



Westminster Pine Park Newsletter

October 2023

From the President: Hopefully Fall will be here when we print this newsletter. This has been the worst Summer I can ever remember. The heat and drought have taken a toll on our plants, trees, and yards. I have never seen so many trees and plants dying from lack of rain.

In May, I received a call from a neighbor, Lynda Butler, asking for help with the power outages that she has experienced this year. Power outages have been an exasperating issue in my 30+ years in this neighborhood. I said it is time to do something! Therefore, I called Entergy and asked if they would meet with our W/PP Civic Association at our May meeting, and they sent six top members. We discussed our issues that have been going on for years! The next day Entergy trucks and ABC Tree Company trucks were in the neighborhood. They trimmed trees, vines, and brush for 2.5 weeks, then left, not completing the work. I called one of the customer service managers and he promised they would return, but never did. After making more phone calls to Entergy, they referred me to a Regulatory Manager from New Orleans. Lynda Butler, David Carnes, and I spent several hours with him. We rode through our streets and discussed our issues, devising ways to improve service in W/PP and reduce the number of outages. A week later he called me and said he would personally walk the neighborhood and note our issues. The latest word is that he is working with the vegetation manager to resolve our issues. I will be following up with him on a weekly basis.

Fall is here, let's get ready for our Halloween judging on October 29th. Our wonderful luminary display, hot chocolate stands, and Santa's ride will be on December 17th. Let's make this year the best.

Wishing you and your family a safe and peaceful holiday season.

John Pray

Neighbor Spotlight

Do you love Broadway-style shows? If so, then you would love watching a CYT production!

CYT (Christian Youth Theater) in Baton Rouge has put on 30 Broadway-style shows over the past 10 years. They have taught 370 theater classes with close to 3000 students participating. And over 30,000 people have attended their shows! Some of their shows have included Mary Poppins, Shrek, Lion King, and Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat.

David & Tonja Rainey lead CYT. They have been W-PP residents since 2002. They love the location of our neighborhood and the fact that it is so family-oriented. In fact, David's mom lives right across the street from him on Baker Dr.

If you want to see a great Broadway-style show, then check out the next CYT production, Finding Nemo Jr., October 26-28. For more info, go to cytbatonrouge.org.

Steve Foster

New garbage handling rules

Once per week out-of-cart service will be provided for items that do not easily fit in a garbage cart.

These items fall into four categories:

- 1) Bulk waste (furniture, mattresses, box springs, carpet from a single room, bicycles, and toilets)
- 2) Bulk recyclables (car tires, white goods, lawn mowers, and trimmers)
- 3) Sticks, branches, and tree trimmings in bundles
- 4) Yard waste (leaves) in **PAPER (not plastic)** bags

Out-of-cart collection services guidelines:

- 1) A maximum of 10 out-of-cart items per day
- 2) Only three of those items can be bulk waste or bulk recyclables
- 3) Sticks, branches, & tree trimmings must be in bundles not to exceed 5 feet in length. Tree limbs must be less than 6 inches in diameter. Each bundle can't weigh more than 40 pounds and counts as one of the 10 items per collection day maximum.
- 4) Yard waste (leaves & grass) must be placed in 30 gallon multi-layer **PAPER** lawn and leaf bags (**not plastic**) and can't exceed 40 pounds per bag. Each bag counts as one of the 10 items per day limit.

WPP Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Improvement District

Crime Prevention Report - There have been several **mailbox thefts** in W-PP. It is not entirely safe to leave checks in your mailbox for the postman to pick up. The safest method to pay your bills, other than online, is to drop them at the post office. LT Chad Jones, our patrol coordinator, says the safest bet is to mail checks "inside" the post office instead of dropping them in the outdoor boxes. We currently have five off-duty deputies who patrol W-PP for a weekly average of 30 hours (primarily sunup to sundown). Their presence is still our most effective crime deterrent. There have been a handful of issues with the homeless, but nothing serious. Please continue to 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. **TRASH PICKUP** rules have changed effective 9/1/23. EBR Parish no longer has the big tree branch truck with a claw. For info, go to <https://www.brla.gov/337/Garbage-Collection>

Crime Cameras - This summer our board visited the Real Time Crime Center of the Sheriff's Office. Our deputy patrol coordinator, LT Chad Jones of the Sheriff's Office showed us how they monitor FLOCK cameras. Our FLOCK cameras are installed at all four entrances, and they feature a high-resolution License Plate Reader that is networked into the Sheriff's Real Time Crime Center as well as other law enforcement agencies. Over 40 FLOCK cameras were installed in and around the parish by the Sheriff. None of us on the board have access to the footage or info. Incidentally, it's helpful to put Westminster-Pine Park stickers on our cars. Contact us if you want a sticker.

