



Westminster Pine Park Newsletter

October 2019

From the President

Hello, all! I have something “new & exciting” to share with everyone:

With the advent of our new website, we now have the ability to notify our residents directly (via email) with important information in regard to our neighborhood. Although we have our phone tree system and many like to participate on the “Nextdoor” app, there are limitations to both of these systems. By adding email into the communication mix, we will be able to communicate directly and, hopefully, even more effectively with all of you. However, in order to receive the emails, you will need to go to our website @ w-pp.org – scroll down on the Homepage until you see the “Subscribe” heading – enter your email address – 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! Thank you!

Mike Herschman

Neighborhood Spotlight

Do you love playing the guitar or listening to country music? Then you probably have a lot in common with one of our W-PP neighbors.

Carlton & Sharon Jones have lived in Westminster-Pine Park since the 1990's. They love the family friendly atmosphere of W-PP. To them, it feels like a throwback to another time with people walking in the neighborhood, swimming at the local pool, and enjoying a slower pace of life. One of their best memories in W-PP is the Mardi Gras parade which used to run through the neighborhood with decorated trucks, cars, lawn mowers, and golf carts.

Carlton & Sharon are "junior high school" sweethearts having met at the age of 12 at Westdale Junior High School. They have been married now for 51 years.

Ever since Sharon has known Carlton, he has been playing guitar in a band. Carlton opened up for George Jones & Tammy Wynette at a Monroe concert in the 1970's. He also has signed guitars from country greats such as Merle Haggard, Vince Gill, Jerry Reid, Chet Atkins, Les Paul, and Gov. Jimmie Davis.

Currently, Carlton & Sharon oversee Guitar Ministries which sends high-quality guitars to churches and missionaries around the world.

We are so glad to have the Joneses as part of our neighborhood!

Steve Foster

WPP Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Improvement District

When it comes to crime and crime prevention in Westminster Pine Park, no news is good news. Aside from a few car break-ins, there's little to report. Please lock your cars at night, as most car break-ins happen with unlocked cars. Paula Kemp has successfully directed our security patrols with the able oversight of our patrol coordinator, EBR Sheriff's Office Detective, Chad Jones. One very positive note is that neighbors have grown more vigilant about being alert to crime. Some homeowners have installed security cameras that have even helped solve some crimes. While 80% of our dollars go to crime prevention (primarily sheriff's patrols), 20% is dedicated to beautification and communications. W-PP Civic Association has dutifully managed our landscaping and signage needs so a big shout out to them for all they've done. Our landscape contractor, Denny, has kept the grass cut on common areas, and he also cuts the grass on the seven FEMA lots that we now must maintain. He and his crews have been dependable and reasonable.

Our board members participate in the monthly meetings of the EBR Federation of Civic Associations, which is a clearinghouse for neighborhood issues. The big topics they have discussed lately are: drainage issues/flood prevention, 5g/small cell towers, and crime prevention. A task force has worked diligently since May to craft a more reasonable 5g/small cell ordinance that can hopefully avoid problems that occurred when AT&T constructed many 35 foot towers in the front yards of home owners (2 in Westminster). One vital responsibility of our board is to maintain a good working relationship with our city parish departments and elected officials. St. George Fire Station 62 is a good neighbor, and they help with many activities. The same is true of the EBR Sheriff's Office. Our Councilman, Matt Watson, is also our neighbor. He not only attends many of our board meetings, but he has also been very supportive of us. We have a wonderful neighborhood that can always improve with more participation from our residents. We all pay an assessment each year to fund the Crime Prevention District so we are all partners in this worthy cause. GET INVOLVED—don't be shy! Our quarterly meetings are held at my home and they are open to anyone who wants to attend. If you have any suggestions or complaints, please contact me (David L. Carnes, President, 266-4822, davidcarnes@cox.net) or any of our other board members: Larry Johnson, Treasurer, 767-1040, lajicpa@aol.com, Paula Kemp, Security, 413-0500, theKemps1@outlook.com, Steve Long, Secretary, 445-2437, stevelong70809@hotmail.com, Mike Herschman, W-PP rep, 931-2100, mike.herschman@gmail.com.

No Dumping Allowed

We occasionally receive complaints about 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). Please cooperate. Do not leave your trash or tree debris in these areas. The city-parish views the leaving of trash on the areas described above as being "illegal dumping," which should be reported by calling 311. Under some circumstances, leaving trash and tree debris in yards other than your own is the criminal offense of littering, which should be reported to the sheriff's office at 389-5000.

Entergy Tree Trimming

In September the civic association board met with a representative from Entergy to express concerns about parts of W-PP being without power for a long period of time after the last couple of storms. According to Entergy, trees are growing too close to the power lines in parts of W-PP, and that is the main reason for our problems. In an effort to decrease power outages, the civic association agreed to publicize plans by Entergy to trim and cut down trees in the servitude within 10 feet of a power line. We used Nextdoor, the phone tree, and our three announcement boards to inform residents about those plans. Residents will no longer be able to restrict tree trimming in their servitude. If you ever see a tree or branch that looks dangerously close to the power lines going from pole to pole, call 1-800-368-3749 (1-800-ENTERGY) and report it. A representative of Entergy will assess the situation and advise what needs to be done. More information about Entergy's tree trimming management program is available on its website: https://www.entergy.com/tree_trimming/

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 the phone tree coordinator. Assisting him by also doing phone tree broadcasts are Paula Kemp (crime) and 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. Because Paula Kemp is on the crime prevention board, we suggest you contact Paula first if you want a broadcast about a crime. For all other broadcasts (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 benjamincanady@gmail.com
Paula Kemp (crime), call or text 225-413-0500
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.

New Neighbors

Welcome Home to all of our new neighbors! We're glad you chose Westminster-Pine Park. If you haven't yet received an Information Packet for New Neighbors, please contact Tana Cramp at 225-276-6119 (text or voice), and she will get one to you.

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 driveways. Let your creativity out and decorate your yard for our contest. Judges will be driving around the evening of Saturday October 26.

Luminary Display

The annual Westminster/Pine Park luminary celebration is scheduled for Sunday, December 15 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Supplies will be available at the pool Saturday, December 14 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and Sunday, December 15 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.

Civic Association Calendar:

Halloween decoration judging, Oct. 26
Christmas decoration judging, Dec. 14
Luminary sale: Dec 14 (10 am - 2 pm)
Dec 15 (1 - 3 pm)
Pictures with Santa (free), Dec. 15 (afternoon)
Luminary display, Dec. 15 (6 - 8 pm)
Annual mtg. Jan. 27, 2020 (6:30 pm @ Jefferson Baptist)

Yards of the Month

May - Donnes Residence - 4242 Pine Park Dr.
June - Matassa Residence - 4380 Blecker Dr.
July - Black Residence - 4240 Pine Ridge Dr.
Aug - McKee Residence - 9094 Baker Dr.
Sept - Perry Residence - 4212 Blecker 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.

W-PP Civic Association Board

Executive Officers

Mike Herschman (President/Crime Prev District Rep)	931-2100
John Pray (Vice President/Beautification)	933-9253
Steve Foster (Secretary)	930-9377
Steve Long (Treasurer/Crime Prev District Rep)	445-2437
Janis Kile (Past Pres/Phone Tree Backup/Publicity)	933-8673

Members/Committee Responsibilities

Tana Cramp (Welcome)	276-6119
Rick Martin (Newsletter/Social/Fundraising)	924-5680
Stephanie McKenzie (Public Works)	349-8035
Ben Canady (Phone Tree)	573-0268

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