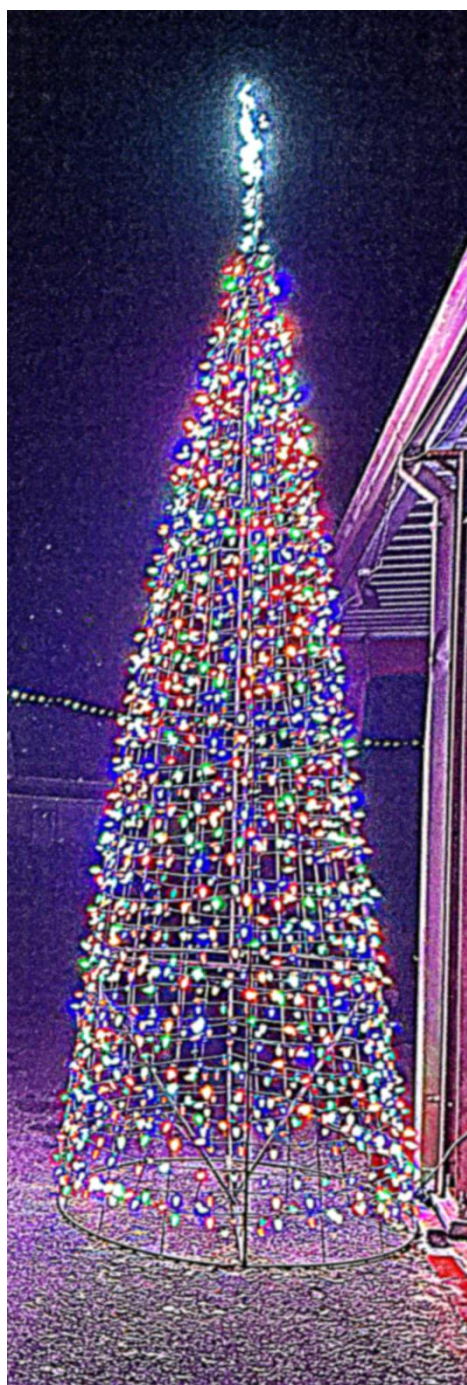


In and About

Washington

December 2025

FRFF — TAKE ONE



Ho, ho, ho, the holidays are here

Wreathes, trees, banners, and boxes filled with decorations began to fill the town pavilion well before Thanksgiving as town workers and Santa's helpers began to put Washington in a holiday mood.

The season will open with the Christmas in Washington fête from noon to 5 p.m. on December 6. and a free concert of traditional Christmas music by the Opelousas Queen of Angels choir at 6 p.m. that evening at the historic St. John's Episcopal Church.

Christmas in Washington

Noon - Opening ceremony

12:30 - Chimneyville Children's Choir

1:30: - Singing by Washington Baptist Choir Director June Charrier

1:30 – 3:30: Photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus

2:00 – 4: 00: Polar Express Trackless Train, \$10 per child, unlimited riding

3:30-4:30 - Live music by Don Fontenot and Stella Walker

4:30: Christmas decoration winners announced

5:00 - Closing

Throughout the day: Children entertained by the Grinch and Buddy the Elf; children's activity booths sponsored by local businesses and organizations; food and beverages sold by Steamboat City Association.



Of Note

WASHINGTON BAPTIST will distribute free Christmas backpacks on Saturday December 6 at 10:30 a.m.

AMERICAN LEGION Post 209 has suspended its barbecue sales until 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.

THE FAMILY Healthcare clinic in the Community Center on Veterans Memorial provides wellness visits, school physicals, cholesterol care, diabetes and asthma care, immunizations, DOT physicals, and other services. The telephone number is (337) 826-7702.

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



Veterans recognized

Korean War-era service members were recognized at a Veteran's Day ceremony sponsored by the American Legion post and Washington Garden Club.

School scores show little change

North Central High and Plaisance Elementary showed slight improvement in the state's school performance scores, and the St. Landry school district dropped a fraction.

North Central had a score of 65.9, up from 65.8 a year ago. Plaisance graded 66.7, up from 65.5. The overall St. Landry system graded 72.1, which is down from 72.9 in 2024.

"We acknowledge there is still work to be done to ensure every single student in the St. Landry Parish School District reaches their full potential," superintendent Milton Batiste III said.

Hurry if you want to be judged

Judging for the Christmas decorating contest will be the first week of the month. To enter a business or residence, email a name, physical address, and phone number to washingtongardenclub70589@gmail.com.

First-, second- and third-place winners will be announced and cash prizes awarded at the December 6 Christmas in Washington event.