Speeding and running stop signs - This is still a problem. We are looking at speed warning/detecting devices to address this, and we are also looking at the possible addition of several speed bumps to curb the problem. If you see any speeders or drivers running stop signs, notify the Sheriff (389-5000).

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

Street Light Outage Reporting

Street light outages can be reported either by calling 800-968-8243 or by going online at www.energy-louisiana.com and navigating to Residential Customers->Products and Services->Report Street Lights Out->Report a Lighting Issue->Street Light->Continue. Then enter the address, choose the light, enter your name, and submit the report

Real Estate Report

In a real estate market that has seen cooling activity due to interest rates and inflation, WPP remains strong. In 2022 there were 20 homes sold: 3 in Pine Park and 17 in Westminster. Year to date this year 13 have sold: 4 in Pine Park and 9 in Westminster. The median days on the market was only 17 days! There are 6 currently active with 3 pending.

Home values remain strong, with the median sales price being \$349,000, a high of \$521,000 and a low of \$152,000 (only 1100 square ft). This is outstanding news for WPP!!!



The Westminster Aquatic Club had an another amazing swim season! With the addition of new events like Movie on the Courts, Fourth of July Bash, Pickle Ball Tournaments, and an End of Summer Blowout, there was always something happening! Our swim team, WAC Attack, came in 2nd place for the small teams division at the Greater Baton Rouge City Swim Meet! Just because the pool will be closing soon, doesn't mean the fun will stop! Pickle ball tournaments and leagues, Movie on the Courts, and other events are still to come! Be sure to follow our Facebook page and reach out so you can be a part of the action!

Lisa King

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 and the texts from 225-317-7992. Put those numbers into your contacts so you will not think they are spam. For lost pets or other general announcements, please use Nextdoor or Facebook. If you call the 877 number from a phone that is registered in our system you will hear a replay of the most recent message (if it is within seven 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

Thanks to Garcia Roofing for the new pool house roofs!

Welcome New Neighbors!

Welcome to the following people who have moved into the neighborhood since April:

4188 Fleet Dr.	9070 Baker Dr.
8224 Baker Dr..	4166 N. Maiden Dr.
3945 Drusilla Dr.	3810 Pine Crest Dr.
4528 Blecker Dr.	3755 Drusilla Dr.
4212 Blecker Dr.	4242 Pine Park Dr.

We're glad you chose Westminster-Pine Park. If you haven't yet received an Information Packet for New Neighbors, please contact Aimee Rasche 225-369-3562 (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 Sunday, October 29.

Luminary Display

The annual Westminster/Pine Park luminary celebration is scheduled for Sunday, December 17 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Supplies will be available at the pool Saturday, December 16 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and Sunday, December 17 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Any money raised in excess of expenses will fund 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:

Pickleball Tournament at the Pool, Oct. 29
Halloween decoration judging, Oct. 29
Christmas decoration judging, Dec. 15
Luminary sale: Dec. 16 (10 am - 2 pm)
Dec. 17 (1 - 3 pm)
Pictures with Santa (free), Dec. 17 (afternoon)
Luminary display, Dec. 17 (6 - 8 pm)
Annual meeting (tentative) January 22, 2024
(6:30 pm @ Jefferson Baptist Church)

Yards of the Month

May – King residence - 4356 Chlesea Dr.
June - McKee residence - 9094 Baker Dr.
July - Gautreau residence - 4524 Pine Ridge Dr.
Aug - Kramer residence - 4415 Fleet Dr.
Sept - Smith residence - 4380 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 Aimee Rasche at 369-3562 for a W/PP sticker for your car to help the sheriff identify non-neighborhood cars.

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