

In and About

Washington

November 2025

FREE – TAKE ONE



The fall Old Schoolhouse Antique Fair was as busy for Immaculate Conception parishioners as for the antique mall itself. They sold baked goods and hamburgers, oversaw parking of scores of cars on the church lot, and offered a shady place to get off your feet. Beautiful weather brought hundreds of shoppers during the October 10 weekend.

Holiday fêtes start early in Washington

Circle the date December 6 with a holiday wreath to mark the beginning of our Christmas celebrations. An afternoon of fun, an evening choir concert, and revelation of winners in the annual decorating competition are all set for that Saturday.

The annual Christmas in Washington fête will change this year from all day to an afternoon-only event with music by local choirs, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, mischief from the Grinch, and trackless train rides. The Steamboat City Association will offer food and drinks for sale. The events will be scheduled throughout the afternoon at the Town Pavilion.

The Washington Garden Club will host a concert of traditional Christmas music sung by the Opelousas Queen of Angels choir at 6 p.m. that evening at the historic St. John's Episcopal Church. The concert is free.

The garden club and Steamboat City Association will again sponsor the annual Christmas in Washington decorating contest for businesses and residences. First-, second-, and third-place winners will be announced and cash prizes awarded at the December 6 Christmas in Washington event. No entry form is necessary. Simply email a name, physical address, and phone number to washingtongardenclub70589@gmail.com.

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Of Note

A VETERANS DAY

ceremony hosted by the Washington Garden Club and American Legion is scheduled for 9 a.m. on November 8 at the legion home.

THE ANNUAL blessing of the graves will be at 1 p.m. on Sunday, November 2, at Cedar Hill Cemetery.

AMERICAN LEGION Post 209 has suspended its barbecue sales for the winter. They will resume in April.

VOLUNTEERS helping to maintain Ethel Park meet at 8:30 a.m. each first and third Saturday at the park across from Town Hall.

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.



Take pride in your town.
Stash your trash.



Open for business

Richard's Soul Kitchen has opened at 529 Veterans Memorial Highway, across from the Community Center. Owner Marvin Richard offers a varied menu of lunches, sandwiches, and drinks.

Nutrition education program set here

The LSU AgCenter will present a six-week food and nutrition education program in Washington beginning November 5.



It is designed to answer questions about choosing and preparing food that is healthy and providing nutritious meals on a limited budget. It will be held at 5 p.m. on November 5, 12, and 19 and December 3, 10, and 17 at the

Washington Recreation Center.

Each class will include nutrition lessons, taste testing, and other activities. Participants who complete the program will receive a certificate from the AgCenter, kitchen gadgets, and other items.

For information contact Mary Lavergne (337) 308-9829 or Henrietta Richardson with LSU Ag Center (337) 948-0561.

Main Street effort moves ahead

Washington has been accepted as a Lagniappe Community, the first step toward becoming a Main Street community. Over the next 18 months a steering committee will work with Louisiana Main Street directors to meet benchmarks, with the goal of reaching full status by April 2027.

School holiday calendar

Thanksgiving break, November 24-28
Christmas/Winter break, December 22-January 2
Martin Luther King Day, January 19

WASHINGTON WEATHER

We have received only 4.48 inches of rain since August 1, 8.9 inches below normal. It will stay warm and dry this month/

October 1-27

High: 92, Oct. 1, 6
Avg. High: 83.0
Low: 45, Oct. 23
Avg. Low: 59.0
Avg. Temp: 71.0
5-Year Avg: 71.2
Oct. Rainfall: 1.60
20-year Avg.: 4.77
Rain for 2025: 42.29
20-Year Avg: 42.41



New assistant

Kevin Clark, right, has been hired as part-time assistant police chief to aid chief William Worthly, left.

No decision on court case

A decision may be weeks away as the U.S. Supreme Court ponders the legality of the congressional district that includes Washington. The ruling may guide how the federal voting rights act will be enforced.

The congressional map was redrawn in 2024 to include two districts where a majority of voters are Black. Proponents say it had to be drawn the way it was to comply with the voting act. Opponents argue race was incorrectly used in creating the districts.

Tax renewed in light voting

Washington voters renewed a 0.2 % sales tax for street, sidewalk, and drainage improvements in light voting October 11. The issue was the only thing on the ballot here.

Only 99 votes were cast, 76 to renew the tax until 2035 and 23 votes against the renewal. The tax generates about \$30,000 a year.

The Town Council accepted the election results at its October meeting and introduced an ordinance to reimpose the tax as of January 1.



Town receives recreation facility grant

Washington received a grant from the St. Landry Parish Civic Leadership Fund, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Acadiana, to “rehabilitate recreational resources to provide safe play and a stronger community. The money will be used to update the basketball courts and install new seating areas at Joubert Park and the Washington Recreation Center.

Toys donated

Johnnie Fontenot displays some of the toys donated to the Maestro Foundation Toy Fund during the Fall Family & Friends Funday October 4. Some of the funds generated during the day were donated to the town for its recreation programs.



From Town Hall

AUDITORS have finished their examination of town finances for the last fiscal year and will present their findings at the November 17 Town Council meeting.

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 anything too big to fit into a garbage cart. Call Morgan & Morgan Land Prep, (337) 331-5375, for pickup of those items.

REGULAR MEETINGS of the Town Council are at 6 p.m. on each third Monday at Town Hall.

MUNICIPAL COURT sessions are held on the second Monday of each month. Arraignments are held monthly, and trials are held quarterly.

THE FACEBOOK page, Historic Washington, Louisiana, can be accessed at [townofwashingtonla](https://www.facebook.com/townofwashingtonla).

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Interstate brought headaches and hassles

When a north-south road in Louisiana was not included in interstate highway plans in the 1950s, the state thought about building one itself. The route that passed near Washington proved to be a mixed blessing, at best.

There was talk of a toll road as early as 1965, but nothing happened until the 1970s, when the highway department began looking at a four-lane road from Opelousas to Alexandria, where it would split into a branch to Shreveport and another to Monroe. That road was incorporated into federal plans and designated I-49 in the middle 1970s, but no work was done for a decade.

The highway was opened from Opelousas “to just short of Bayou Courtableau in Washington” on September 9, 1983, and that created big problems. Stopping “just short” of Bayou Courtableau meant I-49 traffic had to exit through the streets of Washington, where engineers and Mayor Kirt Soileau agreed there was “no feasible route ... which could handle heavy traffic.”



Making matters worse, as many as 600 trucks each day were using Dejean, Main, and Sittig streets as I-49 construction continued. The mayor complained that the trucks were “tearing the hell out of the streets,” but nothing was done. The project to one-way Dejean and Sittig streets in the present configuration did not begin until June 1990.

Traffic tore up the streets for years. The first pilings for the bridge across Bayou Courtableau were not put down until the summer of 1985, and the roadway from Washington to Meeker in Rapides Parish was not opened until May 15, 1989. After that, traffic no longer snarled Washington streets. It whizzed past Washington and its businesses, creating problems of another sort.

Mark these dates for events in St. Landry

- Holy Ghost Creole Festival, November 7-9, Holy Ghost Church, Opelousas
- Festival of Words, November 7-8, Thensted Center, Grand Coteau
- Port Barre Cracklin Festival, November 13-16, Veteran’s Park, Port Barre
- Lighting of the Nativity, 3-6 p.m. November 29, Courthouse Square, Opelousas
- Zydeco Capital Jam, 1 to 3 p.m., second Saturday, St. Landry Visitor Center, I-49 exit 23
- 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**

