



Westminster Pine Park Newsletter

April 2020

From the President

As we welcome spring, we welcome three new board members; Ginger Hartsfield, and Darren & Aimee Rasche. This will be the first time we have had a couple on our board (I hope they don't argue!).

David Carnes, Rick Martin, Steve Long, and I have been working with Geico Insurance on getting the Chelsea sign rebuilt. As soon as we receive a check we shall start the project. We'll make that sign great again!

I would like to thank Steve Foster for the great job he does with our message boards. Thanks Steve!

As we are entering the coronavirus crisis we need to check on our senior neighbors. Please check on your neighbor to see if they need some help.

This is a wonderful neighborhood. Smile, wave, stay safe, and wash your hands!

John Pray

Entergy Tree Trimming

As we have experienced another 2 hour power outage on March 19th, I personally contacted the Louisiana Public Service Commission and filed another formal complaint on this ongoing problem. They have contacted Entergy to let them know about the filing. I received a call back from the commission stating that Entergy will be back in the neighborhood to evaluate the problem. Let's keep our fingers crossed they actually fix it this time! More information about Entergy's tree trimming is available on their website: https://www.entergy.com/tree_trimming/.

Westminster Aquatic Club and Swim Team

The Westminster Aquatic Club (WAC) is a private, family friendly swimming & tennis facility located in the W/PP neighborhood on N. Maiden Dr. Membership options, days/hours of operation, and general information can be found by contacting JoLynn Gremillion at 715-9864 or 4jolynn.gremillion@gmail.com. Dues are \$350 a year. Stock ownership is required and is available for a one-time cost of \$250 or two annual payments of \$125 each.

Benefits of stock ownership:

- Fulltime certified lifeguard
- Fenced in baby pool, bathroom facilities
- Shaded pavilion and picnic tables
- Large on site BBQ grill for member use
- Food and drink may be brought in (no glass)
- 24/7 keyed access to lighted tennis courts
- Reserve facilities for private parties with lifeguard

Come join the Westminster neighborhood swim team for summer fun and great exercise for your kids ages 4-18! Our practices begin in mid to late May and the season runs through the end of June. Contact Margaret Miller at margaret.miller789@gmail.com for more information.

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.

W/PP Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Improvement District (by David Carnes)

Good news on W-PP damaged sign – We're close to finalizing with GEICO on \$10,000 of damages to our monument sign. They're paying 80% so far. I'm working on getting the other 20% so that repairs can begin. This should be finalized by early April. Many thanks to John Pray, Steve Long and Rick Martin for pulling together quotes from contractors.

Renewal of W-PP Crime Prevention District – State Rep. Scott McKnight, has been a huge help to us by introducing House Bill 20RS-347 that's designed to renew our Crime Prevention District. It must be renewed each 10 years. Unfortunately, the Legislative session was suspended due to Corona Virus--totally unforeseen and unprecedented. I spoke to the Legislature's attorney this week, and she said this should be passed when they reconvene in April. It will then go to the Senate for passage, and then to our neighbors for a vote in the November election (need 60% yes votes in the neighborhood).

Crime in W-PP - Some thefts of lawn tools (including mine) occurred in March. Don't be careless—LOCK YOUR SHEDS & SECURE YOUR THINGS (bikes, mowers, etc.). Be vigilant, and folks with security cameras can help by checking their camera footage after crimes occur (often late night or early dawn hours). Keep us informed by posting incidents on Next Door as well as the Phone Tree.

Sheriff Patrols - We are doing some patrols at night now, a slight departure from our usual 6am to 6pm routine. Now that the Corona Virus has us all home bound, many neighbors are outside, sitting on porches, doing yard work, walking, jogging and riding bikes. This alone is a big deterrent for thieves. Better yet, it's nice to see our neighbors, even if it is at a safe space.

Take care everyone; hope you are all well and safe.

David Carnes - President - 266-4822
Steve Long - Secretary - 445-2437

Larry Johnson - Treasurer - 767-1040
John Pray - Civic Assoc Rep - 933-9253

Phone Tree

If you want to receive reports of crimes, lost/found pets, and important announcements, be sure your phone number is registered to receive our phone tree broadcasts. Ben Canady is our phone tree coordinator. Assisting him by also doing phone tree broadcasts is Janis Kile (backup). Please submit ALL requests to be added to the system or to remove or change a phone number directly to Ben. 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 are our source of information for all phone tree broadcasts.** For all broadcasts (crime, lost/found pets, civic association announcements) try to reach Ben first. No matter which one of us you try to reach first, we will coordinate and do our best to issue the phone tree message in a timely manner. Please save our contact information:

Ben Canady (coordinator), call or text 225-573-0268 or email benjamin.canady@gmail.com
David Carnes (Crime Prevention), call or text 225-266-4822 or email davidcarnes@cox.net
Janis Kile (backup), call or text 225-933-8673

Replay line: When you receive a call from our phone tree, the call will be identified as coming from 877-565-8456. Put that number into your contacts so you will not think it is spam. If you call that number from a phone that is registered in our system you will hear a replay of the most recent message (provided it is within 7 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.

