



# Westminster Pine Park Newsletter

October 2016

## From the President

As we approach the beginning of the Holiday Season, please allow me to reflect on my year as president of the civic association. We faced some challenges in 2016: the threat of flooding in August; the sewer project on Norfolk; blight at a few properties and some people not mowing their yards (resulting in rats, snakes, and an increase in mosquitoes for neighbors); car burglaries; the smell of raw sewerage in a drainage ditch; concerns that a coyote harmed some of our small pets; and potholes and sinking areas in the streets. A faithful group of volunteers serve on the civic association and crime prevention boards, and we have done our best to respond to these and other concerns.

We take pride in our successes in 2016: keeping our residents well informed through our annual meeting, newsletter, Facebook page, postings in nextdoor.com, updates to our website, and phone tree messages; holding small group meetings to discuss specific problems; letting our deputies know we appreciate their service; making sure the FEMA lots are mowed; installing colorful bedding plants at the Chelsea entrance sign; recognizing yards of the month; meeting with the Planning Commission to update and improve the overlay district requirements; visiting new residents; participating in the Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Civic Associations; reuniting lost dogs with owners; encouraging public officials to improve the ability of pedestrians to cross Jefferson Highway at Drusilla; and submitting numerous requests for service to our city-parish officials. Plus, we did not flood in August! We are fortunate that a civic association board in the early 1990's lobbied the parish to install backflow valves in Ward Creek. And we are overjoyed that Westminster Place and Pine Park are considered desirable places to buy property and that several properties were updated before being sold to a permanent owner.

Three of our current board members will be leaving the board at the end of this year, former president Katherine Creed Gold, secretary Tracey McGoey, and Sharon Vennen. We appreciate their dedicated service. We need to replace them, and we could use even additional board members. We also could use some people, even if not serving on the civic association board, to help with specific civic association projects, such as selling luminary supplies, making treats for and visiting new residents, and lobbying city/state officials to improve the looks of the area under the I-12 overpass. Our continued success depends on YOU. Please contact me for more information.

Janis Kile, Pres., 933-8673 (cell), janiskile@cox.net

### Civic Association Calendar:

Halloween decoration judging, Oct. 28  
Christmas decoration judging, Dec. 16  
Luminaries available Dec. 17 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)  
Dec. 18 (1 – 3 p.m.)  
Pictures with Santa (free), Dec. 18 (afternoon)  
Luminary display, Dec. 18 (6 – 8 p.m.)  
Annual meeting, Jan. 16, 2017 (7 p.m. tentative)

### Neighborhood etiquette:

Do not blow grass into the street. (The clippings affect drainage.)  
Help maintain property values by edging the sidewalk and curb in your yard.  
Keep trees and shrubs next to sidewalks trimmed.  
Remove debris and mud from sidewalks.  
Don't leave your dog's poop in someone's yard.  
Make sure your pets have tags with current contact information.  
Do not put signs about lost pets, garage sales, etc., on stop signs or light poles.  
Take down garage sale signs after sale is over.

## WPP Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Improvement District

Thank you to the residents who wrote cards and letters to our security detail after the heartbreaking loss of three law enforcement officers and the injuries of two others. The deputies really appreciated the show of support. We have special residents.

We had a quiet summer except for some car burglaries- which are totally preventable. I know the sewer project is trying for residents at the back of WPP, but I do think it is helping our security. Anyone casing our neighborhood would hesitate with the roads closed, and the detail has a much smaller footprint to patrol so their visibility is enhanced.

We still receive complaints about speeding, teenagers revving car engines, drivers ignoring stop signs and loose dogs. These issues are easily fixed if everyone takes responsibility for their actions and follows the city-parish ordinances. **We will have radar running in the month of October. Forewarned is fairwarned.** Regarding your pets- PLEASE ENSURE YOUR ANIMALS HAVE ID TAGS! I appreciate all of your calls to help keep us informed of issues so that we can communicate to the appropriate city parish department.

