

In and about Washington

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

Christmas fêtes December 12, 19



*Merry Christmas
to all*

Washington will celebrate the Christmas season on December 12 and December 19 with a tree lighting, music, Santa Claus, and more. "Christmas in Washington, Celebrating 300 Years" will be centered on the former Doucet Motors lot on Main Street.

The celebration will run from 10 a.m. to a Christmas tree lighting at dusk on December 12, and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on December 19. Booths will be available each day to nonprofit groups for free and \$10 for others.

Live music begins at 2 p.m. on December 12, and Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will greet youngsters and read Christmas stories. Children are invited to decorate Christmas ornaments and hang them on the tree on December 19.

Mask wearing and proper social distancing will be strongly encouraged during the celebration.

Brenda King (brenking123@gmail.com) is chairperson, and Donna Dardeau (dmdardeau@gmail.com) is in charge of booths.

Sponsors needed to repair graves damaged by storm

FEMA will pay to repair a dozen graves in Washington cemeteries that were damaged by Hurricane Delta, but citizens' help is needed.

The federal agency cannot make a grant directly to the town but can dispense the money through citizens who sponsor graves under a program administered by the state attorney general's office.

There is no cost to the sponsor, just a bit of paperwork, according to Ryan Seldeman, the assistant attorney general in charge of the program.

He said people who want to help should email him at seidemannr@ag.louisiana.gov or call him at 225-326-6056.



Veterans saluted

The mayor and Washington Garden Club members placed a wreath at the Blue Star marker on Veterans Memorial Boulevard for Veteran's Day. Ceremonies at the American Legion home were cancelled this year because of coronavirus.

How Washington voted

Voters in Washington generally voted with the rest of St. Landry Parish in the November 3 election. Parishwide, Donald Trump led Joe Biden, 56% to 42%; incumbent senator Bill Cassidy claimed 56% of the vote, and incumbent congressman Mike Johnson got 54%; Ledricka Thierry topped LaDonte Murphy for district judge, 71% to 29%; and Chad Pitre defeated Charles Cravins for district attorney, 52% to 48%.

A total of 539 people voted in the race for mayor on November 3, 56.9% of the town's registered voters.

Here are the tallies for Ward 5, Precinct 5, which is the town of Washington.

Washington Mayor

Dwight Landreneau, Democrat, 372, (69%)
Mona Wilson, Democrat, 167 (31%)

President

Joe Biden, Democrat, 207 (52%)
Donald J. Trump, Republican, 184 (46%)

U. S. Senator

Bill Cassidy, Republican, 182 (52%)
"Champ" Edwards, Democrat, 63 (18%)
Adrian Perkins, Democrat, 58 (17%)

4th Congressional District

"Mike" Johnson, Republican, 175 (52%)
Kenny Houston, Democrat, 84 (25%)
Ryan Trundle, Democrat, 52 (15%)
Ben Gibson, Republican, 26 (8%)

District Judge

Ledricka Johnson-Thierry, Democrat, 286 (79%)
LaDonte A. Murphy, Democrat, 75 (21%)

District Attorney

Charles Cravins, Democrat, 217 (56%)
Chad P. Pitre, Republican, 171 (44%)

Council adopts 2021 budget

The Town Council adopted without comment the \$948,000 budget proposed by Mayor Dwight Landreneau for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

It anticipates \$416,039 in general fund collections, including only \$56,400 in fines; \$364,279 in utility revenue, \$207,400 of that from natural gas sales; \$163,020 in sales taxes; and \$5,000 in donations, for a total income of \$948,338.

Anticipated expenses total \$944,147, leaving an unbudgeted balance of \$4,191. The biggest expense items are salaries, professional fees, natural gas purchases, utility system maintenance and repairs, and insurance.

Landreneau said the budget was prepared using conservative data from recent audits and accounting statements.



Garage sale proceeds

Eric and Jonny Fontenot presented a check to Mayor Dwight Landreneau for \$925 from another successful garage sale in November.

Speed enforcement measure introduced

The Town Council introduced an ordinance to contract with Blue Line Solutions to provide laser technology enforcement of speed limits on the Grand Prairie Highway (DeJean Street) and on Main Street. A test found that nearly 20% of vehicles on those roads exceeded the limit by at least 9 mph, many of them more than that. The system would be used only in clearly designated areas, town and company officials say. A public hearing will be held before the next Council meeting.

Mayor looking for new town attorney

The mayor is seeking recommendations for a new Town Attorney. Chad Pitre, who has been the town’s legal counsel for more than 10 years, was elected district attorney and will step down. Under the town charter the town attorney must be a licensed in Louisiana and have at least five years’ legal experience.

“Health buggy” returns to Washington

The “health buggy” has returned to Washington and will provide free health screening for blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol on the third Friday of each month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Immaculate Conception parking lot.

Old Mobil station may reopen for light work

Light mechanic work may again be available at the old Mobil station on Main Street. Delvin Broussard planned to open in early December, offering tire work, oil changes, detailing, and other services.



Potholes patched

The parish solid waste commission substantially paid for repair of potholes and crumbling street corners after complaints that large waste collection trucks damaged them.

In and About
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