secretary, W-PP Representative)	445-2437
John Pray (W-PP Representative)	933-9253
Drew Murrell	938-3559