

The Pipeline

Spring 2025

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Spring: a lovely
reminder of how
beautiful
change can truly be.



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF PARKWOOD TERRACE SUBDIVISION

Contact Us:
PTIA
P. O. Box 874
Baker, LA 70704

OUR ASSOCIATION

President

Cynthia D. Miller
cmiller5905@gmail.com

Vice President

Tasha Elbert-McClain
ftmccclain10@gmail.com

Secretary

Vallory S. Hills
vhills1559@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Deborah Anderson
dbrh_anderson@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Bridget Riley
barileypia@gmail.com

Zoom Coordinator

Cherryl F. Montgomery
cherrylm@aol.com

Parliamentarian

Eddie Young
ely102176@yahoo.com

Chaplain

Gloria Johnson
gharrj@bellsouth.net

STREET CAPTAINS

Adair/Cayuga-Elaine Phillips

Alba-Jerri Booker, Cynthia D. Miller,
Deloris & Charles Vincent

Algoa-Vallory S. Hills

Azie-Barbara Hawkins

Brant-Freda August

Brantley-Gloria Johnson
Petrenia Singleton

Cadiz/Anton-Elaine Noble

Daveco/Melban-Tammie Forbes

Ector-Clyde Watkins
Yolanda Brown, Johnnye Robinson

Hico/Alief-Bettie Knighton

London-Ronald Johnson, Bill Davis

A Message From The President

Hello Everyone! Time really does fly! It seems the older I get the faster the minutes, hours, days, and months go by. I find myself daydreaming about the days when I did not have a care in the world. Reality, however, has a way of waking you up out of that dream really fast!

The **Spring 2025 Edition of *The Pipeline*** has a captivating fresh look! It celebrates the **History of Parkwood Terrace**, referenced by **Admon McCastle** and **Trini Gibson**. It also highlights our neighbors who have made trailblazing contributions to the community and abroad: **NASA's Black Engineer-Morgan Watson; The City of Zachary's First Black Police Officer-William Johnson**; and **National Women's Month** features **Vallory Simms Hills: A Visionary Leader**, who contributed to the development and success of the **Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC)**.

I would like to thank **Angela Proctor**, Assistant Professor at Southern University, for her article on ***Slave Collections*** which features **John B. Cade, Sr.** Also, special thanks to our neighbors for submitting **Snow Day** pictures!

Our **Website will be launched soon!** Prior to the actual launch we will get a **"Sneak Peek"** at a Special Call Meeting set for **Monday, April 14th, at 6:30 p.m.** You will receive email notifications and the Zoom link. I am thankful for the collaboration between PTIA and PTCPNID (our Crime Prevention District) which funded this project. The website will include newsletters, flyers, events and pertinent documentation. This includes meeting dates, agendas, and minutes for PTIA and our Crime Prevention District, and much more!

We invite you to attend all meetings and become active in the community. Contact me or one of our Officers/Street Captains.

Thank you *ALL* for everything you do to make Parkwood Terrace Subdivision a wonderful place to live!

- Cynthia D. Miller



Pictures Courtesy of Thomas Bennett



Christmas Decoration Contest

The Christmas Decoration Contest was held December 19, 2024. Mayor Darnell Waites and his staff, Ashley Williams, Secretary; and Audrey Perry, Communications Officer, served as judges.



**Tyrone &
Mable Tanner**



Elouise Thomas



Carl & Clyde Watkins

Honorable Mention: Todd & Erica Samuel, Severia & Betty Baunchand, and Curtis & Monica Williams

Let It Snow!

January 21, 2025



A TRIBUTE TO **BLACK** | HISTORY MONTH

Parkwood Terrace: From Cotton Fields to a Thriving Community

The history of **Parkwood Terrace** is one of resilience, determination, and triumph. What was once an undeveloped cotton field in the **Alsen** area of Baton Rouge has transformed into a thriving Black neighborhood, built through the hard work and perseverance of its residents.

In the 1960s, the land was owned by the **Morvant family**, sitting vacant with no immediate plans for development. However, a group of visionaries, **Dr. William "Bill" Hicks, Dr. Edward R. Brantley, Dr. G. Leon Netterville, Admon McCastle, Dean Smith, Ben Harbor, Dr. Everett Gibson,** and **Sherman Robinson**, saw its potential. They proposed the creation of a subdivision that would provide stable housing for Black families. Their idea was met with strong resistance from the all-white city council, which feared the neighborhood would turn into **Section 8 housing** and refused to approve the project.

