

In and About

# Washington

October 2025

FREE – TAKE ONE



## Bridge work will last at least until April

Washington drivers can expect weeks of travel delays then months of no travel at all at the Bayou Carron bridge on Main Street. The state highway department has begun a \$4.6 million project to replace the bridge and resurface the approaches to it.



One-lane traffic will be allowed during the resurfacing phase, but drivers will need to detour during demolition of the old bridge and construction of the new one. The department said the resurfacing work will be done Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., weather permitting.

The department estimated that the replacement project will take until April 2026. It could take longer, given the prospect of delays that usually accompany road projects.

The easiest detour will be via Interstate 49. An alternative is from the Grand Prairie Highway (La. 103) to White Oak Road to Prayer House Road, then back to Highway 182.

Gilchrist Construction Company of Alexandria was low bidder for the work at \$4,597,086, according to highway department documents. Merrick LLC of Cottonport bid \$4,896,296. Both were below the highway department estimate of \$5,441,791.

## Antique fair, candlelight cemetery will bring October visitors

The annual October antiques fair and a candlelight event at Cedar Hill cemetery are highlights on Washington's October calendar.

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 old Washington High School. The sale set for October 10 through 12 leads the list of attractions that bring some 100,000 visitors to Washington each year, according to a study for the St. Landry Tourism Commission.

The Washington Cemetery Foundation will offer a candlelit "visit to the past" from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. October 25 at Cedar Hill. The event will feature lighting of the cemetery with candles and music by local choirs.

The nonprofit Foundation works to preserve Washington's three historic cemeteries – Cedar Hill, Hebrew Rest and Church Landing. You can donate to that cause via the Venmo payment app or by check to P.O. Box 42, Washington LA 70589.

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### Of Note

**THE FALL** Family & Friends Funday will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. October 4 at the town pavilion. Barbecue chicken, pork, and catfish dinners will be served. Students from Pre-K through sixth grade and adults who donate a toy to the Maestro Foundation Toy Fund will receive a free meal. The event includes a yard sale, bingo from noon to 2 p.m., and other events. Contact Johnnie Fontenot, (337) 308-2442.

**AMERICAN LEGION** Post 209 has been notified that its proposal for a Marine Reserve Band concert here July 5 is being considered, but that no decision will be made until three months before the proposed event.

**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 home on Hwy. 182 near Bayou Courtableau.

**WASHINGTON BAPTIST** will hold its Harvest Fest beginning at 5 p. m. on October 26, featuring games, candy, and more.

Submit items for *In and About Washington* to Jim Bradshaw, P.O. Box 1121, or e-mail iimbradshaw4321@gmail.com.



### New business

An office of the Torian law firm now occupies the old church building on Veterans Memorial near Church Street. The Lafayette firm specializes in real estate closings.

### Architecture group will visit Washington

Hotel Klaus will host about thirty members of the Louisiana chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art (ICAA) the weekend of October 17 to 19. Hotel manager Jonathan Sebastien said the board members chose Washington for its annual gathering because of the historic buildings here.

The New Orleans-based association is dedicated to advancing the practice and appreciation of classical architecture and allied arts, according to its website.

Hotel Klaus will host a catered social for the group on Friday, October 17. The group will tour several homes in the Washington Historic District on Saturday and Sunday. A brown bag lunch at Magnolia Ridge is scheduled for Saturday. Sunday's walking tour will include lunch at the Steamboat Warehouse restaurant.

The Hotel Klaus Bar will host a social for ICAA members and guests, Sebastien said. He said the hotel's portrait gallery and lounge are scheduled to open to the public in October.

### 'Trunk or Treat' October 30

The Town will host a "Trunk or Treat" from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 30, at the town pavilion. Adults are invited to come in costume, bring candy, and set up cars beginning at 5 p.m. in the parking lot.



### Main Street, visitor study on agenda

Presentations by the Steamboat City Association and the St. Landry tourist commission on October 22 will discuss Washington's effort to join the national Main Street Program and a program called Placer.AI that provides information on visitors here. The meeting will be held at 5 p.m. at Town Hall.

### WASHINGTON WEATHER

Expect a warm, dry October

#### September 1-27

High: 95, Sept. 4. 12  
Avg. High: 93.3  
Low: 56, Sept. 9  
Avg. Low: 66.9  
Avg. Temp: 80.1  
5-Year Avg: 78.4  
Sept. Rainfall: 0.68  
20-year Avg.: 4.96  
Rain for 2025: 40.38  
20-Year Avg: 40.75





### Main Street building work

The former Steele Magnolia Antiques at Main and Carriere has been removed to make way for a new building that will house three ground-floor retail spaces with two apartments on the second floor.



### Volunteer cleanup crew

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

### 4-H talk

Mayor Dwight Landreneau spoke to 4-H students at Palmetto Elementary School September 9. The mayor, a former county agent, was inducted into the state 4-H Hall of Fame in 2023 for his support of the program. With him are Lisa Benoit, associate AgCenter agent in St. Landry Parish; Laura Jackson of Palmetto Elementary and Palmetto Mayor



### From Town Hall

**RENEWAL OF** a 0.2 % sales tax will be the only thing on the October 11 ballot in Washington. The tax that expired at the end of June generates \$30,000 in revenue for street, sidewalk, and drainage improvements. It would be renewed until 2035.

**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.

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### Washington GI never returned from Pacific

In 2022 we brought home the remains of Hilary Soileau, a GI killed in the Pacific during World War II, whose unidentified remains were buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu for 80 years. The Defense Department was finally able to identify him, but another Washington Marine who was killed in the Pacific is still not accounted for.



Lester David Huguet was 20 years old when he was killed November 20, 1943, at the Battle of Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands, the first American offensive in the central Pacific. He was a crewman on a slow-moving landing craft that ferried Marines from the USS *Zeli* to the beach. His parents, Henry Huguet and Marie Esaure Fontenot, were notified of his death in early January 1944. They were told he would be buried temporarily “in the locality where death occurred,” and that they would be given details later.

More than 1,000 Americans were killed in that 76-hour battle, and most of them were buried in Cemetery 33, Main Marine Cemetery, a makeshift burial site next to an airstrip on the small island of Betio. Most of them were identified and returned home for proper burials after the war, but Lester’s remains could not be found. He is memorialized in the National Memorial Cemetery in Honolulu at a monument dedicated to more than 18,000 Pacific War fighters who, like Hilary and Lester, could not be identified or were simply lost. The Defense Department POW/MIA Accounting Agency lists Lester’s cause as “under active pursuit.”

### Mark these dates for St. Landry events

- Quarter Horse Racing, 5:30 p.m., each Wednesday through Saturday, Evangeline Downs
- Creole Culture Day, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. October 4, Grand Coteau Town Park
- Sweet Dough Pie Festival, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. October 25, Grand Coteau Town Park.
- Louisiana Mosquito Festival, all day October 25, Landon Pitre Memorial Park, Cankton
- 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
- 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**

