

**November 2, 2007**

## **Updated on the Catalpa Court Drainage Issue**

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [KAlikhani](#)

**To:** [Charles Miller III](#)

**Cc:** [CHotard](#)

**Sent:** Friday, November 02, 2007 3:23 PM

**Subject:** RE: Catalpa Court flooding in Plantation Estates (Marrero, Westbank)

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, the referendum authorized to re-direct the excess millage from SELA match to be used for drainage improvements. I have to emphasize that the SELA match would be the top priority because we want to take full advantage of federal dollars. Whatever is left beyond that, will be used towards local drainage improvement projects. The Drainage Master Plan right now is in the process of being developed and I don't think at this time it is far enough to have a Public Hearing for your Civic Associations. Your area will be added to this study. We will re-visit setting up a meeting with your Civic Association sometime next year.

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**From:** Charles Miller III [<mailto:cmiller@ocsbbs.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2007 9:54 AM

**To:** KAlikhani

**Subject:** Re: Catalpa Court flooding in Plantation Estates (Marrero, Westbank)

Kazam,

Thanks for the reply on the time-frame for the study. Do you know who authored or proposed the proposition to use SELA money for drainage projects? We were sold on the idea to vote for this proposition from mailouts in our water bills sent out from the Parish to help address drainage issues to provide financing for additional projects. Is it possible to see the "Master Drainage Plan" presented to our civic group in phases during the development? Maybe we can setup a meeting in a couple month in January to present the partial plan to our civic group to make everyone feel comfortable about a plan in the works.

Thanks Kazam,

Charlie III

<http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/metro/index.ssf?/base/news-22/1185093111326350.xml&coll=1>

**DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

**PROPOSITION NO. 2**

Jefferson Parish voters approved a measure that expands the use of a 5-mill tax dedicated for projects related to the federal Southeast Louisiana Flood Control program. Under the change, surplus from the tax, which is scheduled to expire in 2012, can be used for drainage projects not financed through the federal program. The tax costs the owner of a \$200,000 home with a homestead exemption \$62.50 annually.

265 of 268 precincts

Yes | 6,955 | 86%

No | 1,088 | 14%

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [KAlikhani](#)

**To:** [Charles Miller III](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2007 9:06 AM

**Subject:** RE: Catalpa Court flooding in Plantation Estates (Marrero, Westbank)

The study should be completed by end of 2008, then a funding source has to be identified.

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**From:** Charles Miller III [<mailto:cmiller@ocsbbs.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 30, 2007 2:55 PM

**To:** KAlikhani

**Subject:** Re: Catalpa Court flooding in Plantation Estates (Marrero, Westbank)

Thanks Kazam for the response. What kind of time frame I can give these homeowners?

Charlie III

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [KAlikhani](#)

**To:** [cmiller@ocsbbs.com](mailto:cmiller@ocsbbs.com)

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 30, 2007 2:22 PM

**Subject:** FW: Catalpa Court flooding in Plantation Estates (Marrero, Westbank)

Charles,

Improvements to Catalpa Court drainage will require more than just work on Catalpa Court. It will require improvements up Hermitage and Oak Alley all the way to Barataria. Due to the location of the street and its very low elevation there is no simple fix. The Master Drainage Plan that is being worked on will certainly address this area since improvements need to be designed with the

whole neighborhood in mind. Once the needed improvements are identified and designed, it will be given the highest priority going to construction when funding source has been identified.

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**From:** KAlikhani  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 30, 2007 1:10 PM  
**To:** CHotard  
**Subject:** FW: Catalpa Court flooding in Plantation Estates (Marrero, Westbank)

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**From:** Charles Miller, III [mailto:cmiller@ocsbbs.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2007 11:29 PM  
**To:** KAlikhani  
**Cc:** debil@bb-cpa.com; Candy Jensen; Beth Martin; TTalamo; JYoung; PWJackson; BLee; grahampirie@cox.net  
**Subject:** Re: Catalpa Court flooding in Plantation Estates (Marrero, Westbank)

Kazam,

With the re-occurrence of flooding on Catalpa Court today, a number of homeowners called me for an update. I know the previous email below was just in May, but just wanted to confirm this is on the list for drainage improvements on the Westbank. To my knowledge, this is the only street in Plantation Estates (Marrero) that flows downward away from Oak Alley causing the flow of water to the cul-de-sac, so it might be a job that can be easier to knock out than some much larger scale flooding projects that can carry on for months or years.

