



Westminster Pine Park Newsletter

April 2022

From the President

Hello Spring! What a great time of year to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Now is time to get your yards ready for Yard of the Month. We judge for neatness and overall appearances. Add a splash of color and you may be the next winner. Remember to edge your curb. A realtor will tell you that a buyer's first opinion of your property is the appearance of the yard.

Wow!! Our luminary display was one of the best. More people participated than ever. Our hot chocolate stands and Santa visits were a huge success. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Our annual meeting in January was very informative. We had guest speakers who informed us of the future improvements of Ward Creek development. A FEMA representative informed us on the status of our FEMA lots and the maintenance program. Our security report informed us of our crime report for the neighborhood. We had very little crime last year. David Carnes and I have spent many hours selecting a company that will provide security cameras for 2 of our entrances.

Speeding and running stop signs have been a major complaint. There are so many children that play in their front yards and some that play too close to the street. Please slow down and stop for everyone's sake. We will inform our detectives to start issuing more tickets for these offenses.

Your civic association meets every other month to discuss problems and how to solve them. We also discuss how to make this a better neighborhood to live in. A realtor will tell a client when showing a home in our neighborhood that we have a very strong H.O.A.

Our civic association is in need of some board members. Please let me know if you are interested in joining our board. Please contact me at 225-933-9253. Remember, your civic association benefits you and your property.

Have a safe and wonderful spring and summer. Smile and wave at your neighbors and we will continue to be one of the best neighborhoods in the city.

John Pray



Want to join the neighborhood pool?

Search
"westminster
aquatic" to find
us on Facebook!



The Westminster Aquatic Club (WAC) is a private, family-friendly swimming & tennis facility located on N. Maiden Drive in W-PP. Dues are \$400 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 & days/hours of operation, contact JoLynn Gremillion at 715-9864 or 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 by email at margaret.miller789@gmail.com.

W-PP Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Improvement District

W-PP Crime Report - According to the sheriff, W-PP is one of the safest neighborhoods in the parish! We still have occasional thieves going into unlocked cars and sheds so please SECURE YOUR POSSESSIONS (bikes, mowers, etc). LOCK YOUR SHEDS and YOUR CARS. Please check security cameras and Ring doorbells when these crimes occur. Report it on Next Door and get it on our phone tree. Keeping everyone informed prevents other crimes.

Crime Cameras - After researching numerous security camera systems and visiting other subdivisions with crime cameras, our board concluded that the FLOCK camera is best suited for us. Our patrol coordinator, Detective Chad Jones, helped us as well as Lieutenant Payer, Director of the EBRSO crime camera program. One important FLOCK benefit is that the sheriff recently installed 25 FLOCK cameras in and around the parish. We'll start with two cameras at the Pine Park and Drusilla entrances. The FLOCK camera features 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 not required, but it will be helpful for us to put Westminster-Pine Park stickers on our vehicles. Please contact me if you would like a sticker.

FEMA Homes - Four FEMA homes on Chelsea have been demolished.

Thanks Bridget - Many thanks to Bridget Balhoff Leitner for serving on our board. We miss having the Leitners for our neighbors, but they're happy in a nice new home across town. We welcome Drew Murrell, who has agreed to serve.

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

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. 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 (if 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. Thanks! Steve Foster

Real Estate Recap for 2021

In a nutshell, there are 2 houses on the market, 5 pending, and 5 sold this year to date. None in Pine Park, all in Westminster Place. The average sales price ranges from \$254,000 to \$264,000. The lowest priced house has been \$154,900 with a high of \$410,000. The market remains strong with high demand for the neighborhood and price point. While we have had to adjust to having move homes flood in the last year, there is still demand. We are working on reduced flood insurance rates and have been able to save many homeowners on this. By reducing flood insurance rates, the home values increase. Westminster/Pine Park remains a premium area for many homeowners. If you are considering selling, a realtor can help find a buyer before market and make the process go smoothly.

Carol Poché 225-337-1861

Neighbor Spotlight

It is quite a feat (no pun intended) to run in the Boston Marathon. In fact, only about 1% of the population can finish a marathon and of that number, only 5% can meet the qualifying times for the Boston Marathon. And of that number, only a few are accepted.

Yet one of our own W-PP'ers not only ran in the Boston Marathon last year but is running again this year (on April 18th). Meet Jeff Miller. Perhaps you have seen him running in our neighborhood. He qualified for the Boston Marathon with a time of 3 hours and 25 minutes. That is 7:51 minutes per mile for 26.2 miles!

Jeff and Margaret Miller have lived in W-PP for 30 years. They love the location, the sidewalks, the quiet streets, the community feel, and the neighborhood pool. Margaret has been on the W-PP Pool Board for 20 years and has coached the neighborhood swim team for the last ten years. They have raised all six of their children in our neighborhood and all of them have served as lifeguards at the pool. They are all also runners.

But none of them have qualified for the Boston Marathon like their dad!

We are so glad to have Jeff & Margaret Miller in W-PP!

Miscellaneous Info

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.

Halloween Contest Winners

1st Place - 3804 Pine Park Dr.
2nd Place - 4465 Pine Ridge Dr.
3rd Place - 4411 Blecker Dr.

Christmas Contest Winners

1st Place Best Lighting - 4465 Pine Ridge Dr.
2nd Place Best Lighting - 3945 Strand Dr.
3rd Place Best Lighting - 4117 Blecker Dr.
Best Door - 3805 Pine Park 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 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 last newsletter:

4055 Drusilla Dr: New Properties, LLC
9165 Baker Dr: Melissa Armatta
4135 Strand Dr: Charles Hamilton
3901 Pine Crest Dr: Samuel Bahlinger
4256 Fleet Dr: Victoria Hess
3824 Chelsea Dr: Seth Cannon
4630 Chelsea Dr: Andrew Cass
4184 Drusilla Dr: Stephen Ledell
4423 Pine Park Dr: Jeffrey Hulett
4130 Strand Dr: Joshua Winfield

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.

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.

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

As a reminder, 80% of the crime prevention district dues are used to pay the Sheriffs patrolling our neighborhood. EBR Sheriff: 389-5000 or 389-5511 (Burbank Station Direct)

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

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
Bill Roger	936-9120
Glen Guilbeau	907-8701

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	