

In and about Washington

Here are items from the September edition of the *In and about Washington* newsletter



New medical office opening in community center

A medical office will again be open at the Washington Community Center on Veterans Memorial Boulevard beginning October 1.

St. Landry Family Healthcare will move from its current location near Beggs, according to Elliot Myers, administrator and nurse practitioner.

St. Landry Family Healthcare is a family practice clinic that specializes in primary care, chronic disease management, and acute care for patients of all ages, according to information on its website. "Walk-ins are welcome, as are appointments."

It is part of the LHC Group, which was started on a shoestring in 1994 in the St. Landry community of Palmetto as a home health agency aimed at serving small-towns. It has grown into is a leading national provider of in-home health services with 32,000 employees in 35 states. St. Landry



Parish Council member Harold Taylor, who was mayor of Palmetto for 30 years, was one of its founders.

A space for a medical office was included when the community center was opened in 2007 but was not used until 2015, when nurse practitioner Monique Dixon opened a clinic. She moved her practice at the first of this year after being unable to reach a lease agreement with the town. Her original lease was for one year at \$100 per month

with free utilities and was to be upgraded once the business was established. It was not looked at again until late last year, when former Mayor James Olivier proposed a new lease.

No big damage from storms in Washington

Washington was spared significant damage when two storms took aim at Louisiana within days of each other.

Marco came ashore in southeast Louisiana as only a big rain storm on August 24, but Laura became a Category 4 storm that sent 130 mph winds and a 12-foot storm surge into Cameron Parish about 1 a.m. Thursday, August 27.

Washington began receiving heavy rain and gusty winds from Laura about 1 in the morning. Wind gusts of more than 50 mph and 4.99 inches of rain were recorded at the airport two miles south of town. Power went out about 4:30 a.m. and was restored by 10 a.m.

Town officials reported downed limbs and a few uprooted trees, but no substantial damage to homes or businesses.

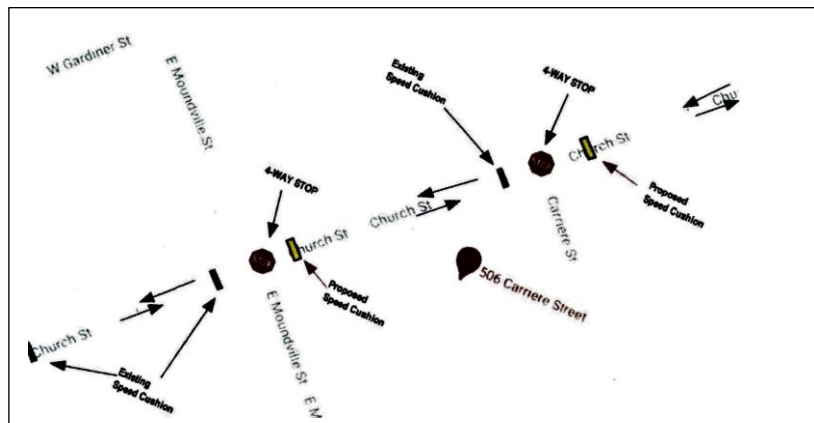
There are only two other recorded instances of two named storms in the Gulf at the same time, in 1933 and in 1950.

Council OKs added Church Street speed bumps

The Town Council has approved two additional speed bumps on Church Street near Carriere and Hill streets at no cost to the town.

Leonard Reed, a retired safety engineer who lives at the corner of Church and Carriere streets, has volunteered to install them at his own expense and to paint the existing ones yellow.

In his proposal, he said the existing bumps “are not quite enough to slow down vehicles and keep them from speeding through stop signs.” He said it is “a troubling concern when you can’t walk or drive on the street [where] you live without worrying about someone speeding through stop signs and hitting someone.” He proposes to install professionally manufactured speed bumps made from recycled rubber.



Plans coming together for little park

Landscape designers are working on concepts for developing a small park across from Town Hall on Washington Street.

The land was donated to the town by Joe Kavanaugh, who purchased it from the heirs of Lydia Keller. Kavanaugh stipulated in the act of donation that he should have a role in naming the property and in the final plans for its use.

A committee headed by Hallie Coreil is studying uses for the site and soliciting grants for its development and upkeep.

The St. Landry Solid Waste Commission helped clear the property, and the Washington Garden Club has agreed to help maintain it once the site is developed.



Once plans are in place, volunteers will be needed to maintain it and native plant donations will be solicited. More information is available at Town Hall.

Voter registration deadline is October 5

In addition to voting for the U.S. President on November 2, Washington voters will choose between Dwight Landreneau and Mona Wilson to complete the two years remaining on the term of Mayor James Olivier, who resigned in December.

If you are not registered to vote, the deadline to do so in person or by mail is October 5. The Registrar of Voters office is in the courthouse in Opelousas. The mailing address is P.O. Box 818, Opelousas LA 70570. The phone number is 948-0572.

Early voting is October 20-27 (excluding Sunday, October 25) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The deadline to request a mail ballot is October 30 by 4:30 p.m. You can request a mail ballot online through the Secretary of State's office or in writing through the parish registrar's office.

Election officials advise that mail ballots should be posted at least a week before the election. They must be received by the registrar by 4:30 p.m. November 2.

Midway Corridor study progressing

A visioning session for the I-49 Midway Corridor project that includes Washington received "good input" from mayors and interested citizens in early August, planners say. A consensus seemed to be that development is "all about proper land use," and that much needs to be done about working through the politics associated with that.

Katrina King has taken over guidance of the project at the Acadiana Planning District from Mike Hollier, who is retiring. She hopes to have Phase I of the project completed in October.

The plan will focus on I-49 in north Lafayette and St. Landry parishes. A master plan will look at the future of the I-49 corridor beginning at the intersection of I-10 and I-49 in Lafayette Parish and proceeding north to Exit 27 just north of Washington in St. Landry Parish.

Millage hearing postponed

A public hearing and vote on Washington's property tax millage rate scheduled for the August Town Council meeting was postponed because the law requires the physical presence of four council members for action. The council has been meeting virtually because of the coronavirus situation, which is allowable for most actions. Washington has maintained the millage rate at 6.5% for 20 years or more.

Got a ghost story?

Louisiana Spirits is working with St. Landry Parish Tourism to identify and investigate ghostly stories and experiences. Email Marci Lee at mlee@laspirits.com for information about the investigation and how to get involved, or visit the group's website, laspirits.com to see the places they've investigated already.

Mayor, Ledet named to gas board

Mayor Dwight Landreneau and Councilman Wilbert (Bobby) Ledet have been appointed as Washington's representatives on the Louisiana Municipal Gas Association board of directors.

Doucet, Robinson fire district representatives

Incumbent members Greg Doucet and Donald Robinson were reappointed to represent the town on the board of commissioners of Fire District No. 3.

Council meetings now at 6 p.m.

The Town Council has moved its meeting time from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. It will continue to meet each third Monday at Town Hall.

'Health Buggy' still parked

No decision has been made on when the "health buggy" will resume visits to area towns. when it does resume it will likely be on the same schedule as before, visiting Washington on the third Friday of each month.

No date for senior food distribution

No date has been set for senior food distribution in Washington in September.

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Washington

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