Dawnette Shelton

---

### Sewer Project Update - Message from Contractor

Eutaw Construction is currently making progress on the Airline Highway Pipeline Project (Group B) along Norfolk Drive. To date we have installed over 2,000 linear feet of 42" sewer pipe, installed 7 new manholes, and repaired dozens of sewer services along the way. In the coming weeks, Eutaw Construction will complete the main installation of pipe on Norfolk Drive working towards Oliphant Drive and Bluebonnet Rd. Crew members will be testing all newly installed manholes and sewer pipe. Additionally, two lateral tie-in's to existing sewer lines will be completed this fall. Once all work is completed in this area, restoration activities will be occurring to repair and improve Norfolk Drive, including repaving the street from the beginning of construction and grassing, as directed by the program managers. Eutaw Construction greatly appreciates the patience and kindness of the impacted homeowners in the Westminster neighborhood, as we work to improve the infrastructure in the neighborhood. Questions? Please contact the public information line at 225-588-5678 (reference: Airline Highway Pipeline Project , Group B – Project #10-GS-MS-007B).

---

### Information for Pet Owners

Attention Pet Owners: There have been recent reports of cats being killed and small dogs missing in Westminster Place and Pine Park. Our hearts ache for those neighbors who have been affected. We have heard 5 possible explanations: (1) coyotes (sighted at the Blue Cross building, so they could also be in WPP); (2) red-tailed hawks (a nest is in our neighborhood; they eat mostly mammals, but rarely go after cats or dogs); (3) Cooper's hawks (mainly eat birds); (4) owls (cats and dogs are not the preferred food, but it is a possibility); and (5) a pit bull (no collar) seen chasing a cat. If you see any dog that poses a danger, please call Animal Control immediately at 225-774-7700. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Animal Control officers are on duty 24 hours a day. After 5 p.m., call 225-389-2070. After 11 p.m., the calls should be directed to the sheriff (225-389-5000).

To protect your animals from coyotes, please follow tips provided by the EBR Animal Control Center: do not leave out food sources; do not let your cats roam outside, especially during the night; and secure small animals. For other information, visit the website: <https://www.brgov.com/dept/animal/coyote.htm>. According to Animal Control, "The single best way for a homeowners organization or an individual to deal with coyotes that they feel must simply be removed, is to hire a professional wildlife nuisance abatement company, a pest control company or a professional trapper." If you see a coyote in our neighborhood, please notify Dawnette Shelton or Janis Kile so the crime prevention district board and civic association board can consider if hiring a professional is appropriate. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does NOT provide nuisance animal control or removal services. Visit its website for tips on resolving wildlife conflicts: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/nuisance-wildlife>.

Please be sure your cats and dogs have a collar with information on how to reach you. Getting lost is stressful for dogs and cats, especially if elderly. We are fortunate to have many animal lovers in Westminster Place and Pine Park. These residents are willing to care for strays until the owner is located. Unfortunately, there is much delay when animals are found with no identifying information.

## 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. If you are the victim of a crime, please give Susan the pertinent information so other neighbors may be warned. To register for the service or to submit information for the phone tree contact Susan at 225-978-7136 (cell, preferred), sm752@bellsouth.net, or 225-248-0889 (home). If you are unable to reach Susan three other board members are able to access the system: Janis Kile (225-933-8673), Katherine Creed Gold, & John Pray

Since the last newsletter, we have added approximately 18 phone numbers to our phone tree list and have removed several disconnected numbers. The phone tree currently has 437 numbers.

Replay line: When you receive a call from our phone tree, the call will be identified as coming from 877-565-8456. Your phone company might incorrectly be giving that toll-free number the name of some business. If you call that number from a phone that is registered in our system within 10 days you will hear a replay of the most recent message.

