

In and About

Washington

August 2026

FREE – TAKE ONE
PASS IT ON

Open to traffic

The Bayou Carron bridge opened to traffic at 6 p.m. July 20, well ahead of schedule. Work to replace the old bridge began in February and was projected to take until September. Scouring around supports made replacement necessary.



We pay for what we don't know about lift pumps

Most of us probably never think about lift pumps, but maybe we should. Washington has 10 of them that move sewer water to the town's treatment plant, and some users are unknowingly making their work harder and more expensive.

An analysis by Bill Pursell, Washington's maintenance coordinator, found that the town paid \$40,500 to contractors during the last budget year for repairs "largely due to items flushed into the waste lines that our pumps cannot expel." He said some of the rate increases that went into effect in July "are directly related to ... waste products that should be thrown in the trash not the sewer system."

Town sewer lines are channeled to a main pump on Walnut Street near Cedar Hill Cemetery. Wastewater then goes through three oxidation ponds before flowing into Bayou Carron.

"Nine pumps flow to the main one," Pursell explained. "This is where all of the debris becomes an issue." The costly maintenance cannot be ignored, he said. "We receive funding for our utilities through grants based on sustainability, and if we don't meet those requirements, that funding evaporates."

Those grants can be substantial. The town has just received \$1.9 million to replace our outdated pumps with ones with grinders that will be able to handle most of the problem waste, but not all of it, according to Mayor Dwight Landreneau. "When they are installed, the better pumps will do a better job," he said. "They will be even more efficient if they get a little help from utility users."

Hot and humid, but no storms

Put July into the record books as one of the hottest recorded here, topped only by July 2023, which was the worst here in decades. Humidity that pushed heat indexes above 100 may have made this year's scorcher more miserable than the record year.

The average high temperature for July 2023 was 95.4 and average low was 76.2, for an average of 85.8. The average high this year was 92.4, with an average low of 74.9, for an average of 83.7. The average for the last ten years is 82.2. Washington got 2.77 inches of rain in July 2023. More than six inches fell here this July keeping the humidity and heat indexes high. Luckily, only a trace of that rain was associated with Tropical Storm Bertha that skirted the Louisiana coast but was never a threat to us.

Of Note

THE COMMUNITY center on Veterans Memorial has been designated a Disaster Recovery Center for St. Landry residents who suffered damage from Tropical Storm Arthur in June. FEMA said recovery specialists will be available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. No appointment is needed.

AMERICAN LEGION Post 209 is offering \$12 barbecue chicken and pork dinners on the first Saturday of each month at the Legion home.

WASHINGTON BAPTIST offers a youth program and adult bible study at 6 p.m. each Wednesday.

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

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

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



Car show proceeds

The Steamboat City Association gave a portion of the proceeds from the 2026 car show, held in conjunction with the Washington Community Festival, to American Legion Post 209 and the Washington Cemetery Foundation. From left are Mayor Dwight Landreneau, Greg Doucet representing the car show, Evelyn Hanna representing the cemetery foundation, and Dane St. Cyr representing the American Legion.

School starts August 13

August 13 is the first day of class for St. Landry Parish schools. Here is the school holiday calendar for this year.

Labor Day holiday, September 7

Fall break, October 19-22

Thanksgiving break, November 23-30

Winter break, December 21-January 5



Mural in the making

At month's end, Jerome Ford was completing a mural depicting an earlier Main Street on the side of Lou's Sweet Tooth bakery, Main at Dupre. Ford also did the steamboat mural on the town pavilion.

WASHINGTON WEATHER



July 1-27

High: 97, July 20

Avg. High: 92.4

Low: 69, July 15

Avg. Low: 74.9

Avg. Temp: 83.7

10-Year Avg: 82.2

July Rainfall: 6.19

20-year Avg.: 4.27

Rain for 2026: 39.97

20-Year Avg: 32.30



Flood aid

The Town of Washington delivered a truckload of supplies to the parish government for distribution to families affected by flooding during June and early July. The supplies were donated by town employees and Washington residents and churches.

Bayou rose but no overflow

Too much rain caused flooding in parts of St. Landry and Avoyelles parishes north of Washington during June and early July but did not affect us. Bayou Courtableau rose above its normal height early in June and stayed that way for weeks but did not overflow.

The average level for the bayou at Washington is between 18 and 19 feet. It rose above 20 feet on June 4, peaked at 26.84 feet June 26, and stayed above 25 feet from June 18 until July 4, when it dropped to 24.8.

The gauge on Main Street bridge does not measure the actual depth of the water. It measures height of the river above sea level.

The highest recorded here was 35.29 feet on May 22, 1953, when heavy rainfall caused floods on practically every south Louisiana stream. The lowest was 10.72 feet on October 18, 1956, during a severe drought.

Funds raised for kayak trail

The Steamboat City Association hosted a fundraiser for a kayak launch coming to the American Legion property on Bayou Courtableau. The association thanked Reed Rudasill and Torie Voisin with Wanderlust Kayak Rentals and Duke's Wood Fired Pizza Co. for contributions, and donors who joined the Courtableau 'Yak Club. Contact Hallie Coreil at hallie.coreil@gmail.com to join the club, contribute to the project, or buy a limited-edition kayak sticker.



From Town Hall

THE TOWN COUNCIL

has officially certified passage of a new Home Rule Charter, and the town is accepting applications for an appointed police chief until August 7.

Information is available at Town Hall. The new chief will take charge at the end of Chief William Worthy's term on December 31.

QUALIFYING for the November 3 election that includes races for mayor and town council will be August 5 -7.

THE EUNICE NEWS will publish Washington's legal news, replacing the Opelousas Daily World. Publication in a newspaper is required by law. The town plans also to post official notices on its website.

Washington celebrated nation's 250th birthday



Flags flew on Main Street, a Marine ensemble entertained us, a wreath on Veterans Memorial, and candlelight at Cedar Hill remembered those who have gone before. A Liberty Tree at Ethel Park celebrated pride in our past and faith in our future.

Mark these dates for events in St. Landry

- 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 2
- 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. each 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



Come see us today!

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

337.948.8004
cajuntravel.com