

In and About

Washington

September 2025

FREE – TAKE ONE



New Main Street building to house retail space, two apartments

SO Studios, developers of Hotel Klaus, has unveiled plans for a two-story, multi-use building at the corner of Main and Carriere streets

Work has begun to move the former Steele Magnolia antiques shop that has been at that corner for 20 years to another lot in Washington, according to principal architect Stephen Ortego. It will be replaced by a building housing three retail spaces on the ground floor, with two apartments above.

“We wanted to make sure that the building reflects the vernacular architecture from the past and at the same time moves it forward by having a much more contemporary style,” Ortego said. He expects groundbreaking by the end of the summer.

The new building will be diagonally across Main Street from the 1870s Plonsky residence and general store that was completely renovated and opened as a boutique hotel in August 2024.

To be replaced



The 1920s era building at Main and Carriere was moved there about 20 years ago and housed an antique shop and was then used as a church.

Food, antique fair will usher in fall

Good food and fun shopping will usher in the fall season in Washington with a taster’s dinner September 29 and the fall antique yard sale October 10-12.

The Washington Garden Club will host the dinner that the club promises will feature a “Who’s Who of Acadiana Restaurants and Chefs.” It will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Wolff Banquet Hall on Main Street. Tickets are \$45 per person. There will be a cash bar.

For tickets call (337) 945-4322 or (337) 945-9223. Proceeds will be used for upkeep of the old St. John’s Episcopal Church and to promote good gardening practices and community beautification.

Scores of vendors and hundreds of shoppers visit the Old Schoolhouse Antique Mall during twice yearly antique fairs on the six-acre campus of the 1930s-era Washington High School.

The sales held on the second weekends of April and October are among the major attractions that bring some 100,000 visitors to Washington each year., according to a study done for the St. Landry Tourism Commission. It found that the October fair is Washington’s most attended event, and the April fair brings shoppers from the farthest places.

Of Note

AMERICAN LEGION Post 209 offers \$12 barbecue chicken and pork dinners on the first Saturday of each month to raise funds for maintenance and repairs of the Legion home near Bayou Courtableau.

WASHINGTON BAPTIST offers a youth program at 6 p.m. every Wednesday.

YOU CAN DONATE to the Washington Cemetery Foundation via the Venmo payment app or by check to P.O. Box 42, Washington LA 70589.

Submit items for *In and About Washington* to Jim Bradshaw at jimbradshaw4321@gmail.com or Box 1121, Washington 70589.

WASHINGTON WEATHER



September forecast:
Warm, dry,
flashes of fall

August 1-27

High: 98, Aug. 13
Avg. High: 92.1
Low: 68, Aug. 24
Avg. Low: 72.0
Avg. Temp: 86.9
5-Year Avg: 83.0
August Rainfall: 1.63
20-year Avg.: 4.33
Rain for 2025: 39.44
20-Year Avg: 34.45



Supplies donated

Town Council member Tanya Doucet and Palmetto Elementary principal Lindsey St. Cyr distributed supplies donated to Palmetto Elementary, where Washington students are now assigned. Doucet thanked the mayor and town council; Father Cory Campeaux, Katie Fontenot, and Immaculate Conception church parishioners; Washington Baptist Church; Donna Dardeau; and all who helped fund eight boxes of supplies.

Career campus opens smoothly

The new Washington Career and Technical Education Center on the former Washington Elementary campus had a smooth opening, according to site administrator Tommy Jones.

"The first few weeks have gone pretty smooth," he said. "Students are coming in eager to learn, well behaved, and very respectful. The faculty and staff have done a great job preparing for the students' return."

Jones is a former North Central High School assistant principal. Over his 20-year career he has been a classroom teacher, assistant principal, athletic director, and basketball coach.



Volunteers

Washington garden club members helped clean up Ethel Park in August. You can join them at 8:30 a.m. each first and third Saturday at the park across from

Congressman visits here

Congressman Cleo Fields visited with the mayor and town hall staff and took a brief tour of Washington on August 6. He represents the 6th District, which is being reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court.



Washington congressional district in limbo

A ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court is expected in early October on whether the new majority-Black congressional district that includes Washington was legally formed. A brief order issued in August may be a signal that it will be tossed out.