Understanding the importance of homeownership and community building, the early Parkwood Terrace residents pushed for the development's approval, despite facing political and racial opposition. This early group of residents were small but mighty consisting of approximately five families. Their efforts led to the formation of the **Parkwood Terrace Improvement Association**, a group committed to overseeing the growth and success of the neighborhood. Eventually, their persistence paid off, and the project was approved.

Construction began with just four homes in 1973. The first group of homes created an optimistic community that was then and *still is* proud to be Baker residents. During the early days, there were many empty lots in the subdivision. These early residents occasionally heard growls and other sounds from the nearby zoo.

However, environmental challenges arose almost immediately. That same year, a devastating **flood** swept through the area, damaging homes and hampering progress. However, the residents came

together, with support from local leaders, to restore what had been lost. This assembly of the Parkwood Terrace Improvement Association and, subsequently, the Baker Improvement Association worked with then-Baton Rouge Mayor Woody Dumas to clean drainage with the aim of flood prevention. These efforts were successful in the continued growth of the Parkwood Terrace subdivision.

Beyond natural disasters, Parkwood Terrace also faced social and racial adversity. The **Ku Klux Klan**, which was still active in the area, attempted to intimidate new Black homeowners. They harassed families, vandalized property, and even drove their vehicles through yards, targeting individuals, who had fought to establish the community. Despite these efforts to drive them out, the residents stood firm. Their refusal to be intimidated reinforced the neighborhood's strength and unity.

Over time, Parkwood Terrace flourished. From its initial few houses, it expanded to over **200 homes**, providing a safe and nurturing environment for generations of Black families. The community's progress was further supported by local organizations such as the **Women's Club, Quarterback Club,** and the **Holiday Street Lights Committee**, which strengthened neighborhood pride and engagement.

The neighborhood has produced a range of **professionals, educators, plant workers, and business owners**, proving that Parkwood Terrace was more than just a housing development—it was a foundation for success. The **Parkwood Terrace Improvement Association** continues to monitor the area's upkeep and advocate for its residents, ensuring that the values of unity and perseverance remain intact.

Today, Parkwood Terrace stands as a **testament to the strength, vision, and determination** of the people who built it. From the struggles against racial discrimination to the fight for development, its history reflects the power of a community that refused to be denied its rightful place. It is a living symbol of what can be achieved through resilience, activism, and collective effort—proving that progress is not just given but earned through unwavering dedication.

*Referenced By: Mr. Admon McCastle and Mrs. Trini Gibson
Written By: Audrey Perry, Ivory Payne, and
Andrea Benjamin*

NASA's Black Engineer: Apollo 11 Mission to the Moon

I cannot let it pass without mentioning someone who played a role in not only American history but also was a part of my life. His name is **Morgan Watson**.

He is considered one of NASA's first Black engineers. In 1964, Watson, then a student at Southern University, along with Walter Applewhite, Wesley Carter, George Bourda, Tommy Dubone, William Winfield, Frank C. Williams, Jr., all joined the staff at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. They were a part of the team who worked on various projects involving the space race against Russia. He and the other young Black engineers were there to help design the Saturn V. This was the first stage rocket that was designed to take the Apollo 11 astronauts to the moon.



Morgan Watson

I was very interested in the idea of becoming an astronaut as a kid who grew up in the Scotlandville area. In the school year of 1970-71, I participated in the Science Fair at Northwestern Junior High School in Zachary, Louisiana as a 7th grader. My project was a presentation on the flights of the Mercury and Gemini astronauts. I wrote NASA in Houston asking for any information they could send me to help me formulate my presentation. They sent me a pretty good amount of information which helped me put things together.

I was awarded an excellent rating on that project.

Little did I know that in the fall of 1976, I would sit in a classroom in the Engineering Building at Southern University in front of Professor Morgan Watson. He was quiet spoken and very business-like. He was trying to help me along with many other engineering students to prepare to go out in the world and help design various things like he did as a student.