Since my last email in May earlier this year, I remember in July we overwhelmingly approved a measure to expand the use of a 5-mill tax dedicated for projects related to the federal SELA program that now can be used for drainage projects not financed through the federal program.

Do you know any time frame that we can address this particular street? Has any list been created for a list of drainage priorities for the Eastbank & Westbank yet? I personally know almost all of the Presidents of Westbank associations and maybe they can help come up with issues in their particular neighborhoods. Just an idea to help if its not already created. Hopefully the use of the SELA money will help.

Thanks for cleaning the drains in the past. It did make some slight improvements, but water still reaching high into their front lawns and approaching the front door.

I know you have a tough job and we greatly appreciate the work you do. Just don't retire anytime soon. We need your expertise now more than ever.

Thanks,

Charles Miller, III  
Plantation Estates Community Association, President  
[cmiller@ocsbbs.com](mailto:cmiller@ocsbbs.com)  
cell 439-3164

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [KAlikhani](#)

**To:** [Charles Miller, III](#)

**Cc:** [debil@bb-cpa.com](mailto:debil@bb-cpa.com) ; [Candy Jensen](#) ; [Beth Martin](#) ; [TTalamo](#) ; [JYoung](#) ; [PWJackson](#) ; [BLee](#)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 10, 2007 3:12 PM

**Subject:** RE: Catalpa Court flooding in Plantation Estates (Marrero, Westbank)

Charles,

The Drainage department has investigated the events of May 4<sup>th</sup> that lead to the flooding shown at Catalpa Court. The subsurface drainage system in Phase I of Plantation Estates was designed and installed back in 1977, before the implementation of the current 10-year design storm standard that is now utilized in Jefferson Parish. These smaller drain lines were overwhelmed by the significant amount of rain that came down during the 1 to 3 PM time period (almost 5 inches.) When the subsurface system was overwhelmed, the water began to pool at the lowest spot, which is Catalpa Court. Plan elevations show that Catalpa Court is two (2) feet lower than Oak Alley Drive, meaning that excess water from Oak Alley and Hermitage is just flowing downhill to Catalpa. The subsurface drainage master plan that is currently under development will certainly help address this situation and recommend the necessary drain line improvements needed in this area. Presently, we have drainage workers cleaning drain lines and catch basins to make sure the existing system functions to the best of its ability.

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**From:** Charles Miller, III [<mailto:cmiller@ocsbbs.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 08, 2007 2:47 PM

**To:** KAlikhani

**Cc:** [debil@bb-cpa.com](mailto:debil@bb-cpa.com); Candy Jensen; Beth Martin; TTalamo; JYoung; PWJackson; BLee

**Subject:** Catalpa Court flooding in Plantation Estates (Marrero, Westbank)

Kazam,

Hope you're doing fine these days. We would like your help in the Drainage Department to address flooding concerns on Catalpa Court in Plantation Estates, which is in Marrero on the Westbank. A few days ago was an extremely high amount of rain in a short period of time that is difficult to deal with anywhere in South Louisiana, but this particular street floods from rainfall all throughout the year. Can your office please check the drains and possibly initiate a study to resolve this problem please? I've attached photos that should help show the issues they are dealing with. The photos were taken after the water had settled a little bit. It was actually a little higher than this.

If you need more details of the problem, call our Board Member who lives at 14 Catalpa, Marrero. Her name is Debi LaJaunie at 341-8441(home) or 831-4949(work).

Thanks,

Charles Miller, III

Plantation Estates Community Association, President

[cmiller@ocsbbs.com](mailto:cmiller@ocsbbs.com)

(504) 439-3164