

In and about Washington

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



Delta knocked out power, Zeta went east

Gusts of 75 mph, one mile above hurricane strength, knocked out power and broke tree limbs, but Washington escaped serious damage when record-setting Hurricane Delta blew through during the night of Friday, October 9. The town got little effect when Zeta hit southeast Louisiana on October 28.

The town went without electricity for 48 hours after Delta and a problem with a generator powering the town's pumps caused a sharp drop in water pressure for several hours. That brought about a boil advisory for Washington water for several days.

Delta was the 10th named storm to hit the U.S. in 2020, beating the record of nine set in 1916. Zeta extended that record and was the 5th storm to hit Louisiana in a year. That broke a record set on 2002.

Mayor offers slender budget

Mayor Dwight Landreneau has presented an austere \$948,000 budget for review by the Town Council. It will be formally set for adoption after comment by council members and citizens.

The town 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 CPA statements.

“We can’t spend more than we take in,” the mayor said. Auditor Burton Kolder presented his findings to the town last month and warned that “you cannot rely on a surplus, because you have none. You have no cushion.”

Landreneau said the town continues to chip away at old debt,

‘Bookless library’ seen at recreation center

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation has confirmed donation of 15 laptop computers and supporting software for what Mayor Dwight Landreneau has termed a “bookless library” to be established at the Washington Recreation Center on Martin Luther King Drive.

He said inmate labor will be used to spruce up the facility that will provide Internet access for the community.

He said hopes to have the facility in operation by the first of the year

Town studies speed enforcement on Main, 103

The town is looking into a contract with a company to provide photo enforcement of speed limits on the Grand Prairie Highway (DeJean Street) and on Main Street. The system uses laser technology and would be used only in clearly designated areas, town and company officials say. A test found that nearly 20% of vehicles on those roads exceed the limit by at least 9 mph, many of them more than that.

Park plans moving ahead

The Washington Garden Club and members of a citizens’ committee headed by Hallie Coreil are finishing the design and planning a preliminary work agenda for a small park on North Washington across from Town Hall.

Coreil told the Town Council that a grant application has been submitted to the National Association of Realtors to pay for the work and that prospects appear good for some funding.

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.

The land was donated to the town by Joe Kavanaugh, who purchased it from the heirs of Lydia Keller.



Cemetery event

A pretty day helped bring a good crowd Oct. 17 to Cedar Hill Cemetery to hear plans to maintain and refurbish Washington’s three historic graveyards. Besides Cedar Hill, the Washington Cemetery Foundation wants to preserve the Hebrew Rest and the Old Church Landing cemeteries.

Next garage sale November 7

Jonny Fontenot delivered \$700 from a garage sale to Mayor Dwight Landreneau. Another garage sale is set for November 7, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the town pavilion. Call Town Hall if you have items to donate. Also shown are Jimmy Alfred and Erica Zachary.



Veterans Day ceremony November 10

The public is invited to participate at 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 10, in a ceremony honoring veterans at the Jasper Neyland Post 209 on Highway 182 near Bayou Courtableau. The annual event is sponsored by the Washington Garden Club and the American Legion Post.

Washington Baptist plans revival services

Revival services will be held at Washington Baptist Church Friday through Sunday, November 16 to 18, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. on Sunday. Lyndon Langdon will preach and Brad Mount will provide music.

'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.

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