It was until a few years ago that I watched a documentary on The Discovery Channel called "Black Space"

(<https://youtube/17jJ8jEh608?si=mEMtRYBTc3wpFJd>). It gave an account of Black roles in the space race

projects and beyond. At one point the name Morgan Watson was mentioned. They interviewed him and he spoke of his experiences. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy passed an executive order that prohibited federal agencies, including NASA, from discriminating against employees on the basis of race. The executive order created new employment opportunities for African Americans in the south. Watson and the others were given the opportunity to participate in the project to land the first man on the moon.



NASA's Black Engineer: Apollo 11 Mission to the Moon, cont.

People say "the Lord works in mysterious ways". I think it was no mistake I crossed paths with a pioneer in the engineering field in a classroom in the engineering building at Southern University. Although I aspired as a young Black to be an astronaut, I never achieved that height, I was taught engineering principles by someone who from experience knew what each student needed to become successful as an engineer. Watson wasn't alone teaching us engineering. There were others including Dean Montrust Q. Burrell Jr., Professor James Cross, Professor Eddie Hildreth Jr., Professor Ira Graham, Dr. Manjit Singh, Professor Kenneth Joseph and many others.

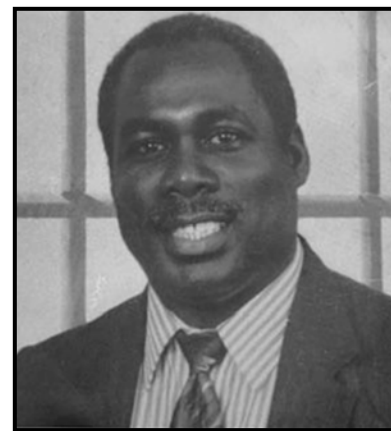
What an experience it was to be taught by someone who had made a significant contribution to such an important and historical event.

Author – Demetrius Tickles



The First Black Police Officer in Zachary, Louisiana

I have spent a few hours today trying to goggle information on the first Black police officer in Zachary, but I couldn't find anything on the internet. William Johnson, a 1968 graduate of Northwestern High School in Zachary was the first Black police officer hired in this city. After graduating from Northwestern, Johnson went to Southern University, but soon he was drafted and entered the military during the Viet Nam war. He served two years in the service, returned home, and found that getting employment was difficult. He did odd jobs and worked at a bakery, but decided he wanted to become a policeman. The ironic thing was that he wanted a job in Zachary, but there were no Black police officers on the force. Johnson came to the police department in search of a job seven times, but he didn't give up because he said seven was a sign of completion. Eventually, he said he was told to write his own application and they would go from there. He was successful in obtaining a job in 1973, and became the first Black officer in the Zachary Police Department.



William Johnson

Author – Gwendolyn Perry-Honore

Slave Narrative Collections Archives, Manuscripts, and Rare Books Department Southern University and A&M College



John B. Cade, Sr.

John Brother Cade, a native of Elberton, Georgia, dedicated 23 years of his service to Southern University. He was born on October 19, 1894, in Dansburg, Georgia, as the second of six siblings in a family that included three boys and three girls, the children of William and Francis Cade. Between 1896 and 1900, the family relocated from Wilkes County, Dansburg, to Elbert County, Elberton, Georgia, where Cade began his early education at St. Paul C.M.E. Church. After completing grade school, he attended Knox Institute and Industrial School in Athens, Georgia, graduating in 1915.

In October 1915, Cade enrolled at Atlanta University. However, he volunteered for military service in June 1917, joining the 17th Provisional Training Camp at Des Moines, Iowa. After being commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Infantry, he was assigned to Company F, 366th Infantry at Camp Dodge, Iowa. Cade served overseas from June 15, 1918, to February 22, 1919, and received an honorable discharge on March 31, 1919.

Upon his return to Atlanta University, Cade earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1921. He began his teaching career at Paine College in Augusta, Georgia, where he met and married Jessie Mae Maben on June 4, 1923. The couple welcomed their daughter, Jessie Lola (who is now deceased), in 1924.

In 1928, Cade was awarded a Master's degree in History from the University of Chicago. That summer, he joined Southern University's Laboratory School as its inaugural principal. In 1930, Cade moved to Prairie View, Texas, where he held the position of Director of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Prairie View College (now Prairie View A&M University) from 1931 to 1939. During this period, his son, John B. Cade Jr., was born on June 18, 1932.

Cade rejoined Southern University in 1939, serving as University Dean and Director of Extension Services until his retirement in 1961.

