



# Westminster Pine Park Newsletter

April 2017

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## From the President

Our annual meeting was held in January. At that meeting, we expressed appreciation to three who are leaving the civic association board, Katherine Creed Gold (past president), Tracey McGoey (secretary), and Sharon Vennen. Thanks for your devoted service! We welcome and appreciate our new board members: Regina Folsie, Steve Foster, Glenn Guilbeau, and Ann Morell. If you have a suggestion or concern, please do not hesitate to contact a board member.

Our new Metropolitan Councilman, Matt Watson, attended the annual meeting. He reminded us to call 311 or use the RedStick311 app to submit service requests. You also may seek assistance from Matt's office (council-dist11@brgov.com). His assistants are Molly McWhorter (mmcwhorter@brgov.com) and Jonathan Tittlebaum (jtittlebaum@brgov.com). An engineer from the drainage department spoke at the meeting. He said it was good luck (the rain fell elsewhere) that spared our area from the August floods, and he reminded us of the importance of not letting debris get into the drains. Please do not blow leaves and grass clippings into the street.

I suspect we all have our pet peeves. What are yours? Nobody enjoys stepping in dog poop, so please pick up after your dogs. If limbs are hanging over your sidewalks, please consider the difficulty someone with limited mobility or a baby carriage might have when walking by. And even if you don't approve of someone throwing unsolicited newspapers into your yard, leaving them in your yard is unsightly and a possible invitation to a burglar. Let's all try to be good neighbors.

Janis Kile, President, 933-8673, 924-7174, or [janiskile@cox.net](mailto:janiskile@cox.net)

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## Westminster Aquatic Club and Swim Team

The Westminster Aquatic Club (WAC) is a private, family friendly swimming & tennis facility located in the W/PP neighborhood on N. Maiden Dr. Membership options, days/hours of operation, and general information can be found by calling Margaret Miller at 928-5885 or [sgstrack@aol.com](mailto:sgstrack@aol.com). Dues are \$300 a year. Stock ownership is required and is available for a one-time cost of \$250 or two annual payments of \$125 each. Other membership options may also be available (contact Margaret Miller to discuss this).

Benefits of stock ownership:

- Fulltime certified lifeguard
- Fenced in baby pool, bathroom facilities
- Shaded pavilion and picnic tables
- Large on site BBQ grill for member use
- Food and drink may be brought in (no glass)
- 24/7 keyed access to lighted tennis courts
- Reserve facilities for private parties with lifeguard

Come join the Westminster neighborhood swim team for summer fun and great exercise for your kids ages 4-18! Our practices begin in mid to late May and the season runs through the end of June. Contact Amy Punkay at 923-1355 or [amypunkay@gmail.com](mailto:amypunkay@gmail.com) for more information.

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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.

So get ready. Your yard may be next.

## W/PP Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Improvement District

Since the first two home burglaries in early January, the first quarter of 2017 has been eerily quiet. Even with the warm, spring like weather, which is usually a time of heightened activity, we have had no issues. Please do not be complacent; unlocked cars and forgotten opened windows can lead to disaster. I saw a clip online from a crime special on the Today show where a home burglar was interviewed from prison. He said that the number one deterrent was neighbors watching out for neighbors. Partner with your neighbors to keep an eye out. Let them know if you are having work done or expecting visitors.

Don't underestimate the importance of crime prevention by beautification. Keep the front of your home free from obstruction to increase visibility. Keep bushes and plantings low. Many crime prevention articles suggest keeping window coverings open and your front porches clean. Eliminate backyard/backdoor access. As many of you saw on the news, BR had an alarming home invasion off Highland Road. DO NOT OPEN YOUR DOOR AT NIGHT WITHOUT KNOWING YOUR VISITOR!

If anyone is interested in having a security check by our detail to ascertain your home's vulnerability, please call me at 923-1259.

Stay safe and please follow all traffic laws.

Dawnette Shelton

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### Contest Winners

#### Halloween Contest Winners

1st Place - 4522 Chelsea Dr.  
2nd Place - 4447 Chelsea Dr.  
3rd Place - 4245 Pine Park Dr.

#### Christmas Contest Winners

1st Place Best Lighting - 3945 Strand Dr.  
2nd Place Best Lighting - 4465 Pine Park Dr.  
3rd Place Best Lighting - 4211 Blecker Dr.  
Best Wreath - 3913 Blecker Dr.  
Best Door - 4646 Pine Ridge Dr.

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### Phone Tree

If you want to receive reports of crimes, lost/found pets, and important announcements, register your phone number to receive our phone tree broadcasts. If you are the victim of a crime, please report the pertinent information so other neighbors may be warned. To register or submit info for the phone tree, contact Susan Simoneaux at 225-978-7136 or sm752@bellsouth.net, or Janis Kile at 225-924-7174 (home), 225-933-8673 (cell), or janiskile@cox.net.

When you receive a call from our phone tree, the call will be identified as coming from 877-565-8456. Some phone carriers will misidentify the calls with the name of a business. 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 10 days of the broadcast). Please let us know if you want a phone removed from the system. You also may "opt out" by pressing the appropriate button at the conclusion of the broadcast. (If you opt out in this manner and you later decide you want to receive the broadcasts, there may be delay in adding you back into the system.)