Thank you, Ben Canady

Real Estate Recap for 2019

20 homes sold at an average sales price of \$232,902 and an average price/sq. ft. of \$116.16. These houses were on the market for an average of 58 days. These statistics were taken from the MLS services provided by the Baton Rouge Board of Realtors and do not include any homes that were "for sale by owner."

Christmas Contest Winners

1st Place Best Lighting - 3945 Strand Dr.
2nd Place Best Lighting - 4726 Downing Dr.
3rd Place Best Lighting - 4224 Drusilla Dr.
Best Door - 4411 Blecker Dr.
Best Wreath - 4646 Pine Ridge Dr.

Neighbor Spotlight

When is the last time that you can remember thinking about phosphofructokinase?

For most of us, the answer is "never"!

But one of our W-PP neighbors has spent a majority of his life studying this protein in our body, discovering its structure, and learning about its function in our muscles. His name is Dr. Simon Chang, a retired professor of biochemistry at LSU.

Dr. Chang and his wife, Ling, have lived in W-PP since 1971. They moved into the neighborhood a few years after Dr. Chang became a professor at LSU. Their three children grew up in the neighborhood and loved playing softball, basketball, football, and soccer with the Westminster teams that were organized back then.

While Dr. Chang still goes into the lab at LSU during the week, Ling spends her time in their yard where she grows kamquats, figs, satsumas, persimmons, pears, winter melons, okra, kale, eggplant, and Chinese sweet onions, just to name a few.

Recently, a large financial gift was given to LSU by a former student of Dr. Chang's, establishing the Simon Chang Biochemistry Support Fund.

We are so glad to have Dr. and Mrs. Chang in our neighborhood!

Miscellaneous Info

As a reminder, 80% of the crime prevention district dues are used to pay the Sheriffs patrolling our neighborhood.

Please don't blow grass in the street. And keep the neighborhood looking nice by edging the sidewalk and curb in your yard.

Please remove yard sale signs after the sale is over. It's against parish law to post signage on street light poles, stop signs, and our info board. **YOU WILL BE FINED!!**

Pick up your dog's poop when walking in the neighborhood. And ensure your pets have tags with a phone number in case they get lost.

CALL 311 about messy houses/yards, drainage problems, trash in the yard, limbs blocking sidewalks, etc.

Sign up on our website for email notifications

Don't forget to go to our website: w-pp.org. Scroll down on the Homepage until you see the "Subscribe" heading – enter your email address – and hit the "sign up" button. That's all there is to it and there is no need to worry about the privacy of your email address on our website. Security is handled by our web host: "Go Daddy". Please take a minute and do it now so we can get enough participation to be able to communicate important information to all of our neighbors. You will get a confirmation email from Go Daddy to make sure it's really you who is signing up. Thanks!

Halloween Contest Winners

1st Place - 3804 Pine Park Dr.
2nd Place - 3821 Blecker Dr.
3rd Place - 4521 S. Maiden Dr.

Welcome Our New Neighbors

The Westminister/Pine Park welcome committee provides new residents with a welcome packet containing information about neighborhood activities, contact information for local and state representatives, city services, and our security patrol. Want to join the pool and tennis club? It's in the packet. Want to get on the phone tree? That, too. There is also helpful information regarding voting, garbage collection, and how to get your (or someone else's) debris picked up. We also provide small vehicle decals which let our security patrol and our other neighbors identify your car as a W/PP resident.

We try to get every neighbor, but it's not easy. We are a big, busy family here in W/PP, and the committee needs your help! If you are a new neighbor, or if you have a new neighbor, please notify Aimee Rasche at 225-369-3562 to let her know that a welcome packet is needed. We want to make settling in easier because living in W/PP is great!

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

Brian & Elizabeth Singletary	4026 Blecker Dr.
Marisa Shreve	3903 Blecker Dr.
Karen Althawwad	4672 Fleet Dr.
Joseph Arentson	4663 Fleet Dr.
David Jackson	4160 Strand Dr.
Landry Coleman/Vernada Samuels	4646 Chelsea Dr.
Leslie Paige Presnall	4583 Downing Dr.
Kyle Lavergne	4055 Fleet Dr.
Wesley Jones	4528 Blecker Dr.
Ashley Ducharme	4365 Blecker Dr.
Sean Tomeny	4475 Drusilla Dr.

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.

Don't put any signs about lost pets, garage sales, etc. on stop signs or light poles. These will be removed for safety and aesthetic reasons. Take down garage sale signs after the sale is over. If you have a lost or found animal call 225-573-0268 to post it on the phone tree.

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

EBR Sheriff: 389-5000 or 389-5511 (Burbank Station Direct)

W/PP Civic Association Board

Executive Officers

John Pray (Pres/CrimePrevDistrict/Beautification)	933-9253
Steve Foster (Vice President/Secretary)	930-9377
Steve Long (Treasurer/Crime Prev District Rep)	445-2437
Mike Herschman (Past President)	931-2100

Members/Committee Responsibilities

Rick Martin (Newsletter/Social/Fundraising)	924-5680
Ben Canady (Phone Tree)	573-0268
Darren & Aimee Rasche (Publicity)	369-3562
Ginger Hartsfield (Public Works)	229-1055

**Have a question or comment?
We'd love to hear from you.
Use the "contact us" form on the
website: www.w-pp.org**