During his tenure at Southern University, Cade launched the first study of slave narratives in 1929. As the Director of Extension Services, he made weekly trips every Saturday to towns such as St. Joseph, Monroe, Bastrop, and Minden. While teaching U.S. History, he developed the idea of gathering firsthand accounts of slavery from both former slaves and former slave owners. Unfortunately, the collection was lost in a fire at the building where they were stored.

The second study of slave narratives, titled **"Opinions Regarding Slavery: Slave Narrative Collection,"** was compiled in **1935** by John Brother Cade, Sr., who served as Dean of Southern University. This original manuscript collection originated during Dean Cade's tenure at Prairie View College (now Prairie View A&M University) and was completed at Southern University and A&M College. The collection is organized into a series and spans 1.29 linear feet, encompassing 229 reports from former slaves across 17 states and one country.

To access the slave narrative collection and additional holdings from the Archives, Manuscripts, and Rare Books Department, please follow the link provided below:

<http://7008.sydneyplus.com/final/Portal/SouthernUniversity.aspx?lang=en-USS>

For further details regarding our collections or instructions on accessing them, please reach out to Angela Proctor, Assistant Professor–University Archivist and Digitization Librarian. She can be contacted via email at: angela.proctor@sus.edu or by telephone at (225) 771-2773.

Vallory Simms Hills: A Visionary Leader Shaping Higher Education and Inspiring Future Generations-National Women's Month

With over three decades of distinguished service in the higher education sector, Vallory Simms Hills is a highly accomplished marketing and public relations professional whose leadership, creativity, and strategic vision have left a lasting impact on the institutions and individuals she has served. Vallory's career is a testament to her dedication to excellence and her commitment to both advancing her profession and nurturing the next generation of leaders. She is perhaps best known for her pivotal role in the establishment and growth of Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC), where she retired in 2009 as Director of Public Relations after playing a crucial role in shaping the college's identity and success.



During her tenure at BRCC, Vallory was instrumental in the college's establishment, helping it become the most diverse community college in Louisiana. Through her leadership in public relations and marketing, she helped build a strong foundation for the college, enabling it to serve students from all walks of life and fostering an environment of success and opportunity. Vallory coordinated the college's marketing strategies, developed impactful communication campaigns, and worked tirelessly to ensure that BRCC's mission and values were communicated to the community.

Her role at BRCC spanned a wide range of responsibilities, including serving as the college's chief spokesperson in the absence of the Chancellor, overseeing all major publications, and managing both internal and external communications. Vallory was a driving force behind the college's branding efforts, which included television and radio commercials, billboard ads, and other promotional media that enhanced the institution's visibility and student recruitment. She also played a central role in crisis communications, ensuring that accurate and timely information was relayed to faculty, staff, students, and the public during emergencies.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Vallory is deeply proud of the mentorship and relationships she has built throughout her career. She has mentored countless individuals, many of whom have gone on to become leaders in their communities and professions—judges, lawyers, senators, mayors, teachers, healthcare professionals, military personnel, entrepreneurs, and clergy members. Vallory's legacy of mentorship is one of her most cherished achievements, and she takes immense pride in the impact she has had on the careers and lives of those she has guided.

Vallory is known for her “can-do” attitude, which she has consistently applied to every challenge and project throughout her career. Her positivity, work ethic, and ability to inspire those around her have been key to her success. Whether working on marketing campaigns or navigating complex crises, Vallory's approach has always been focused on solutions and achieving positive outcomes. Her leadership style is characterized by a balance of creativity and strategic thinking, and she has built a reputation for being both a visionary and a pragmatic problem-solver.

A graduate of Southern University, Baton Rouge, Vallory earned a Master's degree in Mass Communications and a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, graduating Magna Cum Laude. She has also completed additional studies in advertising at Louisiana State University. Vallory is an active member of several professional organizations, including the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR), the American Association for Community Colleges (AACC), and the Louisiana Council for the Advancement of Secondary Education (CASE).

Vallory Simms Hills: A Visionary Leader, cont'd.

Vallory's contributions to higher education extend far beyond the confines of Baton Rouge Community College. Throughout her career, she served on numerous committees, including the SACS Steering Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and Crisis Communications Team. She also coordinated major events, such as the college's commencement ceremonies and anniversary celebrations, cementing her reputation as a trusted leader within the higher education community.

