



Westminster Pine Park Newsletter

April 2023

From the President

Well, hello spring!

Now is the time to get out and enjoy this beautiful weather. Let's get our yards ready for yard of the month. Please do not blow leaves, debris, or put trash bags in the street gutters. Some of us needed to do spring cleaning under our carports!

My major complaints are still speeding, running, stop signs, and four power outages. I have turned in complaints to the sheriff's office as well as the public service commissioner's office.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our luminary display. It was enjoyed by all, as well as the kids who got to meet Santa.

Your board is aware of the Ward's Creek situation. We have contacted our council woman about the problems. Hopefully when they clean out the creek, they will resolve the matter.

We welcome our new board member, Roy Hill. He will be an asset to our board. Have a safe spring and summer.

John Pray

Jefferson Highway project info

Expected date of bid: March 2023

Expected time length for the project: about 2 to 2-1/2 years

Expected start date: not determined at this time

Project location: from Essen Lane to Airline Highway

Project scope:

1. Essen to Drusilla: patching and restriping, resealing joints
2. Drusilla to Airline: full depth removal and replacement of road
3. Driveway access will be maintained
4. One lane of traffic in either direction will be open at all times
5. Work schedule will take into consideration nighttime noise and rush-hour times

To get information and stay up-to-date with DOTD project and traffic: go to www.511la.org. This is a map website that shows roadway conditions on state and federal roads. There is also an app version for your phone.

Brendan Rush

St. George Info: Oral arguments were heard on March 14 by a 3-judge panel of the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals to determine the fate of the St. George incorporation. A decision is due in 60-90 days. If the decision is 3-0 in St. George's favor then St. George will be incorporated. If it's 2-1 then two more judges will be added to the panel and a new decision rendered. A 1-2 or 0-3 vote will invalidate the election. Any decision may be appealed to the La. Supreme Court. Drew Murrell

W-PP Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Improvement District

Crime Prevention Report - Thankfully this year, we have little crime to report. We have 5 off-duty deputies who patrol W-PP for a weekly average of 30 hours that are primarily from sunup to sundown. Their presence is an effective crime deterrent. Homeless people have become more prevalent throughout Baton Rouge. They currently stay under the I-12 bridge just south of Jefferson Highway or close by there. Two times, our St. George Fire trucks have been called to put out fires set by the homeless. As such, we have had them removed twice only to see them return after a month or two. Our patrols watch this closely, especially when our neighbors on Drusilla experience thefts, vandalism and disturbances of the peace. Please secure your backyard fences on Drusilla as much as possible to keep these folks from trespassing through your yards. Check security cameras and Ring doorbells if crimes occur. Call the Sheriff's office (389-5000), post it on NextDoor and report it on our Phone Tree (Steve Foster-328-8424 or David Carnes-266-4822). Keep us informed; it prevents crimes. LOCK SHEDS and CARS. Keep bikes and mowers secure. Please lock all doors on your homes, too.

Crime Cameras - FLOCK cameras are now installed at all four entrances. Our deputy patrol coordinator, Lt. Chad Jones of the Sheriff's Office, has helped us with these cameras. The Sheriff has installed 40 FLOCK cameras in and around the parish. It is important to note that none of us on the board have access to the footage or info. These cameras feature 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 also helpful to put Westminster-Pine Park stickers on our cars. Contact us if you want a sticker.

Speeding and running stop signs - If you see any speeders or drivers running stop signs, notify the Sheriff (389-5000). 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 225-317-7992. 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



Want to join the neighborhood pool?

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.



Westminster
AQUATIC CLUB

- 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 4jollynn.gremillion@gmail.com.

Search
"westminster
aquatic" to find
us on Facebook!



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.

Neighbor Spotlight

Have you ever seen the beautiful Christmas decorations at the White House? Do you wonder who does them? In 2020, one of our own neighbors in Westminster-Pine Park was part of the team that decorated the White House.

Shane and Elizabeth Griffin have lived in W-PP for sixteen years. Shane is an interior designer who owns the March design studio in the Bocage Village Shopping Center. In 2020, he was invited by Nancy Peele (who grew up in W-PP) to apply for the White House Christmas decorating team. Close to 12,000 people apply each year and only 100 are chosen. Shane was one of those selected. He flew to Washington, DC and helped decorate the White House for Christmas. What an honor!

It's not a surprise that the Griffin's favorite event in W-PP is the Christmas luminaries. All their family meets at their house to walk the neighborhood, visit the hot chocolate stands, and enjoy the beautiful Christmas decorations.

In addition to Shane's work as an interior designer, Elizabeth serves on the governing board for CASA. Their oldest son attends Auburn University where he participates on the shotput team. Their youngest son attends Catholic High where he also does the shotput.

We are so glad to have the Griffin family as a part of W-PP!

Steve Foster

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.

If you see any street lights that aren't working please report that to Entergy at 1-800-9OUTAGE (1-800-968-9243)

Christmas Contest Winners

1st Place Best Lighting - 4224 Pine Ridge Dr.
2nd Place Best Lighting - 3945 Strand Dr.
3rd Place Best Lighting - 4365 Chelsea Dr.
Best Door - 3805 Pine Park Dr.
Best Wreath - 4411 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 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:

4035 Fleet Dr.
4528 Fleet Dr.
4786 Fleet Dr.
9237 Baker Dr.

Halloween Contest Winners

1st Place - 3804 Pine Park Dr.
2nd Place - 4365 Chelsea Dr.
3rd Place - 4411 Blecker Dr.

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
Glen Guilbeau	907-8701
Brendan Rush	202-6586
Roy Hill	329-5325

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	938-3559