WASHINGTON WEATHER

We have received only 4.75 inches of rain since August 1, 11 inches below normal. It will stay warm and dry this month.

November 1-27

High: 85, Nov. 19
Avg. High: 75.7
Low: 29, Nov. 11
Avg. Low: 51.0
Avg. Temp: 63.3
5-Year Avg: 57.9
Nov. Rainfall: 0.27
20-year Avg.: 3.63
Rain for 2025: 43.85
20-Year Avg: 45.58

School holidays

Christmas/Winter break, December 22- January 2
Martin Luther King Day, January 19
Mardi Gras, February 16-18

Christmas in Washington Decorating Contest Scorecard

Entry Type: ☐ Business ☐ Residential

Entry Name: _____

Physical Address: _____

Judging Criteria

Category	Description	Max Points	Score
Creativity & Originality	Unique design, imaginative use of materials and themes	20	
Visual Impact	Overall wow factor, curb appeal, and first impression	20	
Holiday Spirit	Captures the essence of Christmas (joy, warmth, tradition, etc.)	20	
Use of Lights	Effective, safe, and aesthetic use of lighting elements	15	
Theme Consistency	Cohesive design and decorations that follow a clear theme	10	
Craftsmanship & Detail	Attention to detail, quality of execution, and finishing touches	10	
Community Engagement	Interactive elements, inclusivity, and neighborhood involvement	5	

Total Score: _____ / 100



Fire protection millage passed

A 10.36-mill tax for Fire Protection District 3 passed easily in light voting November 15. The vote to renew the 10-year tax was 91% for and 9% against both parishwide and in Washington.

Auditors give Washington good marks

Auditors found that the town's financial situation and procedures are continuing to improve. They suggested two changes in the accounting system, both relating to problems common to small towns with limited resources,

The two "financial findings" by the Kolder, Slaven CPA firm show improvements in the way the town handles its finances. The last audit had nine such findings.

The auditors said accounting guidelines call for financial duties to be more widely spread, but noted Washington "does not have a sufficient number of staff ... to provide segregation of accounting and financial duties." Fixing that problem would require hiring more staff, which the town found would not be cost effective.

The audit also called for improvements in the way transactions are recorded and financial statements are prepared, which would require outsourcing those functions to a CPA firm. The town may do that.

Utility bills will look different

The town will move to a new billing system in the next several months. Utility bills will change from a post card to a full sheet bill enclosed in an envelope.

"The new system will allow more functions for the customers to self-service their accounts, including logging on to pay their bill and view account history and usage," according to town clerk Halli Polotzola.

From Town Hall

THE JANUARY meeting of the Town Council will be moved to Tuesday, January 20, because of the Martin Luther King holiday. Regular meetings are at 6 p.m. on each third Monday at Town Hall.

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.

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).

Submit items for *In and About Washington* to Jim Bradshaw, P.O. Box 1121, or e-mail jimbradshaw4321@gmail.com

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Captain sailed South Seas before Bayou Courtableau

William Henry Mayo had a colorful past that would have made his days on Bayou Courtableau pretty humdrum if his steamboats hadn't regularly met with misfortune. He was "a seafaring man in his younger days," according to biographer William Henry Perrin. He was just six years old when he went to sea as a cabin boy. By the time he was 18, he had advanced to first mate on a whaling ship. When the captain of the vessel died, "he was appointed to fill the position, and conducted the vessel back to Connecticut from the South Sea," according to Perrin."



Looking Back

The biographer says "he lost several boats in the rivers and bayous of Louisiana," and that one of them was "blown up."

Mayo, who was born in 1799 in Connecticut, came to Louisiana in 1828 and, according to the *St. Landry Clarion*, "engaged in steamboating on the Atchafalaya River and Bayou Courtableau" until his death in 1849.

Captain Mayo married Eliza Smith in 1833 in Louisiana and they made their home in the white house that still stands on the corner of Main and Vine streets. "The entire block within Hill, Washington, Vine, and Main streets belonged to an old widow lady known to nearly everyone as 'Grandma Mayo,'" according to diarist David Jasper McNicolls. "At the time, the only other building on the block was a large stable at Hill and Washington streets."

Perrin was born a quarter-century after Captain Mayo's death but judged from their property and "Grandma's" reputation that "the Mayos must have been important people in the history of Washington."

Mark these dates for events in St. Landry

- ECCEC Christmas Concert, 7 p.m. December 4, 5, First Baptist Church, Eunice
- Lebeau Historical Marker Unveiling, 10 a.m. December 6, Immaculate Conception Church
- Rendezvous in the Prairie, 5:30 to 6:30 p.. 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
- 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**