In her retirement, Vallory remains proud of her legacy of service and leadership, and she continues to be an advocate for education, mentorship, and community engagement. She values the lasting relationships she has built, the impact she has had on the lives of others, and the opportunity to contribute to the success and growth of Baton Rouge Community College.

Vallory Simms Hills' career exemplifies the transformative power of leadership, dedication, and innovation. Her work in higher education has left a profound and enduring legacy that continues to inspire future generations of leaders and professionals.

Written By: Audrey Perry and Ivory D. Payne

Social Security Fairness Act: Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) Update

(Updated March 14, 2025)

This Act was signed into law on January 5, 2025, by President Biden. "The Act Ends the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). This Act benefits retired individuals receiving retirement from the state--teachers, firefighters, and police officers and were not allowed to collect social security, or received reduced benefits, even though they had paid into the system. You may not need to do anything to begin receiving additional benefits—monthly as well as retroactive payments. Many individuals are presently receiving these benefits. However, if you retired from one of the occupations listed above, paid into the Social Security System and have not received an increase in your retirement benefits:

*** Call toll free: 1-800-772-1213 (Fairness Act) or visit this website:**

**Social Security Fairness Act:
Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) update)**

In addition, the Act also provides, in some instances, Surviving Spousal Benefits. **You must call or go online** to apply for these benefits (same telephone number and website listed above). You should have the name, social security number, birthday and death date of the spouse available when you call. Its is best to call early morning.

We urge you to take action immediately, as the current administration is trying to mandate that people visit the Social Security Office in person instead of being able to apply for different services by phone or online. Please share this information with others.

Rosa H. Williams, Ph.D.
3/27/2025

"Gentle Reminders"

Spring Neighborhood Canvas Schedule

The ACC and Compliance Committees want to give residents every opportunity to address maintenance issues with their properties. **Neighborhood Canvassing will begin, Tuesday, May 6, 2025** (Weather Permitting). The canvas date of May 6, 2025, does not apply to residents who have already received violation letters. Persons who have received letters should follow-up accordingly.

Below are a few "gentle reminders" in order to avoid violation notices and or fines.

Pet Etiquette: Owners are responsible for pets; ensure that you are walking them on a leash and disposing of waste properly. Owners are held strictly liable for any actions their animals take in EBRP. (City of Baker/EBR Ordinance)

No Speeding: Speed limit for Parkwood Terrace is 25mph. Please be mindful of children and neighbors who walk and ride bicycles. Baker Police Department patrols the neighborhood regularly.

Safety First: Walkers or bicycle riders who are active early mornings or late evenings should wear reflective clothing, have flashers on their bicycles, or wear safety vests.



Parked Cars: Parish Ordinance: Vehicles are prohibited against permanently parking on the street. Visitors may park for several hours. (City of Baker/EBR Ordinance)

Cars Parked Across Sidewalks: Parking on Neutral Ground, Sidewalks, etc., is a violation. (City of Baker/EBR Ordinance)



Dual Axis Vehicles: No trucks or trailers with dual axis shall be permitted in the subdivision other than for delivery. (City of Baker/EBR Ordinance)

Abandoned Vehicles: Inoperative vehicles which are not currently and validly registered for use on the highways and streets; and abandoned vehicles left unattended and inoperative for a period of forty-eight (48) hours will be removed (towed) at the owner's expense. (City of Baker/EBR Ordinance)



Obstruction of Gutters, Ditches and Drains:

No person shall impede or obstruct the passage or flow of water over or on any street, gutter, ditch or drain, or on any property owned by the City of Baker, or the Parish of East Baton Rouge. (City of Baker/EBR Ordinance)

Excessive Noise: Dogs barking excessively; Noises that interfere with enjoyment of property or public peace. (City of Baker/EBR Ordinance)



Lawn Maintenance: Owners shall be responsible for the maintenance of all landscaping on their lot, and maintain their lot, residence, and driveway in a clean and orderly manner at all times. This includes but not limited to: overgrown grass/weeds, and bushes or tree limbs that obstruct the sidewalk or that overhang in the street. (City of Baker/EBR Ordinance)



Unauthorized Design Changes: Any major exterior modifications of the home requires approval from two (2) members of the Architectural Control Committee prior to construction (i.e., new driveways, bedrooms, bathrooms, sunrooms, decks, patios, connected storage rooms, etc.)