Opponents argued the district is not geographically compact, as required by law. Proponents say it is the best that can be done to meet a requirement that Louisiana must have two majority-Black districts. An order issued by the court in August indicated that the justices were looking into broader constitutional issues in addition to the voting rights questions presented by the case.

Sales tax renewal to be on October 11 ballot

Washington voters will decide October 11 whether to reinstate a 0.2 % sales tax that expired at the end of June. The tax generates about \$30,000 in revenue that is dedicated solely for street, sidewalk, and drainage improvements.

The 0.2% tax was approved in 1990 and must be renewed regularly. It was last renewed in 2010. The October 11 proposition calls for it to be continued until 2035. Early voting is September 27 to October 4.



Southland names Washington plant manager

Southland Steel Industrial Coatings has named Logan Floyd as general manager of its 100,000-square-foot Washington plant that is in the final stages of construction.

The plant near I-49 will treat metal poles used in a variety of industrial applications and is expected to begin operations in early 2026.

The company anticipates that the plant will eventually generate 120 jobs, but not all of them immediately. An announcement about hiring is expected soon.

From Town Hall

THE TOWN is hiring a fulltime police officer and certified officers from other departments on a part-time basis to provide enhanced patrols here.

THE TOWN COUNCIL approved resolutions clarifying policies on budgeting, collections, disaster recovery, and use of electronic devices as recommended by auditors.

UTILITY bill payments are due on the 17th of each month. Payments after 3 p.m. are posted on the next business day. A \$10 late fee is charged if the bill is not paid on time.

BAYOU STATE WASTE reminds residents that it does not handle appliances, mattresses, furniture, or anything too big to fit into a garbage cart. Call Morgan & Morgan Land Prep, (337) 331-5375, to schedule pickup of those items.

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When tokens were ‘admission’ to get into church

They are a rarity, but every now and then a token once used as the price of a pew seat at Immaculate Conception church turns up in a coin or token sale.

As late as the 1930s, churches auctioned seats in the pews as a way of raising funds. Church members bid on specific pews for themselves and their families.

That practice was ended because it tended to keep poor folks from going to church, but many churches still suggested that parishioners should pay something at the door, usually between two and ten cents per person, to cover church expenses. Once parishioners were inside, they could sit in the pew of their choice.

Even that became a burden during the Great Depression of the 1930s, when many families, especially those with several children, could not afford the charge.

That’s when the use of tokens began in the Diocese of Lafayette. They were sold at a discount to some families and given outright to others, according to their financial situation. All parishioners, rich or poor, were supposed to place a token in the basket at the door. That didn’t last very long, as nobody was ever turned away for failing to pay, and discounted or free tokens didn’t help pay the bills.

The tokens were replaced by a system under which parishioners were provided envelopes for their donations. That was only partially successful. When times were tough, the envelope went into the basket, but nothing went into the envelope.



Mark these dates for St. Landry events

- Labor Day Jam, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. September 1, Immaculate Conception Church, Lebeau
- Rendezvous in the Prairie, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. each Thursday, Prairie Acadian Cultural Center, Eunice
- Zydeco Capital Jam, 1 to 3 p.m., second Saturday, St. Landry Visitor Center, I-49 exit 23
- Life Drawing workshop, 6 to 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday, NUNU Art & Culture Collective, Arnaudville
- Open Painting Studio, 2 to 4 p.m. each Wednesday, NUNU Art & Culture Collective, Arnaudville
- Zydeco Dance Lessons, 6 p.m. each Wednesday, Holy Ghost Church cafeteria, Opelousas
- Dulcimer Jam, 10 a.m. each Wednesday, St. Landry Visitor Center, I-49 exit 23
- Jammin’ on the Bayou, 1 p.m. third Saturday, St. Landry Visitor Center, I-49 exit 23
- La Table Française, 9:30 a.m. each Wednesday, Eunice Depot Museum, C.C. Duson Street
- La Table Française, 8:30 a.m. last Wednesday, Orphans Museum, Vieux Village, Opelousas
- La Table Française, 9:30 a.m. last Saturday, NUNU Art & Culture Collective, Arnaudville
- La Table Kreyol, 2 p.m. second Saturday, NUNU Art & Culture Collective, Arnaudville
- French Table, 2 p.m. third Sunday, St. Ann Church, Mallet



Come see us today!

**St. Landry Visitor Center
978 Kennerson Road
(I-49 exit 23)**

**337.948.8004
cajuntravel.com**

