



# Westminster Pine Park Newsletter

April 2021

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## From the President

As we welcome spring, we welcome four new board members. They are Alicia Elam, Glen Guilbeau, Sharon Hedges, and Bill Roger. It will be great to have some new life on our board.

It has been the most challenging year of the 27 years I have served on this board. We held as many of our meetings on board members' patios, and held fewer meetings. Now we are able to meet bimonthly at Community Bible Church in a much more spacious area.

The major complaints I have so far this year are speeding, running stop signs, and parking cars in the wrong direction or in front yards. I will be meeting with Chad Jones, our security patrol coordinator, to get this situation corrected. If you are guilty of any of these offenses, watch out!

We are replacing the original Pine Park sign with a new one that will be more weather resistant. New bedding plants and mulching will be replaced on Chelsea Blvd.

Special thanks to Steve Foster for the great job he does on our message boards. Everyone enjoys them.

This is a great neighborhood. Do your part to keep it that way. If you see a problem, do not hesitate to contact me or any of the board members.

Have a wonderful spring and summer. Smile and wave at your neighbors. Stay safe and we will get back to normal. I got my shot, did you?

John Pray



## Want to join the neighborhood pool?

The Westminster Aquatic Club (WAC) is a private, family-friendly swimming and tennis facility located on N. Maiden Drive in W-PP. Dues are \$350 per year. Stock ownership (*required*) is available for a one-time payment of \$250, or two annual payments of \$125 each.

- **Full-time certified lifeguard on duty**
- **Fenced-in baby pool & bathroom facilities**
- **Shaded pavilion & picnic tables w/ BBQ grill**
- **24/7 keyed access to lighted tennis courts**
- **Reservations available for private parties (w/ lifeguard)**

For more information, including membership options and days/hours of operation, contact JoLynn Gremillion at 715-9864 or [4jolynn.gremillion@gmail.com](mailto:4jolynn.gremillion@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 at [margaret.miller789@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.miller789@gmail.com).

# W/PP Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Improvement District

David Carnes

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## 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 [steven-liz91@gmail.com](mailto:steven-liz91@gmail.com) or David Carnes (Crime Prevention) at 225-266-4822 or email [davidcarnes@cox.net](mailto: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. 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! Steve Foster

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## Real Estate Recap for 2020

No one knew what to expect would happen with real estate during the pandemic lockdown. Much to our surprise, real estate not only survived but thrived and exceeded all expectations last year. Sales in East Baton Rouge surpassed those in 2019, and today inventory is down by nearly 1000 properties.

Westminster-Pine Park experienced the same increased activity. Since last March, 32 homes have sold in Westminster/Pine Park (24 sold in 2019). The average sales price was \$259,000, with an average of 36 days on market before contract. At press time there are only 2 active on the market, and 2 are currently pending.

W-PP continues to have a strong following with consistent demand. Thank you to our neighbours for helping to make W-PP a wonderful place to call home ... a home to welcome new babies, celebrate holidays and birthdays, and support one another during hurricanes and ice storms . It's no wonder I've been here since a little girl in 1960 . W-PP STRONG!! Carol Poche' 225-337-1861

## Neighbor Spotlight

If you enjoy the pool and the tennis courts in Westminster-Pine Park...if you appreciate having an active fire department right near the neighborhood...if you love the community feel of W-PP...then you can thank Pat Elam and her late husband, Bill, for their long-time dedication and involvement in our community.

Bill & Pat moved into W-PP in 1968. And they immediately jumped into helping our neighborhood become one of the best in Baton Rouge.

Pat went door-to-door selling memberships for the building of our pool and tennis courts. Bill worked with the volunteer fire department and spearheaded the effort to make it a permanent fire station with paid firemen. Together they served in our neighborhood for over three decades doing everything from hosting luminary sales to mowing grass at the pool. Whatever needed to be done, the Elams were there.

It was in their blood. They simply loved serving their community.

Bill served on the Planning Commission and the BREC Commission. Pat served with Meals on Wheels, volunteered at Our Lady of Mercy, and worked for the District 9 councilman's office for over thirty years. Today she is part of the Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild and still actively looks for ways to make our community better.

Bill & Pat have three children who grew up in W-PP. And the apple did not fall far from the tree because now their youngest daughter, Alicia, lives in our neighborhood and serves on the W-PP civic association.

It is a blessing to have the Elams as a part of our W-PP neighborhood!

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## 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.

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.

## Christmas Contest Winners

1st Place Best Lighting - 3945 Strand Dr.  
2nd Place Best Lighting - 3946 Strand Dr.  
3rd Place Best Lighting - 4379 Blecker Dr.  
Best Door - 4465 Pine Ridge Dr.  
Best Wreath - 4365 Chelsea Dr.

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## Halloween Contest Winners

1st Place -  
2nd Place -  
3rd Place -

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## 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 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:

4488 S. Maiden Dr. - Leea Reese Russell  
8520 Norfolk Dr. - Samuel Joseph Donchess  
4665 Downing Dr. - Megan E. Johnson  
8632 Norfolk Dr. - Jessica Tate Gagliano  
4144 N. Maiden Dr. - Donald Kelly and Emilee Root  
4117 Blecker Dr. - Joshua Campbell and Family  
4663 Fleet Dr. - Milton Family  
4425 Blecker Dr. - Todd and Miski Gibson  
4380 Blecker Dr. - Edward "Ned" and Becky Smith  
3830 Pine Crest Dr. - Daren and Aimee Rasche  
4010 Downing Dr.

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## 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.

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](http://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 Pres/Secretary/Phone Tree)	328-8424
Steve Long (Treasurer/Crime Prev District Rep)	445-2437

### Members/Committee Responsibilities

Rick Martin (Newsletter/Social/Fundraising)	924-5680
Darren & Aimee Rasche (Publicity/Welcome)	369-3562
Alicia Elam (Public Works)	235-2768
Bill Roger	936-9120
Glen Guilbeau	907-8701
Sharon Hedges	456-1828

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