If there are background noises when you answer the call (such as barking dogs, loud TV), the system's message to you might become garbled. Also, we limit use of the phone tree to reports of crimes, emergencies, lost animals, found pets (if the person who has found the pet is willing to keep the animal in their possession for a period of time), and important civic association events and announcements. The phone tree may not be used for political messages or to sell services or items.

If you move or otherwise decide you no longer want to receive the voice broadcasts, please ask Susan to remove your number(s) from the system. You also may "opt out" by pressing the appropriate button at the conclusion of the broadcast.

---

## New Neighbors

Brad Ewing—4616 Pine Ridge Dr.  
Logan Delafosse&Theresa Chatelain-8520 Norfolk  
Joseph & Kirsten Raby – 8591 Norfolk Dr.  
Justin & Julia Kay – 4469 Fleet Dr.  
Mitch Lowry & Ashley Mick – 4723 S. Maiden Dr.  
Tyler & Carolyn Borne – 4224 Blecker Dr.  
Charles & Gertrude Cramer – 4423 Fleet Dr.  
Jason & Stephanie McKenzie – 4424 Blecker Dr.  
Eric & Brandi Gandy – 4664 Downing Dr.  
Megan Wooley - 4440 Downing Dr.  
John Smith - 4523 Drusilla Dr.

## 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 Friday, October 28.

---

## Luminary Display

The annual Westminster/Pine Park luminary celebration is scheduled for Sunday, December 18 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Supplies will be available at the pool Saturday, December 17 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and Sunday, December 18 from 1:00 to 3:00. The money raised is used to fund projects of the civic association that aren't reimbursed by the crime prevention/beautification district, such as the entrance sign on Chelsea. Hot chocolate stands will be set up at several locations in the neighborhood, and Santa will be riding around.

---

## Parking Regulations

All parking regulations are available at [https://www.municode.com/library/la\\_under\\_Baton\\_Rouge](https://www.municode.com/library/la_under_Baton_Rouge), Title 11, Chapter 28.

Here are some highlights:

1. Vehicles must be parked in the direction of traffic within 18 inches of the curb.
2. Vehicles cannot be parked on the street for more than 9 consecutive hours.
3. Vehicles cannot be parked on the sidewalk or the grass between the house and street.
4. Vehicle can't block mailbox or driveway.

**Please contact Janis Kile at 933-8673 for a W/PP sticker for your car to help the sheriff identify non-neighborhood cars.**

---

## Yards of the Month

May - Balhoff Residence - 4025 Strand Dr.  
June - Kramer Residence - 4415 Fleet Dr.  
July - Matassa Residence - 4380 Blecker Dr.  
Aug - Black Residence - 4240 Pine Ridge Dr.  
Sept - Schonacher Home - 4368 Chelsea 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.

**311 Service Requests:** If you don't get the response you desired after submitting a 311 request for service, please contact Metro Council Representative Ryan Heck's new assistant, Mary Elise Schlesinger, mschlesinger@brgov.com, phone 225-247-2454, and notify the civic association. However, you should submit a 311 request before asking us to become involved.

Also check out our website for zoning restrictions and other info: [www.w-pp.org](http://www.w-pp.org)

## WPP Civic Association Board

### Executive Officers

Janis Kile (Pres./Crime Prev. District Rep.)	924-7174
Jani Gage (Vice President)	jani.gage@gmail.com
Tracey McGoey (Secretary)	930-0752
Steve Long (Treas./Crime Prev. District Rep.)	928-4653
Katherine Creed (Past President)	268-0911

### Members/Committee Responsibilities

Mike Herschman (Public Works)	931-2100
John Pray (Beautification)	933-9253
Rick Martin (Newsletter/Social/Fundraising)	924-5680
Susan Simoneaux (Phone Tree)	978-7136
Sharon Vennen (Welcoming)	202-0084

**Have a question or comment?**

**We'd love to hear from you.**

**E-mail us at [board@w-pp.org](mailto:board@w-pp.org).**