Submit your Construction Plans Submission Form to the ACC (Architectural Control Committee) and obtain written permission prior to making any of these external changes to or on your property. (Parkwood Terrace Restrictions)



Spring Outdoor Maintenance Checklist

- ___ Clear lawn of debris such as sticks and branches
- ___ Rake old leaves from garden beds and corners of yard
- ___ Replace mulch once the weather is warm enough
- ___ Divide and/or transplant perennials as they emerge
- ___ Wash off outdoor furniture
- ___ Check grill hoses and clean grill
- ___ Attach hoses to outdoor faucets and check for leaks
- ___ Get a jump on crabgrass & weeds by applying a pre-emergent
- ___ Apply fertilizer to lawn
- ___ Overseed bare spots in lawn
- ___ Powerwash, sand, and stain deck if needed
- ___ Clean siding and touch up paint
- ___ Wash outdoor wood furniture and apply protectant
- ___ Check propane in grills and outdoor heaters
- ___ Replace storm windows with screens
- ___ Clean debris from gutters
- ___ Wash exterior windows
- ___ Fix cracks and sealcoat driveway if needed
- ___ Plant summer flowering bulbs
- ___ Cut down woody stems on plants



Spring Cleaning for Fire Safety



Inside The Home

-  Test your home's smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
-  Don't use electrical appliances with frayed cords.
-  Check for water around electrical appliances.
-  Clean debris from your clothes dryer lint trap and exhaust duct.

Outside The Home

-  Remove dead leaves and other debris around foundations, decks, porches, and stairs.
-  Check grills for rust, worn parts, insects, grease, and other debris before use.
-  Grills should only be used when at least 10 feet away from your house or any building.

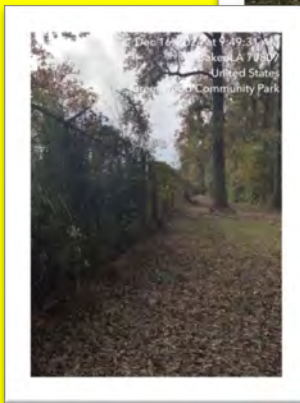


BREC Clearing of Property Ector Drive-West Side

On July 30, 2025 a meeting with PTIA Board Members, Ector Drive residents, and BREC Officials was held at the Scotlandville Branch Library.

The meeting addressed concerns regarding the upkeep of the boundary lines at BREC Park property.

The clearing of the area was completed on December 16, 2024. Special thanks is extended to BREC Superintendent, Corey Wilson; Dr. RaHarold Lawson, Director of Park Operations; Dr. Reshon Clayton, Administrative Service Record Manager/Park Operations; Dr. Brian Watkins, Assistant Director/Park Operations; and Janelle Bazile, Forestry Manager.



OFFICER ON PATROL SIGNAGE

The Parkwood Terrace Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement District (PTCPNID) approved eight (8) **Officer on Patrol Signs**. These signs have been placed throughout the neighborhood in an effort to deter crime. The City of Baker Department of Public Works installed the signage.

Remember: If you see something, say something! Call 911



In Memoriam 2024

Kenyoa Blakes
(Toras & Everline Blake's daughter-in-law)

Gladys Cade

Henry Carmen

Essie Coleman

Claretta Ellis

Eva Fields

Dorothy Herbert

Kenyatta Morrison Johnson
(Clayton & Linda Morrison's daughter)

Alvin Montgomery

Carolyn Owens

Gladys Paul

Sherman Robinson

Linda Stokes

Billy Thomas

Carol Willis



PTIA NEWS and NOTES

SAVE THE DATES!

SNEAK PEEK!

Parkwood Terrace Subdivision Website

Monday, April 14th, 6:30 p.m.

(Zoom codes will be emailed)

* * * * *

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION!

June 14, 2025 @ 3pm

PTIA & Crime Prevention
Meetings Begin at 6:30 p.m.

May 5, 2025	PTIA
June 2, 2024	Crime Prevention Baker Library & Via Zoom

Have a Human Interest Story to share?
Suggested Content or
Feedback for Future Newsletters?

We'd also like to recognize your accomplishments (and/or that of your children and/or grandchildren) in one of our upcoming newsletters. Please send a personal article, poem, or photos to Vallory S. Hills at vhills1559@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Vallory Hills, Chair
Bridget Riley | Cheryl Montgomery