



Westminster Pine Park Newsletter

April 2019

From the President

Hello Neighbors!

I am pleased to report that we have welcomed two new Board members to our Civic Association – Ben Canady and Stephanie McKenzie. They both have already begun working to make a contribution to our neighborhood. Ben is our new “phone tree” coordinator and Stephanie has taken on the role of “public works” liaison. We appreciate that they have stepped forward to take an active role in helping to guide our Community. Many thanks to all the members of our Board for their caring and diligence!

It is of special significance that 2019 is the 25th Anniversary year of the founding of our Civic Association. It was legally formed September 16, 1994 and there is no doubt in my mind that we are a better, safer neighborhood because of it.

As we all enjoy the mild weather and magnificent blooming azaleas and as we march toward the heat and casual life-style of the summer months, please remember that our Neighborhood is only as safe and enjoyable as each of us helps to make it. Remember to be kind to your neighbor and watch out for each other.

Mike Herschman

NEXTDOOR: Nextdoor is a private social network for you, your neighbors, and your community. Our civic association does not operate the Westminster/Pine Park page in Nextdoor.com, but we do post information there occasionally. If you want an invitation to join, email janiskile@cox.net. Once you are registered be sure to adjust your settings. By default, you will receive frequent email notifications, but those email messages may be turned off. By default, your newsfeed will include postings from residents in 54 “nearby” neighborhoods, but you may turn off all or some of the other neighborhoods. To participate in Nextdoor you must use your real name and you must include at least your street name. However, you may limit your “profile” to be seen only by residents in W/PP.

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 calling Margaret Miller at 928-5885 or margaret.miller789@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. Other membership options may also be available (contact Margaret Miller to discuss this).

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 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

With the holidays well behind us, spring has sprung in WPP! I'm happy to report it's been a very quiet season in our neighborhood, thanks in part to our Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District. The members are David Carnes, Larry Johnson, Paula Kemp, Steve Long, and Mike Herschman. We continue with our patrols daily, and coupled with the amazing people of this neighborhood and their vigilance we're achieving a safe environment for us all. But we all know that neighbors helping neighbors is what it's all about. If you're going to leave town, even for a weekend, let one of your neighbors know. Ask them to pick up your paper or get your mail and packages. It's a very small thing that makes a big difference. If you see something say something. Call EBRSO @ 389-5000. Also remember if you've been the victim of a crime in WPP, please alert the phone tree coordinator Ben Canady @225-573-0268 or Janis Kile @225-933-8673. You can also reach me 225-413-0500.

The two biggest complaints I receive are speeding and running stop signs. Our patrol is working diligently to ensure these issues are being addressed on a daily basis. I know many of us are still adjusting to the 25mph speed limit, but let's all try to be mindful of it and slow down. The deputies have issued upwards of about 50 speeding tickets in the last 2 months, and what I find the most interesting is a very small percentage of those written are residents. So way to go WPP!

As we all know, with the warm weather and school soon to be out, we sometimes struggle with car burglaries. To date, every vehicle in WPP that has been burglarized was left unlocked. So let's remember to lock our cars. If you have a house alarm, remember to set it when you leave... it's an amazing deterrent.

In closing, we would all like to congratulate the head of our Crime Prevention detail, Detective Chad Jones, on his promotion to Sergeant in the Armed Robberies/Burglary Dept of EBRSO. We're so lucky to have him and thank you from all the residents of WPP for everything you do.

Paula Kemp

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 new to the civic association board, and he is now our 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 benjamin.canady@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.

Real Estate Recap for 2018

22 homes sold: Avg. sold price - \$255,359, Avg. sold price/sq. ft. - \$109.36, Avg. days on the market - 50

The above figures were gathered from the MLS of The Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors. They do not reflect sales of houses that were "For Sale by Owner."

Christmas Contest Winners

1st Place Best Lighting - 3945 Strand Dr.
2nd Place Best Lighting - 4465 Pine Ridge Dr.
3rd Place Best Lighting - 9094 Baker Dr.
Best Door - 3913 Blecker Dr.
Best Wreath - 8856 Norfolk Dr.

Neighbor Spotlight

The resident selected for this Newsletter's Neighbor Spotlight, John Pray, is one of the founding members of our Civic Association Board, and is still actively involved to this day. After John was offered some leading questions for this interview, he wrote the following letter:

I was born and raised in Baton Rouge. I was married to my late wife Susan for 48 years. We reared 2 sons: Jonathan and Christopher. I am a proud grandfather to Jillian and Benjamin Pray.

I am a retired Registered Interior Designer, working at Kornmeyer's Furniture and later starting my own interior design company. Over the years my career has taken me from Florida to Texas. Our family moved to Westminster over 25 years ago to locate my boys near the Westminster Gifted and Talented program. At that time, the neighborhood was experiencing a rash of burglaries, motivating me to help reorganize the W/PP Civic Association. I remain on the board to this day. I helped form the crime prevention and beautification committee. I designed the neighborhood entrance signs and the W/PP logo (which is used on the car window stickers). I helped plan the Chelsea Boulevard beautification project. I also judge the Halloween and Christmas decorating contests, as well as Yard of the Month. I help with the annual luminaries and the hot chocolate Santa Stops.

I enjoy working in my yard as well as traveling and spending time at my camp in St. Francisville. I am thankful to have so many great neighbors and to live in this wonderful neighborhood. Please help us to continue to make it better for you and your family.

If you have any questions, give me a call!
Thanks, John

Thank you, John, for your many years of insight and diligence as you have helped care for and guide 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.

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.

Website: www.w-pp.org

Our new website is up and running!

If you haven't already, please take the time to visit the above web address and take a look around. The new site is designed to be user friendly for both the visitor and the administrator.

We have already had a good bit of traffic on it and are encouraging all residents to use it as a "go to" source to find the answer to their neighborhood questions. Also, it is the easiest way to ask a question or make a comment to the Board.

Halloween Contest Winners

1st Place - 4224 Drusilla Dr.
2nd Place - 3804 Pine Park Dr.
3rd Place - 3821 Blecker Dr.

Welcome Our New Neighbors

The Westminster/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 Tana Cramp at 225-276-6119 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:

David Key	4401 Pine Park Dr.
Roy and April Hill	3902 Pine Crest Dr.
Cal and Mary Johnson	8956 Westminster Dr.
Ross and Gretchen Donnes	4242 Pine Park Dr.
Merry Swan and daughter Katie	4417 Chelsea Dr.
Jeff and Leah Canady	4311 Fleet Dr.
The Blanchard Family	4312 Fleet Dr.
Thomas Hackney	9123 Baker Dr.
Katherine Harrison	3812 Blecker 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

Mike Herschman (President/Crime Prev District Rep)	931-2100
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

John Pray (Beautification)	933-9253
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**