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### Mission Statement of the Westminster/Pine Park Civic Association

The mission of the Westminster/Pine Park Civic Association is to maintain and improve the quality of our neighborhood through volunteer work by its Board of Directors and by its Residents. To achieve this goal, the W/PP Civic Association's effort on behalf of its neighborhood's residents includes, but is not limited to, the following tasks:

- Promoting the safety of the residents by monitoring and actively participating in our Crime Prevention & Neighborhood Improvement District activities

- Notify, inform and involve residents in issues and decisions that affect our neighborhood

- Maintain the community's entrances and common areas

- Encourage neighborhood improvement projects

- Foster a feeling of community by promoting neighborhood activities

By focusing on these goals, we hope to enhance property values and improve the quality of life for all of our residents.

## Sewer Project Update

The following message is from the program manager contracted by the city for this project:

Eutaw Construction still has two lateral line segments left to do on Norfolk. (Lateral lines are the ones that come off of the mainline to tie into each property's individual sewer lines) The laterals will be laid in the right of way between [8692 Norfolk & 8632 Norfolk] and [9024 Norfolk & 9010 Norfolk]. These residents were notified several months ago that this work would be done, and will be notified before digging is to begin.

Work on those two lateral segments is being held up by a utility conflict with two Entergy poles. The contractor notified Entergy of these conflicts several months ago and is waiting on Entergy to move the poles before they can begin. That being said, there is not a set timeline I can provide right now.

New curbs and gutters have been poured and the driveway aprons that were damaged have been repaired. Unfortunately, full restoration (permanent street overlay, grading, and sod work) will not be performed on Norfolk until the two laterals have been completed, as the newly poured road would require patching from the two lateral tie-in locations. We will continue to ask the contractor to perform housekeeping & road cleaning on a regular basis.

Questions or comments? – call 225-588-5678 or email [help@brprojects.com](mailto:help@brprojects.com) and ask about Airline Highway Pipeline Project (Group B) project # 10-GS-MS-007B.

Also note: In the original postcard communication sent before work began, it was stated that work is expected to be completed around 1st Quarter 2018.

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## Miscellaneous

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.

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

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## Real Estate News

22 homes were sold in our neighborhood in 2016.

Average selling price: \$249,132

(Range \$129,900 - \$461,500)

Average sold price/sq.ft.: \$116.09

(Range \$62.29 - \$147.93)

Average # of days on the market: 37.34 (Range 0 - 107)

As of March 25, 2017 there are 3 "active" listings and

4 "pending" sales and 5 houses sold since January 1st.

All information provided is data collected from The Baton Rouge Association of Realtors MLS. It does not include houses that have sold "by owner."

## Westminster Elementary School

Westminster Elementary School participates in the Community Cash for Schools program. Each Community Coffee proof of purchase label is worth ten cents. The labels are found on coffee, sugar, and creamer products of the Community Coffee Co. If you are not already clipping and saving the labels, please consider doing so and submitting them to the school office. Also, the students will perform the play 101 Dalmatians on May 10 and 11 at 6:30 pm at the school. The public is invited to attend. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the school office for \$5.

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## Nextdoor Social Network

Nextdoor is a private social network for you, your neighbors, and your community. Our civic association does not operate the Westminster/Pine Park page in Nextdoor.com, but we do post information there occasionally. If you want an invitation to join, email [janiskile@cox.net](mailto:janiskile@cox.net). Once you are registered be sure to adjust your settings. By default, you will receive frequent email notifications, but those email messages may be turned off. By default, your newsfeed will include postings from residents in 44 "nearby" neighborhoods, but you may turn off all or some of the other neighborhoods. To participate in Nextdoor you must use your real name and you must include at least your street name. However, you may limit your "profile" to be seen only by residents in W/PP.

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## Welcome Our New Neighbors

Welcome to the following people that have moved into the neighborhood since the last newsletter. If you're not listed here please let the civic association know at [board@w-pp.org](mailto:board@w-pp.org) so we can bring you a welcome packet!

Christine Gunter - 3750 Drusilla Dr.

Michelle Lowry & Asona Bowen - 4465 S. Maiden Dr.

Jacob & Amber Donnes - 9249 Baker Dr.

Corey & Allison Dimattia - 3849 Pine Crest Dr.

Pres & Emily Robinson - 4204 Pine Park Dr.

Shawn & Amy Waters - 4050 N. Maiden Dr.

Hugh Ra & Courtney Chatelain - 4112 Pine Park Dr.

William & Lisa Pritchard - 4721 Fleet Dr.

Conrad & Kristen Freeman - 3920 Chelsea Dr.

Randy & Ann Morell - 3844 Drusilla Dr.

Cody & Markie Hatch - 8581 Norfolk Dr.

Eduardo Neves & Luciana Farias - 4010 Downing Dr.

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 978-7136 or 933-8673 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

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Janis Kile (President/Crime Prev. District Rep.) | 933-8673 |
| Jani Gage (Vice President)                       | 978-0039 |
| Steve Foster (Secretary)                         | 930-9377 |
| Steve Long (Treasurer/Crime Prev. District Rep.) | 445-2437 |

### Members/Committee Responsibilities

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|---|--|
| Mike Herschman (Public Works)               | 931-2100   |
| John Pray (Beautification)                  | 933-9253   |
| Susan Simoneaux (Phone Tree/Welcome)        | 248-0889   |
| Rick Martin (Newsletter/Social/Fundraising) | 924-5680   |
| Regina Folse                                | 276-5155   |
| Ann Morell (Welcome)                        | 329-7207   |
| Glenn Guilbeau                              | <a href="mailto:gguilbeau@theadvertiser.com">gguilbeau@theadvertiser.com</a> |

**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).**